



Global College of Ministry

EXPLAIN

The Christian and One God

There is One God

(Adapted from *Path to Righteousness* by Linda Poitras)

“Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? Ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? Yea, there is no God; I know not any”
(Isaiah 44:8).

The “Dark Ages,” brought much confusion to the minds and hearts of people concerning the truth about ONE GOD. Without the knowledge of this truth, which only comes by divine revelation, men have groped in darkness. The light was there all the time. God’s Holy Word has given us this truth, if we will but open our minds and hearts to receive it.

When God decided to choose a people who would be peculiarly His own, He made this truth of “one God” especially known and understood: “*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord*” (Deuteronomy 6:4). This special understanding was to be written on the doorposts of their house, bound on their wrists, and forehead, and repeated to their children night and day. Even today, all sorts of Jews still know this truth. When the Apostle James wrote to the church, he reminded them that someone else knew and understood there is one God.

“*Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble*” (James 2:19). Lucifer, who began as an angelic creation in heaven, knows there is only one God. The problem with Lucifer is that he refuses to worship that one God.

The Apostle Paul reminded Timothy of this truth in 1 Timothy 2:5: “*For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*” The old and wonderful truth is still alive today – our Lord is one!

What is “Monotheism?”

The belief in only one God is “monotheism.” It comes from two Greek words: “*monos,*” meaning alone, single, one; and “*theos,*” meaning God.

In his book *The Godhead*, Kenneth Reeves gives this term a simple definition: “The ancient doctrine that God is one, not many.” This is the extreme opposite of a plurality of beings whether called “tritheism,” or in its modified form “trinity.” This term is alien to Scripture and not found in the Old or New Testaments.

The Oneness of God is a doctrine that is central to the entire Bible. As we have already seen (look at previous Scripture references), both the Old and New Testaments teach it plainly.

God is a Spirit

John 4:24 plainly states, “*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*” *Webster’s Encyclopedic Dictionary* defines “spirit” as, “a supernatural,

incorporeal, rational being, usually invisible to human beings but having power to become visible at will." God has many attributes, but He is the same one God.

- 📖 **God is Invisible** (unable to be seen) – Exodus 33:20 – *“And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.”*
- 📖 **God is Omnipresent** (present everywhere, filling all space) – Isaiah 66:1 – *“Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?”*
- 📖 **God is Omniscient** (all knowing, infinitely wise) – Job 42:2 – *“I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.”*
- 📖 **God is Omnipotent** (all powerful; having ultimate authority) – 1 Timothy 6:15 – *“Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and LORD of LORDS.”*

In the Old Testament, God revealed Himself in many forms and dealt with men on man’s level. In the New Testament, He revealed Himself to us by His Son. *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds”* (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Jesus is God

“For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9). The fact that Jesus is God is as firmly established in Scripture as the fact that God is one. The Bible teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man. Isaiah 9:6 is one of the most powerful proofs that Jesus is God. *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”*(Isaiah 9:6).

- 📖 Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be called “Emmanuel,” which means, “God with us” (Isaiah 7:14).
- 📖 Matthew 1:22-23 says: *“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, GOD WITH US.”*

God Was Manifest in the Flesh

The New Testament is full of references to the fulfillment of God’s plan to bring us hope.

- 📖 1 Timothy 3:16 lets us know that God did not just send someone, but He came himself! *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*
- 📖 The Apostle John also lets us know that he understood Jesus was God in the flesh. *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was*

in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1-4; 14).

- 📖 When man fell into sin, there was no one to save him because, *“all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). But God had a plan.
- 📖 Galatians 4:4 tells us: *“But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law.”*
- 📖 Hebrews 2:14-16 says: *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham.”*

God had a plan, and He chose to fulfill it Himself, in the flesh of His Son, Jesus. His love was so strong that He chose to feel what His creation was feeling so He could intercede on our behalf (Hebrews 2:17-18).

Son of God

The divine nature of Jesus and the fact of His virgin birth are prevalent throughout the New Testament.

- 📖 He is the Son of God. He was conceived by the Spirit of God. God was literally His father. *“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God”* (Luke 1:35).
- 📖 When Peter confessed that Jesus was *“the Christ, the Son of the living God”* he recognized the deity of Jesus. He knew that this was the Messiah of which the prophets had foretold: *“...Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?...But whom say ye that I am?...And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God”* (Matthew 16:13,15-16).
- 📖 Jesus’ disciples (at least one of them) finally understood. Now Jesus could say with all thankfulness that this was the reason He had come into the world. This understanding was the rock on which His great church would be built. *“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”* (Matthew 16:17-18).

There is one God, and His name is Jesus. This is the foundation cornerstone of our church, and without it, nothing shall be built that will last.

*“One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all, who is
above all, and through all, and in
you all”*

(Ephesians 4:5-6).

Study Questions

1. According to James 2:19, who believes in One God? _____

2. Define "monotheism" using the two Greek words used to form the word. _____

3. Give Webster's definition of "spirit." _____

4. List and define four (4) attributes of God with Scripture reference for each.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5. List and write in full the Scripture that supports each of the following statements.

1) Jesus is God _____

2) God is one _____

3) God is with us _____

4) God didn't just send someone to give us hope, but He came Himself _____

5) Jesus was God in the flesh _____

6) God had a plan to save man from sin _____

7) Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah of which the prophets foretold _____

8) Jesus IS the Son of God because He was conceived by the Spirit of God, making God literally His father _____

Additional Notes

Who Are You, Lord?

“And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks”
(Acts 9:4-5).

“For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you”
(Acts 17:23).

A popular, misguided doctrine is called the “Trinity.” This doctrine has been accepted by many churches today. It means that God consists of three separate and distinct persons. These three are co-equal, co-eternal, and co-existent. They each have equal power. This doctrine did not form part of the doctrine of the apostles in the Book of Acts. When you survey the Scripture you will not find any reference to the word, “Trinity.” That’s right, nowhere in the entire Bible does it speak of God as a trinity or three persons. However, there are several titles mentioned to describe the different manifestations, roles, and modes of activity.

Therefore, we do not accept the “Trinity” but believe in three manifestations of the one true God. These manifestations are the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. The Father and the Holy Ghost are the same Spirit, and can only be seen through the body of Jesus Christ. This doctrine was firmly established in the hearts of the Israelites in Deuteronomy 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one Lord.” People often refer to us as “Jesus Only” but that is not true. We believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Many Scriptures emphasize the oneness of God: Isaiah 42:8; 43:10-11; 44:6-8, 24; 45:21-23; 46:5-9; Mark 12:28-30; Galatians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19 (taken from *What In the Word Do You Believe?* by Chris Tharp).

The term “Holy One” can be found almost fifty times in the Scriptures, but the term, “Holy Three” cannot be found once. How many do you think we will see when we get to heaven? Read Revelation 4:2-3 for the answer.

What about the Titles?

Father	Family relationship to man.
Son	God in flesh.
Spirit	God in activity (Acts 1:8).

Nicky Sisco relates, “A very interesting animal to note is the chameleon. It has the most peculiar feature that it uses as a protective device, that of colors. The chameleon, depending on the need, has the ability to change colors and adapt to its surroundings. Its fundamental color is yellow-brown; however, it can cause different colors to become more visible depending on the circumstances. It becomes a lighter yellow-brown (still considered yellow-brown) when scared, gray when cool and greener when warm. Yet, a chameleon has never been accused of

being three different lizards, it is described as simply changing modes or colors. Its colors change from yellow-brown to gray, to green.

This is the way it is with God. God is one, and beside Him there is no other. As the chameleon is yellow-brown by nature and will always remain so; likewise, God does not change (Malachi 3:6) -- He will always be God. However, different manifestations become more evident depending on the need, surrounding or circumstance. If you are feeling down and need someone to comfort you, the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; 16:7) will become more evident and meet your need. We know that the Comforter is Jesus and Jesus is God because John 16:13 refers to the Comforter as the Spirit of Truth. Furthermore, John 14:6 tells us that Jesus is Truth. 1 John 5:7 states: "There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are One."

John 1:1 informs us that the Word was God and John 1:14 tells us that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 10:38; 17:11-22 specifically let us know that Jesus and God are One.

The chameleon, at times, can seemingly become invisible to mankind. God is invisible to mankind. God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and cannot be seen by mere mortals (John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17.) Nevertheless, we can see God through His Son Jesus, who is the express image of His person (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15 [verse 13 and 14 let us know that the person being referred to is Jesus]). Simply put, God is one person with three modes of responsibility: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. There is only one God (Isaiah 44:8; James 2:19; Revelation 4:2) and Jesus is His name.

Like the Chameleon, God may change modes or manifestations, but He is still and always will be, God (Isaiah 46:9).

Jesus is as constant as the Northern Star and changes not (James 1:17)."

You might also consider an egg. It is made up of three parts: the shell, the yoke, and the white. However, it is still an egg. If you separate the parts, it is still considered to be one egg, not three.

If you had a cup of water and boiled it, then you would see steam coming out of the pot; and if you froze it you would have an ice block. However, it is all water.

Repeatedly throughout His walk on the earth Jesus referred to Himself as "I am." This statement declared who He was. The same words spoken to Moses at the burning bush were also used by Jesus twenty-three times. "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

It was so important we understand who He was that He asked His disciples one day, "Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?...But whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:13,15).

Who is this God we worship?

- 1 Timothy 3:16
- 2 Corinthians 5:19
- John 10:38
- Colossians 2:9
- John 10:30
- John 14:9-10

Study Questions

1. What is meant by the "Trinity"? _____

2. Where is this word found in the Bible? _____

3. What is the difference between the "Trinity" and the "Oneness"? _____

4. The "Oneness" doctrine was firmly established in the hearts of the Israelites. Prove by Scripture. _____

5. Compare the "Oneness of God" to the chameleon, the egg, and water. _____

6. What do each of the titles describe? _____

7. Prove (using the Bible) that Jesus and God are the same. _____
