

God Is A Triune Being

Text : **Deuteronomy 6: 4-9 ; Colossians 1: 13-20**

S#1.
S#2.

A. Concerning God there are a variety of world views :

1. **Atheism** : the belief there is no god, no power above man
2. **Monotheism** : the belief there is one god and only one
 - * a. Today three significant religions are monotheistic ... *Christians, Jews, Muslim.*
 - b. All three of these grew from a common root ... Abraham
3. **Polytheism** : the belief in a multiple of gods
4. **Henotheism** : the belief in a multiple of gods, but only one is to be worshipped.
 - a. This is predominant in tribal regions such as in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - b. It was practiced by the pagans in the O.T and by the ancient Greeks.
 - b. The Hindus of today still practice it.
5. **Dualism** : the believe that two equal and offsetting forces control the universe
 - a. Expressed as : Good -vs- Evil , Positive -vs- Negative , Male -vs- Female S#3.
 - b. Geo. Lucas made this popular in the Star Wars movies .. the force -vs- dark side
 - c. This is part of most eastern religions. (symbol of the yin & the yang)
 - d. There are two kinds of dualism :
 - 1) Competing Dualism ... Good and evil are in a constant state of war.
 - 2) Balancing Dualism ... Forces of good and evil must be kept in balance. *Buddhism*



B. Those who worshipped the God of the bible have always been monotheistic. S#4.

1. Because the Israelites were “monotheists” they were constantly at odds with others.
 - a. The pagan nations were “henotheists” ... the god of the Philistines, etc.
 - b. The Israelites denied that the other gods existed.
 - c. The nations would’ve coexisted with them if they had said God was just their god.
2. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob would not tolerate “other gods.”

Deut. 6: 14-15 You shall not follow other gods, any of the gods of the peoples who surround you, 15 for the Lord your God in the midst of you is a jealous God: (*What does being a jealous God mean ?*)
3. To have a relationship with the true God one can have a relationship with no other.
 - a. Our text is recited every morning by faithful Jews; it is called the “*shema.*” S#5.
 - b. **Deut. 6: 4** – “Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One”
(Shema Yisrael Adonai eloheinu Adonai echad)

C. We are monotheists, but there are two different forms of monotheism. S#6.

1. Unitarianism : The belief that God does not / cannot exist in three persons.
 - a. Two religions that do not believe in Christ, but believe in God hold this belief.
 - 1) Jews
 - 2) Muslims
 - 3) Both of these deny Christ and view belief in the trinity as polytheism.
 - b. Some denominations that claim to be Christian deny the trinity.
 - 1) Jehovah's Witnesses
 - 2) Mormons
 - 3) Oneness Pentecostals
 - 4) Christian Science
 - 5) Unification Church (followers of Sun Myung Moon)
2. Trinitarian : The vast majority of Christians are "Trinitarian."
 - a. Trinitarian : the belief that the one God exists in three persons .. Father, Son, H.S.
 - b. This is a very difficult concept to explain or understand.
 - c. It is impossible to illustrate, e.g., many try to illustrate it by water.
 - 1) Water can exist as a solid (*ice*), a vapor (*steam or humidity*) and as a liquid.
 - 2) However, the same water cannot be in all three forms at the same time.
3. Created in God's image, man is a trinity which is similar, but not equal to God.
 - a. Man is body, soul, and Spirit
 - b. However, neither man's body, nor his soul, nor his spirit can act independently.

D. We will now see that the bible sets forth four things to be true : S#7.

1. There is but one God.
2. Jesus the Christ is God.
3. The Holy Spirit is God.
4. The one God exists in the form of three persons.

Note : *To deny the trinity is to deny the deity of Christ and thus to deny salvation.* S#8.

I. There is but one God. S#9.**A. Those who deny the trinity accuse us of being polytheists. S#10.**

1. Because they cannot grasp the concept of one God being three persons, they deny it.

2. Simply stated the bible teaches :

S#11.

* God is in essence one ...

He is three in person ...

These three persons are co-existent and co-eternal.



B. The Old Testament scriptures declare there is but one God.

S#12.

1. **Isaiah 43: 10** – You are My witnesses,” declares the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me.

2. **Isaiah 44: 6** – Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.

S#13.

3. Compare : **Isaiah 45: 5, 14, 18** ; **46: 9** and a host of other passages.

* **Israel was the only monotheistic nation in the ancient Near East. This was a source of constant conflict with other nations.**

C. The New Testament likewise affirms that there is but one God.

S#14.

1. **John 17: 3** – This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

2. **I Cor. 8: 4-6** Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

S#15.

3. **Eph. 4: 4-6** There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

S#16.

* **Point being, the doctrine of monotheism dominates all of the scriptures.**

II. Jesus the Christ is God.

(Therefore, part of that one God)

S#17.

A. The Old Testament pointed to the coming Messiah as being God.

S#18.

1. **Isa. 9: 6** – For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

2. **Psa. 110: 1** – A Psalm of David. The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

B. The entire New Testament proclaims the deity of Jesus the Christ. S#19.

1. **John 1: 1-2** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **S#20.**
and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God.

Vs. **14** – And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. **Col. 1: 15-17** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **S#21.**
16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

* **These and many other passages make it clear that Jesus is divine.**

III. The Holy Spirit is God. (Therefore, part of that one God) S#22.**A. The Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testament era. S#23.**

1. **Gen. 1: 2** – The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. (*Thus, the Holy Spirit is eternal.*)
2. Just as in the New Testament the Holy Spirit gave men special abilities. **S#24.**
Exod. 31: 2-5 See, I have called by name Beza-lel ... **3** I have filled him with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, **4** to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze,
3. The Holy Spirit entered into enable them to do specific works for God. **S#25.**
 - a. **I Sam. 10: 10** – When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them.
 - b. Compare: **I Sam. 16: 12-13** ... David , **Num. 27: 18** ... Joshua , others

B. The Holy Spirit is identified as “God” in the New Testament. S#26.

1. During the writing of the N.T. miraculous works of the H.S. were common.
2. The Apostle Peter referred to the Holy Spirit as God. **S#27.**
Acts 5: 3-4 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?
4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

3. Jesus commanded that we baptize people in the name (*by authority of*) the H.S.

Matt. 28: 19 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, S#28.

4. It is blasphemy to speak against the Holy Spirit.

Luke 12: 10 – And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him. S#29.

IV. Therefore, the one God exists in the form of three persons. S#30.

A. God is spoken of as one, but with a plural word. S#31.

1. *Elohim* is the plural word translated God. (YHWH) ... *never spoke by Jews*
2. *'Elowahh* (God) is the singular of *Elohim*

B. The singular God speaks of Himself in the plural. S#32.

1. **Gen. 1: 26-27** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”
27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. S#33.

2. **Gen. 3: 22-23** Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. S#34.

3. **Gen. 11: 7-8** Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another's speech.
8 So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city. S#35.

C. The New Testament speaks of God in three persons. S#36.

1. **Matt. 28: 19** ... We've already seen that we baptize in the name of all three.
2. Jude begins his doxology referring to all three members of the holy trinity.

Jude 20-21 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life. S#37.

3. **I Pet. 1: 1-2** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, ... who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: **S#38.**

4. **II Cor. 13: 14** – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **S#39.**

D. All three persons of God are seen in one place at the same time. **S#40.**

Matt. 3: 16-17 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, ¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”

**** Clearly the scriptures present the one God in three persons.**

CONCLUSION : So why is this doctrine important to you and to me ? **S#41.**

A. The doctrine of the trinity helps us to understand the nature of God. **S#42.**

God is in essence one ...

He is three in person ...

These three persons are co-existent and co-eternal.

S#43.

B. Being a triune persona makes it possible for God to have been “love” eternally.

1. Love is an attitude toward or relationship with another.

2. Being three in one gave God an object for love. (cf – **John 17: 24** .. loves Me b4)

S#44.

C. If the trinity was not true, Jesus would not be God and could not save mankind.

D. It's important that Christians be able to withstand those who erroneously deny the doctrine of one God in three persons. **S#45.**

I Pet. 3: 15 – Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; **S#46.**

INVITATION :

A. The first step in making a defense, is to have that hope within you. **S#47.**

B. That hope is only in the salvation that is only in Christ Jesus. **S#48.**

II Tim. 2: 10 – ... so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory.

C. God wants to be reconciled to you and to save you if you will come to Him. **S#49.**

Lesson Text :**Deuteronomy 6: 4-9**

4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! **5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. **8** You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. **9** You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Colossians 1: 13-20

13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. **17** He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. **19** For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, **20** and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.