



SESSION 2

WHO IS GOD?

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I. FRAMING QUESTION: WHO IS GOD?

Even though we cannot know God exhaustively, we can know true things about God. In fact, all that Scripture tells us about God is true.

— Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, pg. 151

II. SURVEY OF KEY PASSAGES

¹ Scriptures selected for this survey were taken from pages 133-167 of *Exploring Christian Theology Volume 1: Revelation, Scripture and The Triune God*. Ed. Nathan D. Holsteen and Michael J. Svigel. Minneapolis, MN: Bethany House Publishers, 2014.

◆ GENESIS 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

³ And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Big Idea: The one, true God created all that is, and He made it good.

EXODUS 3:14-15

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

¹⁵ God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’”

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.”

Big Idea: God is a person with a name who can know and be known by people.

DEUTERONOMY 4:39

Acknowledge and take to heart this day that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other.

Big Idea: The Lord God of Israel is the only God.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-5

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Big Idea: God is one, a unity.

GENESIS 1:26

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”

Big Idea: The God who created all things is also, somehow, plural.

JOHN 6:27

“Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”

Big Idea: The Father is God.

JOHN 1:1-4, 18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind...

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

COLOSSIANS 2:9-10

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,¹⁰ and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.

HEBREWS 1:3

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Big Idea: The Son, Jesus, is fully God.

ACTS 5:3-4 [emphasis added]

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that **you have lied to the Holy Spirit** and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? **You have not lied just to human beings but to God.**”

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17-18

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Big Idea: The Holy Spirit is fully God.

MARK 1:9-11

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Big Idea: The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are distinct persons.

JAMES 2:19

You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

Big Idea: God is still one!

III. SUMMARY OF BIBLICAL TRUTH

1. The God of the Bible is the one, true God who created all things.
2. The one, true God can be known personally and can be known through His people and the Scriptures.
3. There is only one God.
4. God eternally exists in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
5. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are each fully God.

6. The Christian belief in a God who is both one and three is called the Doctrine of the Trinity.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

of Fellowship Bible Church of Northwest Arkansas

God

We believe there is but one living and true God who is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. We further believe that God is one in essence while existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the Godhead possesses precisely the same nature and attributes, each function differently in respect to God's purposes and dealings with man.

— Deuteronomy 4:39; 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

The Father

The first person of the Trinity orders and directs all things according to His own purpose, pleasure, and grace. The Father is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. He has decreed all things that come to pass for His own glory. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

— 2 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 103:19; Matthew 6:9; John 5:19-24; Ephesians 1:2-6

The Son

The second person of the Trinity is both the eternal Son of God and virgin-born Son of man. Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, surrendered nothing of His deity during His earthly life. Having led a sinless life, He satisfied the Father's justice concerning sin by His substitutionary death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His physical ascension, and His visible return to earth to establish His earthly kingdom.

— John 1:14-18; Acts 1:11; Romans 3:24-26; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 2:17-18; Revelation 20:11-15

The Holy Spirit

The third person of the Trinity executes the will of God in the world of men. It is the Holy Spirit who applies the salvation that Jesus Christ secured through His death on the cross. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers the church to live a lifestyle pleasing to God, endowing it with special gifts, which equip believers to accomplish distinct ministries, planned beforehand by God the Father.

— John 3:1-8; 15-16; 16:4-15; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18-21

THE NICENE-CONSTANTINOPOLITAN CREED

We believe in one God, the Father All-sovereign, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from the heavens, and was made flesh by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man, and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, and ascended into the heavens and sitteth on the right hand of the Father, and cometh again with glory to judge the living and the dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end;

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and the Life-giver, that proceedeth from the Father [and the Son], who with Father and Son is worshipped together and glorified together, who spake through the prophets;

In one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism unto remission of sins. We look for a resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come.

Amen.

IV. SCRIPTURE TO MEMORIZE

MATTHEW 28:19-20

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

V. DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIONS

1. Wait, but how does this Trinity idea work?
2. Is God like an egg or water?

3. How can we say that there is only one God?

4. Does this doctrine really matter?

5. Can I be confused about the Trinity and still be a Christian?

VI. APPLICATION TO LIFE

- IN WORSHIP
What should I praise God for?

- IN DISCIPLESHP
What should I repent of? or How should I trust and obey?

- ON MISSION
Why does this matter for lost people?