Understanding The Godhead

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday January 23rd, 2021

Text: Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17

### Intro

1. There are a number of different beliefs people have concerning God or deity – At least 10 different beliefs that pertain to the Godhead, God, or deity in general:
   1. **Theism** – belief in the existence of a god or gods.
   2. **Natural Theism** – a study of existence, character, & God in light of nature and reason.
   3. **Deism** – belief that God created the world, but denies His supernatural intervention (will not allow God to perform miracles).
   4. **Pantheism** – belief that universe & God are the same (laws of nature & universe = God).
   5. **Atheism** – a disbelief of the existence of deity - there is no deity (God, or gods).
   6. **Agnosticism** – belief that the existence of God is unknown and probably unknowable.
   7. **Humanism** – philosophy that usually rejects supernaturalism and elevates man.
   8. **Naturalism** – the view which ascribes everything to natural causes (often called evolution, rationalism). It is always anti-supernatural.
   9. **Polytheism** – belief in or worship of more than one God.
   10. **Monotheism** – belief that there is but one God.
2. It is no wonder that the world today is confused in religious matters!
   1. If one does not know or understand who it is they worship, then how can they worship in spirit and truth? (Jn. 4:24)
   2. There are many among the Lord’s church who are also confused about who God is.
3. Christians in the 1st century and today believe in an all-present, all-knowing, all-powerful God that has created all things and revealed Himself to man through His special divine revelation.
   1. II Tim. 3:16: Saints believe that the Bible is “inspired by God.”
      1. “Inspired by God” = *theopneustos [theh-op'-nyoo-stos] (G2315):* “God-breathed;” from *theos (G2316: God)* and *pneo (G4154: to breathe).* All Scripture was breathed out from God. God inspired the authors who wrote the Scriptures (II Pet. 1:20-21).
4. Saints need to know and understand the GOD we serve!

#### Understanding the Godhead

* 1. There is One God, but a plurality of persons:
     1. Gen. 1:26: “Then God *[Elohim]* said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness…”. The true *Elohim* is one God *(deity, Deut. 6:4),* but encompasses three personalities, which later would be revealed as the triune Father *(Mt. 7:21),* Son (*Jn. 1:1: “Word”),* and Holy Spirit *(Mt. 28:19).*
     2. *Elohim (H430)* is the name used in the first verse of the Bible: “In the beginning God *[Elohim]* created the heavens and the earth” (Gen. 1:1).
     3. *Elohim* is a plural form of the singular *Eloah (H433: deity, -ies, god, or God).* They are both related to the more general form, *El (H410: mighty, Almighty),* and are the most common designations for deity in ancient Semitic languages.
     4. Eph. 4:4-6: “There is…one Spirit…one Lord (Jesus)…one God and Father…”
  2. Mt. 3:16-17: All were present at the baptism of Jesus!
     1. When we are baptized (Mt. 28:19), we are baptized in the name of *(by the authority of)* **the Father** *(who gave His Son as a sacrifice – Jn. 3:16),* **the *Son*** *(who died so that we may have forgiveness of sins – Eph. 1:7),* and of **the Holy Spirit** *(who convicts men of sin and teaches through the word how to live righteously, promising eternal life to all that do – II Pet. 1:20-21).*
  3. There is one GOD, but He is revealed to man in three persons of the Godhead!

#### God: The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

* 1. The Father is NOT the Son, and the Son is NOT the Father
     1. *Jn. 20:17:* “'I am ascending to ***My Father*** and your Father, and to ***My God*** and your God.’”
     2. *I Pet. 1:3:* “Blessed be ***the God and Father*** of our Lord Jesus Christ…”
     3. *I Jn. 1:3:* “…our fellowship is with the ***Father*** and with ***His Son*** Jesus Christ.”
     4. *II Jn. 3:* “…from ***God the Father*** and from the Lord Jesus Christ, ***the Son of the Father,*** in truth and love.”
        1. These passages also show that the Father is God!
  2. The Father is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Father
     1. *Jn. 14:16-17:* “I will ***ask the Father,*** and He will give you another Helper…that is the ***Spirit of truth***…”
     2. *Jn. 14:26:* “But ***the Helper***, ***the Holy Spirit***, whom the Father will send in My name…”
     3. *Rom. 8:16, 26:* “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses...the ***Spirit Himself*** makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
        1. These passages show three separate individuals, and certainly proves that the Father and Spirit are separate individuals
  3. The Son (Jesus) is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not Jesus.
     1. *Jn. 15:26:* “When ***the Helper comes,*** whom ***I will send*** to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He’ll testify about Me.”
        1. Again, this verse shows all three as being separate individuals.
     2. *Acts 10:38:* “You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how ***God anointed Him*** with ***the Holy Spirit*** and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” *(God the Father)*
        1. This verse shows that although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were separate individuals, they worked together for the common purpose of doing good – *yet all are GOD!*
  4. These three never disagree (Jn. 10:30)!
     1. Not the same person! “One” = *“heis” (G1520):* One; the neuter, not the masculine (one person). It implies unity of essence, not merely of will or of power.
     2. They are one in purpose, one in all things....except in person. They are three persons making up One Godhood (Eph. 4:4-6)
  5. How can THREE be ONE?
     1. On a board of directors there can be 8 members, yet *one board*.
     2. In the eldership of a local congregation there can be a plurality of elders, yet *one eldership*.
     3. In the body of Christ there are many members *(I Cor. 12:12-20) –* yet *one body*.
     4. In nature: One Egg is composed of Shell, Whites, Yolk; Water can be present as liquid, solid (ice) and gas (water vapor) but is still H2O!
  6. GOD is three persons but One in purpose and mind!

#### God In Three Persons

* 1. The Father is GOD *(Elohim [H430], Yahweh [H3068], Adonay [H136])*
     1. *Jn. 3:16:* “For ***God so loved*** the world that ***He gave His only begotten Son,*** that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
     2. *Jn. 8:42:* “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but ***He sent Me.***’”
     3. *Mt. 6:9:* “In this manner, therefore, pray: ***Our Father in heaven***, Hallowed be Your name.”
  2. The Son (Jesus) is GOD *(Elohim [H430], Yahweh [H3068], Adonay [H136])*
     1. *Elohim (G2316 Theos: God)* – Heb. 1:8-9 *(Quoted from Ps. 45:6-7: Elohim)*
     2. *Yahweh (G2962 Kurios: Lord)* – Heb. 1:10 *(From Ps. 102:25-27: Yahweh; Jn. 8:57-58 (“I AM”: G1510 eimi: “I exist”)*
     3. *Adonay (G2962 Kurios: Lord)* – Mt. 22:43-44 *(From Ps. 110:1: “The Yahweh [H3068] said to my Adonay [H136])*
     4. *Jn. 1:1:* “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and ***the Word was God.”***
     5. *Jn. 1:14-15:* “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only ***begotten from the Father***…” ***“existed”*** before John the Baptist *(John the Baptist was born before Jesus – Lk. 1:36, 56-57)*
     6. *Titus 2:13-14:* “Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our ***great God and Savior, Christ Jesus*** who gave Himself for us*…(Jn. 3:16)*
     7. *Jn. 20:28:* “Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘***My Lord*** *(Kurios)* and ***my God*** *(Theos)!’” (Col. 1:16: Jesus is the Creator of “all things”)*
  3. The Holy Spirit is GOD *(Elohim [H430], Yahweh [H3068], Adonay [H136])*
     1. *Acts 5:3-4:* “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? 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***.’”
  4. ***Note:*** *The Truth Commentary, on Acts (pg. 91) by Johnny Stringer states the following:*
     1. “The term ‘God’ may be used with respect to any one of the three, or it may be used with reference to the three of them together.”
  5. The three are united, working together as One, and in that sense, they are One GOD!

## Conclusion

1. The world throughout time has worshiped many false deities and idols!
   1. *Ex. 20:3; Acts 14:11; 17:22-23; 19:26; Gal. 4:8; I Cor. 8:4-7; I Thess. 1:9*
2. The Scriptures Teach that there is One God:
   1. *Isaiah 43:10:* “You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.”
   2. *Isaiah 45:6:* “That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other”
   3. *Isaiah 45:18:* “For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other.”
   4. *I Corinthians 8:5-6:* “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, 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.”
3. A proper understanding of the Godhead will make it easier for us to have the right attitude when we worship our God in spirit and truth *(Jn. 4:24).*
4. We understand the truth because the Holy Spirit guided the N.T. writers to reveal it to man for all time *(Jn. 16:13; II Pet. 1:3, 20-21),* and grants us eternal salvation when we obey.
5. Have you obeyed GOD? Remember, He has all power & authority and He has said:
   1. “He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day” (John 12:48)
6. If you are not a Christian, you are outside the blessings of God. Repent & be baptized!
7. If a Christian in error, make the necessary corrections! Repent & be renewed!
8. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!