

Godhead - continued

(Luke 1:35), identification (Matthew 3:16-17), redemption (Titus 3:4-6), propitiation (Hebrews 9:14), resurrection (Romans 8:11), inspiration (John 15:26), delegation (Jn. 20:21-22), confirmation (Acts 10:38), sanctification (Jude 20-21), and benediction (2 Corinthians 13:14).

One question must be addressed before we close our study. The Bible says that God is “one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). How can God be “one” and three at the same time? Good question. The answer is found in the use of “one” in the Bible. “One” is often used in passages to refer to unity, not the numeral one (see Matthew 19:5-6; John 10:30; Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 3:8; 6:16; Ephesians 2:14). Deuteronomy 6:4 teaches that the God “one” in unity, not “one” in number.

I close our study with some practical lessons that we can learn from the Godhead. All three members of the Godhead created us, so we should be honored (Genesis 1:1-2,26-27; John 1:1-3; Psalm 8:4-5). All three members of the Godhead sustain us each day, so we should be thankful (Acts 17:25; Colossians 1:17; Psalm 104:30). All three members of the Godhead desire our salvation, so we should be obedient (Titus 3:3-4; Matthew 28:19). And, all three members of the Godhead work together in unity, so we should be unified too (John 17:11,21;

Sentence Sermons

- Don't tell everything about what you know, but know everything about what you tell.
- The Christian must have “won't power” just as much as he must have “will power”.
- If we thirst for righteousness, the sermon and Bible class won't seem so dry.
- Abhor what is evil and cleave to what is good.

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

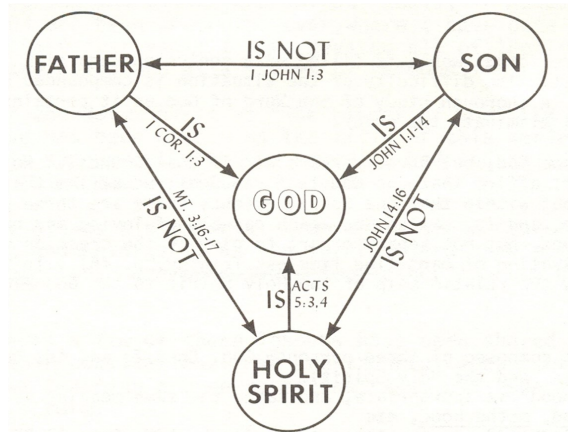
A Study of the Godhead

Is Jesus God? Is the Holy Spirit God? Is there one God or are there three gods? Does the Bible teach the Trinity? Some religious persons say “Yes”, others say “No”. What does the Bible say about the Godhead?

Why study the Godhead? It is important to study the Godhead for at least three reasons. First, it is important, like Jesus, to be able to instruct others about the proper nature of deity (Matthew 22:41-46). Second, it is important, like John, to be able to answer any error concerning the proper nature of deity (1 John 4:1-3). Third, it is important to simply know what the Bible says about the Godhead. There are several verses in the Bible that speak of the three members of the Godhead and it would be good for us to understand them (Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 20-21; Revelation 1:4-5).

What do the words “Trinity” and “Godhead” mean? The English word “Trinity” means the state of being three. This word is not in the Bible, but the doctrine is. (Remember, the word “Bible” is not even in the Bible, and yet we agree that it is an acceptable word to use to describe what is in the Bible.) The Hebrew for “God” is *El* or *Elohim* meaning strength or might. The Greek word

for “God” is *theos* meaning the person of God (Matthew 1:23; etc.). The Greek word for “Godhead” or “divine” is *theios* meaning the quality of being deity; divine (Acts 17:29; 2 Peter 1:3,4). Another Greek word for “Godhead” is *theotes* meaning the essence of deity (Colossians 2:9). The Greek word for “divinity” is *theiotes* meaning the attribute of deity (Romans 1:20).



When you take time to examine these scriptures you will find three truths about the Godhead. First, there is unity in the Godhead. There is one Godhead (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; James 2:19). Second, there is individuality in the Godhead. There is one Godhead in three persons. There is one deity made up of three persons just like there is one humanity made up of many persons (Luke 3:21-22; John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:14; Acts 7:55-56). Third, there is divinity in the Godhead. There are three persons who are fully divine, same in

nature and essence. How can this be? Well, think of water. The one substance of water (H²O) can exist in three forms as a solid, a liquid, and a vapor. Think of the sun. Our one sun can be light, heat, and energy. In the same way, the Father is “God” (1 Corinthians 1:3), the Son Jesus is “God” (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:8), and the Holy Spirit is “God” (Acts 5:3-4). Three beings in one Godhead.

Some religious groups would deny one or more of these Bible truths. For example, there are those who would deny the unity of the Godhead. They would say that there are many gods (polytheism, tritheism, Mormonism). There are others who would deny the the individuality of the Godhead. They would say that there is just one person who is divine (Gnosticism, Monarchianism, Sabellianism, Marcellianism, United Pentecostals, “Jesus Only” or “Oneness” Pentecostals). And, there are still others who would deny the the divinity of the Godhead. They would say, for example, that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not God (Subordinationism, Arianism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Unitarians).

So, what does the Godhead, working together, do for mankind? The following are all works of the Godhead on behalf of mankind: creation (Genesis 1:1-2), confounding (Genesis 11:7), incarnation