

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 13:11-14.**
- B. **"Please give an explanation of the Godhead."**
- C. Tonight's lesson is in response to a question given me in the Bible question box. A request really, that asks me to try and explain one of the great enigmas of the Scriptures.
- D. The Godhead refers to understanding God as being one, while at the same realizing that the "one God" is actually made up of three persons or personalities.
- E. Some refer to the Godhead as the "Trinity" or the "Holy Trinity" but neither of these terms are found in the Bible.
- F. Let us now explore the mystery of one God in three, also as being three in one.

I. THE BIBLE SAYS THERE IS ONE GOD.

A. SINGULARITY in the Bible.

- 1. Some OT passages (Deut. 6:5; 2Sam. 7:22; 1Chr. 17:20; Isa. 45:5-7; 2Kgs. 19:15).
(Deut 6:5) "And you shall love **the LORD your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
(2Sam 7:22) "For this reason **Thou art great, O Lord GOD; for there is none like Thee, and there is no God besides Thee**, according to all that we have heard with our ears.
(2Kgs 19:15) And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, who art enthroned above the cherubim, **Thou art the God, Thou alone**, of all the kingdoms of the earth. Thou hast made heaven and earth.
(1Chr 17:20) "**O LORD, there is none like Thee, neither is there any God besides Thee**, according to all that we have heard with our ears.
(Isa 45:5-6) "**I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; 6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other,**
2. Some NT passages (Jas. 2:19; 1Cor. 8:4; Gal. 3:20; Mk. 12:28-30).
(Mk 12:28-30) And one of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" **29** Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! **THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; 30 AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.**'
(1Cor 8:4) 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.**
(Gal 3:20) Now a mediator is not for one party only; **whereas God is only one.**
(Jas 2:19) **You believe that God is one. You do well;** the demons also believe, and shudder.

B. PLURALITY in the Bible.

- 1. Some OT passages (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8).
(Gen 1:26) 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."
(Gen 3:22) Then **the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"--**
(Gen 11:7) "**Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language,** that they may not understand one another's speech."
(Isa 6:8) Then I heard **the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"** Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
2. Some NT passages (Mt. 28:19; 2Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1Pet. 1:2; 1Jn. 5:8).
(Mt 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,...**"
(2Cor 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.

(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. (1Pet 1:2) ...according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, by the sanctifying **work of the Spirit**, that you may **obey Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

(1Jn 5:8) For there are three that bear witness, **the Spirit and the water and the blood**; and the three are in agreement.

II. THE TERM "GODHEAD."

A. The term "godhead" or "deity" or "divine nature" is found 4 times in the NT.

1. Paul is speaking on Mars Hall about the nature of God (Ac. 17:29).
"Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the **Divine Nature** is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man.
2. Paul's argue is that all should know God (Rom. 1:20).
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and **divine nature**, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
3. Peter assures the Xian of many blessings, even being like God (2Pet. 1:4).
For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, in order that by them you might become partakers of the **divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.
4. Jesus is fully God, now living on earth in the flesh (Col. 2:9).
For in Him all the fulness of **Deity** dwells in bodily form,

B. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called "God" in the NT.

1. The Father is called God in 1Cor. 8:6; Jn. 6:27; Phil. 2:11; Jn. 20:17.
(Jn 6:27) "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, **for on Him the Father, even God**, has set His seal."
(Jn 20:17) "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and **your Father, and My God** and your God.'"
(1Cor 8:6) 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.
(Phil 2:11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of **God the Father**.
2. The Son is called God in Rom. 9:5; Col. 2:9; Jn. 20:28; 1Jn. 5:20.
(Rom 9:5) whose are the fathers, and from **whom is the Christ** according to the flesh, **who is over all, God blessed forever**. Amen.
(Col 2:9) For **in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells** in bodily form,
(Jn 20:28) Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**"
(1Jn 5:20) And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding, in order that we might know Him who is true, and we are in Him who is true, **in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God** and eternal life.
3. The Holy Spirit is called God in Ac. 5:3-4; Mt. 28:19; Rom. 8:9a; 2Cor. 13:14.
(Mt 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**,..."
(Ac 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.**"
(Rom 8:9a) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed **the Spirit of God** dwells in you.
(2Cor 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.

C. At least four things we can know about each person of the Godhead:

1. They are all eternal (see Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1:17; Heb. 9:14).
2. They are all recognized as God (see 1Pet. 1:2; Heb. 1:8; Ac. 5:3,4).
3. They have all had a part in the creation (see Rev. 4:11; Col. 1:16; Job 33:4).
4. They are all omnipresent (see Jer. 23:24; Jn. 3:13; Ps. 139:7).

III. PRINCIPLE ATTRIBUTES OF THE ONE GODHEAD.

- A. God the Father is the designer and supreme ruler of the universe.
1. See Rev. 4:11.
“Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created.”
 2. God the Father, as the designer and supreme lawgiver, was the one member of the Godhead who saw and declared that each order of the creation “was good.”
 3. There really can be no question as to the role which the Father occupied in the order of the creation of the world. He was the director; He called for action; and He passed His judgment and evaluation on the work done by each of the other two members of the Godhead.
- B. God the Son is the creator and redeemer.
1. There is no contradiction between Gen. 1:1, which affirms that God created the heavens and the earth and Jn. 1:1-3 which affirms that all things were made by the Word (who is Christ, the Son).
 2. The principle is that God was the designer, and the Word was the executor of the design (Jn. 1:1-2, 14; Heb. 1:2).
(**Jn 1:1-3**) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3 All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.**
(**Heb 1:2**) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world.**
 3. God the Son is also our spiritual Redeemer (Gal. 4:4-5; Col. 1:13-14; Titus 2:13-14).
(**Gal 4:4-5**) But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** in order **that He might redeem** those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.
(**Col 1:13-14**) For He delivered 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.
(**Ti 2:13-14**) looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus; **14** who gave Himself for us, **that He might redeem us** from every lawless deed and purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds.
- C. God the Spirit is the organizer, lawgiver, and comforter.
1. The Holy Spirit exercised a very prominent role both in the creation of the universe and in the development of the scheme of redemption for moral man.
 2. See Gen. 1:2; 2Tim. 3:16; Jn. 16:12-14; 14:16-18.
(**Gen 1:2**) And 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.
(**2Tim 3:16**) **All Scripture is inspired by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;
(**Jn 16:12-14**) “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. **13** “But when He, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, **He will guide you into all the truth**; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **14** “He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.
(**Jn 14:16-18**) “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that He may be with you forever; **17** that is **the Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. **18** “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. A study of the Godhead is always going to have a perpetual enigma. There will always be some difficulty in either putting 1 into 3, or 3 into 1.
- B. But we can know that there is one God, and we can know that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit (all three) have the attributes of God.
- C. Therefore, learn as much as you can about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and in doing so you will have a better understanding of the what it means to be deity, or have a divine nature, or be God.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.