

THREE ARE ONE

THE DOCTRINE OF WHO IN THE GODHEAD

*“For there are three that bear record in heaven,
the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”*

~ 1 John 5:7

1. The Doctrine of Who is What

- a. *“being understood...even his eternal power and Godhead”* - Rom 1:20
- b. Eternal power = nature, ability, strength; Godhead = a personal authoritative being
- c. We know *what* God is, but not *who* he is – Acts 17:23-24
- d. The doctrine of who he is concerns the trinity: three in one.
- e. God is described as three who’s (distinct persons) in one what (divine being)
- f. The doctrine comes from three Bible facts regarding the Godhead.
- g. Knowing who God is and what he did to save us is the essential of Bible Christianity

2. There is one God.

- a. The Bible teaches mono(single) theism(god) throughout – De 6:4, Mk 12:29, Gal 3:20
- b. There is one being called God. There is none like him – Isa 44:6, 45:5, 46:9
- c. Trinity is not tri(three) theism(gods). Tri (three) unity (in one)
- d. Denying this leads to polytheism, pantheism, or atheism.
- e. Consequence: god is nature, no beginning, meaning, final authority, or absolute truth

3. Three are called God.

- a. Who is the Father? Who is Jesus? Who is the Spirit? The answer to all is God.
- b. The Bible teaches that the three are equally called God.
- c. “God the Father” – Gal 1:2-3, Phil 1:2, 2:11;
- d. God the Son – Col 2:9, 1Ti 3:16, John 1:14, Ac 7:59, Titus 2:13
- e. God the Spirit – Ac 5:3-4; Ac 13:2; 2 Cor 3:17; 1 Cor 3:16, 6:19; 1 Cor 12:4-6
- f. Denying this leads to a all sorts of heresies - arianism, subordinationism, adoptionism.
- g. Consequences: Glorifies humanity (Christ is man), man can save himself, man can become God, deifies humanity; impersonalizes the Spirit.

4. The three are distinct.

- a. The Bible teaches the Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct.
- b. Distinct meaning different “I/you” relationships
- c. In Jesus’ baptism – Mk 1:10-11; Mt 3:17
- d. Notice the “my... he... I” here- John 11:42-43; 14:26, 15:26; Mark 14:36;
- e. See the lists of three – Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14; 1 John 5:7
- f. Denying this leads to modalism, oneness, Unitarian.
- g. Consequences: God becomes schizophrenic, his work becomes a pretense/sham, divine contradictions (Christ as man and God), “who” is God does not matter, humanizes deity, makes God impersonal (force, etc.)

5. Conclusion: These three are one.

- a. One God exists in three distinct persons.