

SEMINAR_03 – THE GODHEAD OF CHRIST: TRINITY

“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. Who is God

- a. I believe in God. Not the Muslim god, Hindu gods, god of Judaism today, pantheistic
 - i. How do you know? Do they sound the same? Powerful, merciful, righteous, rule kingdom, nirvana, caliphate, etc –different words for the same thing, right? No.
- b. Do we worship the same god by a different name? No.
 - i. Ghandi said, *“Belief in one God is the cornerstone of all religions”*
 - ii. Larycia Hawkins – Wheaton college, says:
 - iii. *“I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book. And as Pope Francis stated last week, we worship the same God.”* – Do we? Stephen Prothero -> God is Not One says ‘No’
- c. Lifeway: State of Theology: 70% one true God, but same accepts worship of all
 - i. 70% say Jesus is a created being – 56% of evangelicals say the Spirit is a force
 - ii. Barna – 50% say Jesus is not God.
- d. The doctrine of the Godhead is a fundamental of the Christian faith – Who is God?
 - i. Christians say Jesus is God – Jesus said the Father sent him, he sends Spirit
 - ii. Can you describe God? Agnostic? You can’t know God without this doctrine.
- e. We study the Bible and meet at church to 1) To know God and 2) know/do his will
 - i. Grace believers do the latter well, but seemed to have skipped the former
 - ii. TD Jakes – Oneness modalism heresy; A.E. Knoch denied this truth, but charts!

2. Godhead of Christ - Trinity

- a. There is a reason we covered the Bible first – this doctrine is Biblical – 1 John 5:7
- b. You cannot deny this teaching unless you deny the Bible – 1Ti 3:16, Phil 2:6-7, Jo 1:18
- c. JWs will tell you about ‘Trinity’ not being in the Bible (different Bible)
- d. Godhead shows up in three places – Rom 1:20, Acts 17:26, Christ is - Col 2:9
- e. This doctrine concerns the revelation of who God is: not just the Son, but the Father
 - i. You see Jesus you see the Father – John 14:7-10; 1:18, Col 1:15; John 16:2-3
- f. The doctrine in a nutshell
 - i. There is one God – Deu 6:4-5; Mark 12:29; Gal 3:20
 - ii. There are three that are called God – Father, Son, Spirit – Phi 1:2, Col 2, Ac 5:3
 - iii. These three are distinct – John 14:26, 15:26 – the prayers, thou art my Son
- g. Where one is, is the entire Godhead – equal essence, attributes, being; three in person

3. Bible Belief, MAD, and the Trinity

- a. Problems with denying the Christian three in one Godhead of Christ
 - i. Polytheism, pantheism, arianism, Unitarianism, adoptionism, denying Christ
 - ii. Social trinity – making the Godhead like a marriage; different wills.
- b. This is where we use Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus Christ, the same, yesterday, today, forever
- c. The trinity is one of the most maligned b/c it makes Christianity exclusive.
- d. It identifies our God as different. The fullness of the Godhead in Christ. The three in one. If this doctrine is denied, then Pauline Christianity (MAD) espouses a false God.
 - i. This was a mystery revealed, how can Christ be in you, complete in Christ