

The Apostles' Doctrine Series

Lesson #5

The Oneness Of God

What Is Apostles' Doctrine?

Acts 2:42-43 & 46-47 (KJV); Acts 2:41-42 (KJV)

Deu 6:4 (KJV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"

Gal 3:20 (KJV) "Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one."

Introduction

❖ There is _____ God.

I. _____ Defined

❖ The belief in only one God is called monotheism, which comes from two Greek words: _____, meaning alone, single, one; and _____, meaning God.

❖ Anyone who does not accept monotheism can be classified as one of the following:

- ◆ _____ - one who denies the existence of God;
- ◆ _____ - one who asserts that the existence of God is unknown and probably unknowable;
- ◆ _____ - one who equates God with nature or the forces of the universe;
- ◆ _____ - one who believes in more than one God.

1. _____ - the belief in two gods, is a form of polytheism,
2. _____ - the belief in three gods.

❖ Among the major religions of the world, three are monotheistic: _____, _____, and _____.

◆ Within the ranks of those labeling themselves Christian, there are several different views as to the nature of the Godhead.

1. One view, called _____ - asserts that there are three distinct persons in the Godhead - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost - but yet one God.
 - A. Within the ranks of trinitarianism, one can discern two extreme tendencies.
 - 1) One emphasizes the unity of God without having a carefully developed understanding of what is meant by three distinct persons in the Godhead.

- 2) The other emphasize the threeness of the trinity to the point that they believe in three self-conscious beings, and their view is essentially tritheistic.
- B. In addition to trinitarianism, there is the doctrine of _____, which does not classify the Holy Ghost as a separate person but asserts belief in two persons in the Godhead.
- C. Strict monotheism fall into two classes.
- 1) One class asserts that there is only one God, but does so by denying, in one way or another, the full deity of Jesus Christ.
 - 2) The second class of true monotheists believes in one God, but further believes that the fullness of the Godhead is manifested in Jesus Christ.
 - a) They believe that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are manifestations, modes, offices, or relationships that the one God has displayed to man.

The Old Testament Teaches There Is But One God

- ❖ The classic expression of the doctrine of one God is found in
Deuteronomy 6:4. "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD."
- ❖ Many other Old Testament verses of Scripture emphatically affirm strict monotheism.
 - ◆ The Ten Commandments begin with...
(Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7) "Thou shalt have no other gods before me".
 - ◆ In *Deuteronomy 32:39*, God said there is no other god with Him. There is none like the LORD and there is no God beside Him (*2 Samuel 7:22; 1 Chronicles 17:20*). He alone is God (*Psalms 86:10*).
 - ◆ There are the emphatic declarations of God in Isaiah. (*Isaiah 43:10-11; 44:6; 44:8; 44:24; 45:6; 45:21-22; 46:9; 48:11; 42:8; 37:16*).
- ❖ Over 50 times the Bible calls God the Holy One (*Psalms 71:22; 78:41; Isaiah 1:4; 5:19; 5:24*), but never "the holy two, the holy three," or "the holy many."

The New Testament Teaches There Is But One God

- ❖ Jesus emphatically taught *Deuteronomy 6:4*, calling it the first of all the commandments in *Mark 12:29-30*.

- ❖ The New Testament presupposes the Old Testament teaching of one God and explicitly repeats this message many times (*Romans 3:30; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 3:20; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; James 2:19*).
- ◆ Again, the Bible calls God the Holy One (*1 John 2:20*).
- ◆ There is one throne in heaven and One sits upon it (*Rev 4:2*).

II. The Nature Of God

John 4:24 (KJV) "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth".

- ❖ To really understand the oneness of God, it is essential that we learn more about the nature of God.

God Is a Spirit

- ❖ Jesus proclaimed this truth in *John 4:24*. The Bible reveals it consistently, from

Genesis 1:2 (KJV) "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

to

Revelation 22:17 (KJV) "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come."

- ❖ *Hebrews 12:9* calls God the Father of spirits.

- ❖ What is a spirit?

- ◆ Webster's Dictionary includes in its definition of the word the following:

☞ "A super-natural, incorporeal, rational being (usu.) invisible to human beings but having the power to become visible at will . . . a being having an incorporeal or immaterial nature."

- ◆ The Hebrew word translated as spirit is "_____", and it can mean wind, breath, life, anger, insubstantiality, region of the sky, or spirit of a rational being.
- ◆ The Greek word translated as spirit, "_____", can mean a current of air, breath, blast, breeze, spirit, soul, vital principle, disposition, angel, demon, or God.
- ❖ Jesus also indicated that the Spirit of God does not have flesh and blood (*Mat 16:17*).

God Is Invisible

- ❖ Since God is a Spirit, He is invisible unless He chooses to manifest Himself in some form visible to man (*Exodus 33:20; John 1:18; 1 John 4:12; 1 Timothy 6:16*).
- ❖ Several times the Bible describes God as invisible (*Col 1:15; 1 Tim 6:16 KJV*).

God Is Omnipresent (Everywhere Present)

- ❖ Because God is a Spirit He can be everywhere at the same time. He is the only Spirit that is truly omnipresent; for all other spirit beings such as devils, angels, and Satan himself can be confined to specific locations (*Mark 5:10; Jude 1:6; Rev 20:1*).
- ◆ Solomon recognized God's omnipresence when he prayed at the dedication of the Temple in *1 Kings 8:27*; see *2 Chronicles 2:6; 6:18*.
- ◆ God declared His omnipresence in *Isaiah 66:1*; see also *Acts 7:49*.
- ◆ Paul preached it in *Acts 17:27-28*.
- ❖ Perhaps the most beautiful description of God's omnipresence is found in *Psalms 139:7-13*

Does God Have a Body?

- ❖ Since God is an invisible Spirit and is omni-present, He certainly does not have a _____ as we know it.
- ◆ The Bible does not record any permanent bodily manifestation of God until Jesus Christ was born. But in Christ, God had a human body and now has a glorified, immortal human body.

God Is Omniscient (All _____)

- ❖ *Psalms 139:1-6* teaches us that God knows everything, including our movements, thoughts, paths, ways, and words (*Job 42:2*).
- ❖ God has complete knowledge of everything, including foreknowledge of the future (*Acts 2:23*).
- ❖ Like omnipresence, omniscience is an attribute that belongs solely to God (*1 Tim. 1: 17*).

God Is Omnipotent (All _____)

- ❖ God calls Himself the _____ many times throughout the Bible (*Gen. 17:1; 35:11*).
- ❖ He has all the power there is, and no being can exercise any power unless God allows it. (*Rom 13:1*)

God Is Eternal

- ❖ God is eternal, immortal, and everlasting (*Deut. 33:27; Isa 9:6; 1 Tim 1:17*).
- ❖ He is the first and the last (*Isa 44:6 KJV*).

God Is Immutable (_____)

- ❖ God's character and attributes never change (*Malachi 3:6*).

God Has Individuality, _____, and _____

- ❖ God is an intelligent being with a will and reasoning ability (*Rom 9:19; Isa 1:18*).

- ❖ He has an intelligent mind (*Rom 11:33-34*).
- ❖ That God has emotions is indicated from the fact that man is an _____ being, for God created man in His own image (*Genesis 1:27*).
- ❖ The essential emotional nature of God is _____. (*Psalm 18:19; Psalm 103:13; Proverbs 6:16; Exodus 20:5*).

God's Moral Attributes

- ❖ *"God is love"* (*1 John 4:8, 16*). Love is the essence of God; it is His very nature. God has many other qualities and attributes, many of which stem from His love.

◆ God's Moral Nature

1	_____	<i>(1 John 4:8)</i>	7	_____	<i>(Romans 2:4)</i>
2	_____	<i>(1 John 1:5)</i>	8	_____	<i>(Matthew 5:48)</i>
3	_____	<i>(1 Peter 1:16)</i>	9	_____	<i>(Isaiah 45:21)</i>
4	_____	<i>(Psalm 103:8)</i>	10	_____	<i>(1 Cor. 10:13)</i>
5	_____	<i>(Psalm 18:35)</i>	11	_____	<i>(John 17:17)</i>
6	_____	<i>(Psalm 129:4)</i>	12	_____	<i>(Psalm 103:8)</i>

III. The Names and Titles Of God

Acts 4:12 (KJV) "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

- ❖ One of these methods is the use of different names or titles to _____.

IV. Jesus Is God

Colossians 2:9 (KJV) "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

- ❖ The fact that Jesus is God is as firmly established in Scripture as the fact that God is one. The Bible teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

The Old Testament Testifies that _____ Is God

1. *Isaiah 9:6* is one of the most powerful proofs that Jesus is God
2. Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be called Immanuel, that is, God with us. (*Isa 7:14; Mat 1:22-23*)
3. Isaiah described the Messiah as both a branch out of Jesse (the father of David) and as the root of Jesse (*Isaiah 11:1, 10; see also Revelation 22:16*).
4. *Isaiah 35:4-6* shows that Jesus is God:
5. *Isaiah 40:3* declares that one would cry in the wilderness,
6. *Micah 5:2* proves that the Messiah is God.

- ◆ Thus the Old Testament clearly states that the Messiah and Savior to come would be God Himself.

The New Testament Proclaims that _____ Is God

1. _____ confessed Jesus as both Lord and God (*John 20:28*).
2. According to *Acts 20:28*, the church was purchased with God's own blood, namely the blood of Jesus.
3. Paul described Jesus as... "*the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*" (*Titus 2:13; NIV has "our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ"*).
4. Peter described Him as... "*God and our Saviour Jesus Christ*" (*2 Peter 1:1; NIV and TAB both have "our God and Savior Jesus Christ"*).
5. Our bodies are the temples of God (*1 Corinthians 3:16-17*), yet we know Christ dwells in our hearts (*Ephesians 3:17*).
6. The Book of Colossians strongly emphasizes the deity of Christ (*Col. 2:9; 1:19*).

- ❖ We conclude that the New Testament testifies to the full deity of Jesus Christ.

God Was Manifest In The Flesh As Jesus

- ❖ The statement that Jesus is God necessarily implies that God took on human flesh. This is in fact what the Bible says.
 1. *1 Timothy 3:16*
 2. *John 1:1, 14*
- ❖ Many verses of Scripture declare Jesus Christ to be the God of the Old Testament robed in flesh for the purpose of self-revelation and reconciliation.

V. The Son of God (*Galatians 4:4*).

The Meaning of Jesus and Christ

- ❖ Before we go any further let me briefly explain the meaning of the two words, Jesus and Christ.
 - ◆ Jesus is the Greek version of the Hebrew word _____, which means Jehovah-Savior or Jehovah is Salvation. It is a name the Son received by inheritance (*Heb 1:4*).
 - ◆ Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word "*Messiah*"; both words mean "the _____."

The Dual Nature of Jesus Christ

- ❖ Here is comparative list that will illustrate what we mean when we say Jesus had two natures or a dual nature.

#	As a Man, Jesus:	But as God, He:
1	Was born a baby (<i>Luke 2:7</i>)	Existed from eternity (<i>Micah 5:2; John 1:1-2</i>)
2	Grew mentally, physically, spiritually, socially (<i>Luke 2:52</i>)	Never changes (<i>Hebrews 13:8</i>)
3	Was tempted by the devil (<i>Luke 4:2</i>)	Cast out devils (<i>Matthew 12:28</i>)
4	Hungered (<i>Matthew 4:2</i>)	Was the Bread of Life (<i>John 6:35</i>) and miraculously fed multitudes (<i>Mark 6:38-44, 52</i>)
5	Thirsted (<i>John 19:28</i>)	Gave living water (<i>John 4:14</i>)
6	Grew weary (<i>John 4:6</i>)	Gave rest (<i>Matthew 11:28</i>)
7	Slept in a storm (<i>Mark 4:38</i>)	Calmed the storm (<i>Mark 4:39 -41</i>)
8	Prayed (<i>Luke 22:41</i>)	Answered prayer (<i>John 14:14</i>)
9	Was scourged and beaten (<i>John 19:1-3</i>)	Healed the sick <i>Matt. 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24</i>
10	Died (<i>Mark 15:37</i>)	Raised His own body from the dead (<i>John 2:19-21; 20:9</i>)
11	Was a sacrifice for sin (<i>Hebrews 10:10-12</i>)	Forgave sin (<i>Mark 2:5-7</i>)
12	Did not know all things (<i>Mark 13:32</i>)	Knew all things (<i>John 21:17</i>)
13	Had no power (<i>John 5:30</i>)	Had all power (<i>Matthew 28:18 Colossians 2:10</i>)
14	Was inferior to God (<i>John 14:28</i>)	Was equal to God -- was God (<i>John 5:18</i>)
15	Was a servant (<i>Philippians 2:7-8</i>)	Was King of kings (<i>Revelation 19:16</i>)

VI. Father, Son and Holy Ghost (*John 10:30; John 14:16-17*).

The Father

- ❖ The term “God the Father” is biblical and refers to God Himself (*Galatians 1:1-4; Malachi 2:10; Hebrews 12:9; Romans 8:14-16*).
- ❖ The title Father indicates a relationship between God and man, particularly between God and His Son and between God and regenerated man.
- ❖ The Spirit that dwelt in the Son of God was none other than the Father. It is important to note that the name of the Father is Jesus, for this name fully reveals and expresses the Father.
 - ◆ In *John 5:43*, Jesus said, “*I am come in my Father’s name.*”
- ❖ In what name did the Son come? What name did He obtain from His Father by inheritance? What name did the Son manifest?
 - ◆ The answer is apparent. The only name He used was the name of Jesus, His Father’s name.

The Son

- ❖ Basically, the term “Son of God” refers to God as manifested in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ for the salvation of mankind.
- ❖ The name of the Son is Jesus (*Matthew 1:21*).

- ◆ Since Jesus is the name of the Son of God, both as to His deity as Father and as to His humanity as Son, it is the name of both the Father and the Son.

The Holy Ghost

- ❖ The terms “*Holy Ghost*” and “*Holy Spirit*” are inter-changeable, meaning identically the same.
- ❖ The Holy Spirit is simply God. God is holy (*Leviticus 11:44; 1 Peter 1:16*).
- ❖ If the Holy Spirit is simply God, why is there a need for this term?
 - ◆ The reason is that it emphasizes a particular aspect of God. It emphasizes that He who is a holy, omnipresent, and invisible Spirit works among all men everywhere and can fill the hearts of men.
 - ◆ The term speaks of God in activity (*Genesis 1:2*).
 - ◆ It refers to God working among mankind to regenerate man’s fallen nature and enable him to do the supernatural will of God in the world. We note that the Spirit is the agent in the new birth (*John 3:5; Titus 3:5*).
- ❖ The Spirit is revealed and received through the name Jesus. He is not a separate person with a separate identity who comes in another name (*John 14:26*).
 - ◆ So the Holy Ghost comes in the name of Jesus.

VII. Questions Trinitarians Have

- ❖ *Gen 1:26*
 - ◆ Plurality of majesty -- *Genesis 1:27 (KJV)*
- ❖ Jesus being baptized -- *Matthew 3:16-17 (KJV) & John 14:7-11 (KJV)*
- ❖ Jesus at the cross -- *Matthew 27:46 (KJV)*
- ❖ Stephen when he was bring stoned -- *Acts 7:55-59 (KJV)*
- ❖ Jesus having two daddies

VIII. The “Who is God?” Chart

