

The Triunity of God

A study of the Trinity

God the Father

“Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord. And do not touch what is unclean; and I will welcome you. And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” says the Lord Almighty (2 Corinthians 6:17-18).

God the Father

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba Father!" (Romans 8:14-15).

God the Father

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him (Romans 8:16-17).

God the Father

- Absolute Deity (Jn 6:27; Eph. 1:3)
 - *Mormonism* – finite, w/wives & kids
 - *Feminist Theology* - “Father” is culturally conditioned; sexist language
- God the Father elects, loves, and bestows gifts and blessings.
- “Our Father, who art in heaven...”
(Matthew 6:9)

God the Father

- He is ***Sovereign Ruler***
 - Exists eternally in unimaginable splendor (Isa 6:1-6)
 - Involved in affairs of His creation
 - relates to His creation personally
 - Giving gifts to those who ask (Matt 7:11)

Father Over All Creation

- "...of whom the whole family of heaven and earth is named" (Eph. 3:14-15)
- "Father of spirits" [angels/men] (Heb. 12:9)
- "Father of lights" [spiritual light] (Jas. 1:17)
- Angels are "sons of God" (Job 1:6; 2:1; 38:7)
- "Have we not all one Father?" (Mal. 2:10)
- "...we are the offspring of God" (Acts 17:29)
- "...there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things (1 Cor. 8:6)

Father by Intimate Relationship

- "Israel is my son, my firstborn" (Exod. 4:22)
- Of Solomon to David: "I will be his father, and he shall be my son" (2 Sam. 7:14).
- God's care as a Father is over all those who trust in Him (Psalm 103:13)
- Addressed as "Father" in prayer (Matt 6:9)
- Believers can come to His very throne for mercy and grace (Heb. 4:16)

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ

- Jesus is God's Son; in intimate relationship between members of Trinity
- Christ is "the image of the invisible God, the *firstborn* over all creation" (Col. 1:15)
- Those in Christ are also children of God, heirs according to promise (Rom. 8:16-17)

Father of All Who Believe

- Salvation is only for those who believe in Christ, who trust Him alone to save.
 - All are God's creation; elect are His children
 - Sons of devil; of God (Jn 8:44; 1 Jn 3:10)
- God's sons are "born again" into God's family from Adam's (John 3; Rom. 5)
- The Holy Spirit makes believers legitimate children of God (Romans 8)

The Father in the Trinity

- The Father has His role within the Godhead as the first member of the Trinity
- The Father sends and commissions the Son, the second member of the Trinity.
- The Father is presented as electing, bestowing, & loving in the Scriptures.

Father of Jesus Christ

- Father of Jesus (Ephesians 1:3).
- Attributes of the Father are assigned to Jesus making them one in their nature.
- Their oneness is also attested in the historical Church creeds:
 - Nicene Creed
 - Athanasian Creed

Only One God

- "Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the Lord is one" (Deut 6:4).
- "Surely, God is with you, and there is none else, no other God" (Isa 45:14).
- "...I am God, and there is no other...declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done" (Isa 46:9-10).

Is Jesus God?

- If there is only one God, then how could Jesus call Himself God and receive worship as only God can?

Jesus' Claims to Deity

- **Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd" (John 10:11); yet the OT declared "YHWH is my shepherd" (Ps. 23:1).**
- **Jesus claimed to be judge of all men (John 5:27; cf. Matt 25:31-46); YHWH said, "For there I will sit to judge all the nations round about" (Joel 3:12).**

- Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12); yet Isaiah said, "YHWH will be unto you an everlasting light, and your God your glory" (60:19).
- Jesus claimed to share God's eternal glory (Jn. 17:5); yet YHWH said, "I will not give My glory to another" (Isa. 42:8).
- Jesus called Himself the "bridegroom" (Matt. 25:1)—the same way YHWH is depicted in the OT (cf. Isa. 62:5; Hos. 2:16). Are there two bridegrooms?

Father/Son Equal in Person

- The same name... *Yahweh*—the I AM (Exodus 3:14)
- “I am YHWH, that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise unto graven images” (Isa. 42:8)...
“Thus says YHWH...I am the first, and I am the last; and besides Me there is no God” (44:6; cf. 48:11).
- Jesus said, “I am the first and last” (Revelation 1:17-18; 2:8)

Jesus as ἐγὼ εἰμι—I AM

- Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*” (John 4:26).
- But He said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid” (6:20).
- “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am *He*, you will die in your sins” (8:24).

- "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me" (John 8:28).
- "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am" (8:58).
- "From now on I am telling you before it comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am *He*" (13:19)
- They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said, "I am *He*" (18:5).

- Again the high priest was questioning [Jesus], and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said, "**I am**; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." Tearing his clothes, the high priest said, "What further need do we have of witnesses? You have heard the blasphemy; how does it seem to you?" And they all condemned Him to be deserving of death (Mark 14:61–64).

Father/Son Equal in Works

- In Mark 2:5 Jesus said He could forgive sins, then He backed up this claim by telling a lifelong paralytic to "rise, take up your pallet and go home" (Mark 2:10, 11).
- The reaction of the scribes is telltale as to what Jesus was actually saying about Himself, for they said, "Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (v. 7).

- Jesus said that He did the works of the Father, but in John 14:10, He says, "The Father, abiding in Me does His works."
- As God rested on the seventh day (ceased from creating) but continues to work within His creation, so too does Christ (John 5:17).
- Yet the Father and Son are distinct; Jesus is the perfect revelation of the Father in human form (John 1:18); nothing they do or say contradicts the other.

Father/Son Equal in Sovereignty & Power

- Only God raises the dead (Deut. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6; 2 Kings 5:7), yet Jesus said that He too “gives life to whom He wishes” (John 5:21)
- Unlike Elijah (1 Kings 17:22) or Elisha (2 Kings 4:34-35)—Jesus is the **source** of life and not simply a medium through which God works.

- The Father & Son agree on whom to grant spiritual life to...
- The Father *chooses* (Eph. 1:3-5), the Son *redeems* (Eph. 1:6-12), and the Spirit seals & guarantees future redemption (Eph. 1:13-14).
- In short, Jesus the Son rejects none that God the Father gives to Him (John 6:37).

Father/Son Equal in Judgment

- God is the “judge of all the earth” (Gen 18:25; cf. 1 Sam 2:10; 1 Chron 16:33; Ps 82:8). He created it all, so only He can judge it.
- Yet Jesus says God gave Him authority to judge (John 5:22, 27; cf. 9:29)
 - His main purpose was salvation however (3:17)

- Christ will judge at the second coming (Acts 17:31; 2 Tim. 4:1; 1 Pet. 4:5) when He arrives to judge the works of man (Matt. 25:31-46).
- Many, expecting to be saved by Jesus, will cry out to Him and plead with Him, only to hear Him say, “I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness” (Matthew 7:21-23).

Father/Son Equal in Honor

- "...honor the Son, even as they honor the Father... He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him" (John 5:23)
- This means that all faiths who reject Jesus as God are not honoring God at all (e.g., Mormons, JW's, Muslims, etc.)

- "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may 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" (1 John 5:20).
- Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

- And [Jesus] placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades” (Revelation 1:17–18).
- Aside from what Jesus said about Himself, and what the apostles wrote about Him, His resurrection from the dead speaks louder than any words.

Conclusion

- IF the NT is a historically reliable record of the life, teachings, death, & rez of Christ,
- And since Jesus taught that he was God incarnate,
- And since Jesus proved to be God by fulfilling OT prophecies about Himself,
- THEN Jesus is Lord and God. And if He is Lord and God, we must bow to Him.

MORMONISM

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



WHO IS GOD?

- God the Father was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood... “As man is, God once was; as God is, man may become.”
- God the Father has a physical body, as does his wife (generally called “Heavenly Mother”).
- No Trinity.
 - Father, Son, and “Holy Ghost” are three separate gods.
- Worthy men may one day become gods themselves.



Bible

MORMONISM

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



WHO IS JESUS?

- The Mormon Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim).
 - He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in Heaven, and is the “elder brother” of all men and spirit beings.



Bible

MORMONISM

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints



WHO IS JESUS?

- His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary.
- He was married.
- His death on the cross does not provide full atonement for all sin, but does provide everyone with resurrection.



Bible

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



WHO IS GOD?

- One-person God called "Jehovah."
- No Trinity.
- Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created.



Bible

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

Watchtower Bible and Tract Society



WHO IS JESUS?

- The Jehovah's Witnesses' Jesus is *not* God.
- Before he lived on earth, he was Michael, the archangel.
- Jehovah made the universe through him.
- On earth he was a man who lived a perfect life.



Bible