

# Christ Reformed Baptist Church (New Castle, IN)

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## The Only True God

Within the borders of the universe that humanity inhabits, there are two types of beings.

- There are those beings that are dependent on another.

This category encompasses everything from elephants to snails, from angels to demons, from human beings to viruses.

Then there is that one being upon whom all of this depends.

He alone is self-existent—the great Yahweh (Jehovah), who told Moses that His name is “I AM THAT I AM” (**Ex. 3:14; see also Rev. 1:4**). All other beings draw their sustenance (*the maintaining of someone or something in life or existence.* ) and existence from Him.

He is utterly unique in that He has no need of anything outside Himself. He alone possesses what students of theology call aseity, **the attribute of self-existence** (**John 1:4; 5:26**).

**JHN1:4** “In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

**JHN. 5:26** “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;” (\*\*God the Son possesses the same self-existence of the divine nature as the Father, yet this is from the Father, implying that the Father eternally begets or generates the person of the Son in the fullness of the divine nature)

Because He gives life to all of creation, from the greatest object to the smallest particle, He is to be confessed as the one and only Creator and God.

**1 Cor.8:6** “But to us there is but one God, **the Father, of whom** are all things, and we in him; and one **Lord Jesus Christ, by whom** are all things, and we by him.”

The Bible’s confession of God’s uniqueness is also found in the statement that He is holy.

**ISA.6:3** “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

**REV.4:8** “And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.” (\*\* Repetition indicates superior quality, and threefold repetition superlative excellence.)

Human beings are limited in what we can do. Our knowledge is finite, never exhaustive/unlimited. And our lives on this earth are relatively short in duration (**James 4:14**) and often dogged by painful experiences—“nasty, brutish, and short,” as the philosopher Thomas Hobbes<sup>1</sup> once described our human experiences.

**Not so with God.** He is immortal, can do all that His good pleasure decides, and has absolutely no limitations. To say that God is holy, then, is to speak of His uniqueness, His otherness from His creation...there is no other being like Him.

**ISA.46:9** “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,”

Men and women worship many gods. Being made in the image of the true God, human beings have an unquenchable desire to worship. But being fallen, they inevitably worship gods of their own making.

John Calvin, the French Reformer, accurately pointed out that the human mind is “a perpetual factory of idols” (Institutes of the Christian Religion, 1.11.8; cf. Rom. 1:18–25).

**Gen.6:5** “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”

The sole remedy is God’s gift of spiritual sight, that is regeneration, by which, when it is granted like a ray of light from heaven, people are awakened to know the one true God and know themselves as His ill-deserving creatures.

**1 Cor.2:12-14** “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.<sup>13</sup> Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.<sup>14</sup> But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

**1 Cor.12:3** “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”

God is thus SOVEREIGN over His creation. He gives life and takes it away, raises up nations and mountains and casts them down, and brings stars to light and extinguishes them. And none can hinder Him.

**ISA.43:13** “Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it (reverse it, hinder it)?”

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Hobbes, was an English philosopher, considered to be one of the founders of modern political philosophy. Hobbes is best known for his 1651 book Leviathan, in which he expounds an influential formulation of social contract theory

**ISA.46:10-11** “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure (purpose):<sup>11</sup> .... I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.”

What He has decided will surely come to pass, **and this exercise of His sovereignty is His glory.**

So, a proper BIBLICAL definition of God’s Sovereignty is thus: He and He alone as God has the Authority, Freedom, Wisdom and the Power to bring about everything He has Declared, Counseled and Purposes to happen.

Human beings have both the privilege and responsibility of acknowledging this sovereignty of God as being His image bearers.

However, they can do so only when God inclines their hearts because by nature they are rebels, despising His authority, with some of humanity going against what they instinctively know and claiming that God does not exist at all.

**ROM.1:18** “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold (suppress) the truth in unrighteousness;”

But He does exist! Of that fact we as Christians are more certain than of anything else we know.

And it is the Christian’s “sweet delight”—to borrow a phrase from Jonathan Edwards, the eighteenth-century gospel preacher—to submit to this great God, to acknowledge our utter dependence upon Him, and to live for Him and His glory.

As such, Christian talk about God is far more than a philosophical discussion about His existence. It is joy itself, for the Christian has come to know the one and only true God in the gospel of Jesus Christ, and in knowing Him we have found meaning for life and, yes, also life eternal (**1 John 5:20**)—in which we will forever enjoy knowing, loving, and communing with the One and Only Triune God, basking in His smile and feasting in His presence.