

Understanding the Godhead

Introduction

John 4:24

1. There are a number of different beliefs that people have relative to God or deity. There are at least 10 different beliefs or concepts pertaining to God, the Godhead, or towards deity. These are:
 - A. Theism - belief in the existence of a god or gods.
 - B. Natural Theism - a study of existence and character and God in light of nature and reason.
 - C. Deism - belief that God created the world, but denies His supernatural intervention (will not allow God to perform miracles).
 - D. Pantheism - belief that the universe and God are the same (laws of nature and universe = God).
 - E. Atheism - a disbelief of the existence of deity - there is no deity.
 - F. Agnosticism - belief that the existence of God is unknown and probably unknowable.
 - G. Humanism - philosophy that usually rejects supernaturalism and elevates man.
 - H. Naturalism - the view which ascribes everything to natural causes (often called evolution, rationalism). It is always antinaturalistic.

- I. Polytheism - belief in or worship of more than one God.**
- J. Monotheism - Belief that there is but one God (no trinity).**
 - 1) It is no wonder that the world today is so confused in the realm of religion.**
 - a. If one does not know or have a proper understanding of who it is they worship, then how can one worship in the proper spirit and truth (John 4:24)?**
 - 2) There are many members of the Lord's church that are also confused about who God is.**
- 2. The Bible Christian believes in an all-present, all-knowing, all-powerful God who is a personal being that has created all things and revealed Himself to man through His special divine revelation.**
 - A. The Christian believes that the Bible is divine revelation.**
 - 1) Divine: "from God"**
 - 2) Revelation: "an uncovering by God; not something that man could discover for himself"**

2 Timothy 3:16 **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God**, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Understanding the Godhead

1. There are a plurality of persons:

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body and **one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism; **one God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

2. All were present at the baptism of Jesus:

Matthew 3:16-17 When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "**This is My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased."

- A. When we are baptized, we are baptized in the name of** (by the authority of) **the Father** (who gave His Son as a sacrifice), **the Son** (who died so that we may have forgiveness of sins), **and of the Holy Spirit** (convicts men of sin and teaches through the word how to live right, promising eternal life to all that do).

3. God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

- A. SEE CHART:** However, the Father is not the Son,

the Son is not the Father,
the Father is not the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Spirit is not the Father,
the Son is not the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Spirit is not the Son, **yet all are God.**

B. **SEE CHART:** We can understand this further by knowing that:

Tom is not Sam,
Sam is not Tom,
Tom is not Bill,
Bill is not Tom,
Sam is not Bill,
Bill is not Sam, **yet all are Man.**

4. How can three be one?

SEE CHART

A. On a board of directors there can be 8 members, **yet one board.**

- In the eldership of a local congregation there can be a plurality of elders, **yet one eldership.**
- In the body of Christ there are many members (1 Corinthians 12:12-20), **yet one body.**

5. How can three persons be one God?

SEE CHART

A. Humanity consisting of human attributes, are many, **yet one manhood.** Angels, consisting of Angelic attributes, are many, **yet one Angelhood.** Deity, consisting of divine attributes, are three persons, **yet one Godhoodas.**

- 1) These three never disagree. They are one in purpose, one in all things....except in person. They are three persons making up one Godhood.

God — The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

SEE CHART

1. The Father is NOT the Son and the Son is not the Father.

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.' "

A. This verse also shows that the Father is God.

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2 John 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

1) If God was only and always "Father" why so state?

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

2. The Father is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

- A. These verses show three separate individuals and certainly proves that the Father and Spirit are separate individuals.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

3. The Son (Jesus) is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not Jesus.

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

- A. Again, this verse shows all three as being separate individuals.

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him (God the Father - rlt).

- A. This verse shows that although the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were separate individuals, they worked together for the common purpose of doing good.

4. The Father is God

John 3:16 For God **(the Father - rlt)** so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but **He sent Me.**

Matthew 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

5. The Son (Jesus) is God

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb 1:8 **But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God,** is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.

Titus 2:13-14 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our **great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, **"My Lord and my God!"**

6. The Holy Spirit is God

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men **but to God.**" (God, used in reference to the Holy Spirit)

Note: The Truth Commentary, on Acts (pg.91) by Johnny Stringer states the following:

"because each of these persons possesses the qualities of deity, each one of them may be referred to as God. The three are united, working together as one, and in that sense, they are one God. The term "God" may be used with respect to any one of the three, or it may be used with reference to the three of them together."

Heathen Concept Versus Bible Teaching

SEE CHART

1. Heathen concept has many deities or gods

Acts 17:22-23

Galatians 4:8

1 Corinthians 8:4-7

Acts 19:26; 14:11

Exodus 20:3

2. The Bible Teaching is that there is One God

Isaiah 43:10 "You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, **And understand that I am He.** Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

Isaiah 45:6 That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and **there is no other;**

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, **and there is no other.**

- **Never disagree; etc....**

Ephesians 3:9

Colossians 1:16

Conclusion

1. **A proper understanding of the Godhead** will make it easier for us to have the right attitude when we worship our God in spirit and truth.
2. May we all strive to live our lives knowing that God, **the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit** are there with us as we teach others.
3. Brethren and Friends, God cares for us!
 - A. So much so that God the Father sent His only Son Jesus to suffer and die on the cross so that we can have forgiveness of sins.
 - B. We understand this truth as we are led by God, the Holy Spirit, through the pages of the Bible, granting us eternal salvation when we obey.
4. **Have you obeyed God? Remember, He has all power and He has said:**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

Place

Date

[illegible]

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