

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY



LAST TIME

➤ The Problem of Evil and Suffering

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

- The Attributes of God
- The Trinity

IS GOD A PERSON?

- No
 - God is three persons.
 - Tri-personal
- God is personal but not a person.

TRINITY

- This doctrine distinguishes Xianity from every other monotheistic religion.
- This also distinguishes from various cults that claim to be Xian: LDS, JW, Christian Science, Etc.
- A yardstick to see if a group has veered into heresy.

EXAMPLES

- Most Christians try to explain the Trinity by using examples that are heretical.
- Analogies such as:
 - Father, Son, and Husband- Roles
 - Water- Modalism

MYSTERY?

- Many say that it is incomprehensible and no one can understand it. Use this as excuse.
- The Trinity is not the idea of how three Gods are somehow one God.
- It is not the idea of three persons that are somehow one persons.
-

WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

- It is that there is one God this is tri-personal.
- It is one God who is three persons, or, to put it another way, there is one God who has three centers of self-consciousness: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

SELF-CONSCIOUSNESS

- Our being supports one center of self-consciousness which we call "I"
- I am one being who is one person.
- God is one being with three centers of self-consciousness- Three "I"s

NOT IN SCRIPTURE?

- The doctrine of the Trinity is not explicitly taught in the Bible.
- When we take the Bible as a whole, it is plainly evident though.
- The doctrine is implicit from cover to cover.

SCRIPTURAL DATA

- There Is One God
- Three Distinct Persons in the Godhead
 - The Father
 - The Son
 - The Holy Spirit

THERE IS ONE GOD

➤ Monotheism

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

ESV

that all the peoples of the earth may know that the
Lord is God; there is no other.

1 KINGS 8:60

ESV

I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me
there is no God; I equip you, though you do not
know me,

For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens
(he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he
established it; he did not create it empty, he
formed it to be inhabited!): “I am the Lord, and
there is no other.

ISAIAH 45:5A, 18

ESV

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

MARK 12:29

ESV

Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

ROMANS 3:29-30A

ESV

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols,
we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and
that “there is no God but one.”

1 CORINTHIANS 8:4

ESV

who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

1 TIMOTHY 2:5

ESV

You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

JAMES 2:19

ESV

MONOTHEISM SCRIPTURE CONCLUSION

- OT & NT are ver explicit in teaching that there is only one God. The doctrine of the Trinity is not a form of twi-theism.

THREE DISTINCT PERSONS

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

MATTHEW 11:27

ESV

And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

MATTHEW 26:39

ESV

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

JOHN 14:16-17

ESV

He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and
the Rock of my salvation.'

PSALM 89:26

ESV

For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O Lord, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.

ISAIAH 63:16

ESV

FATHER

- The Father is a distinct person from the Son and Holy Spirit.
- Greek- *ho theos*
- “God” in the NT always refers to the Father.

THE SON

- Jesus is a distinct person from the Father and from the Holy Spirit.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

MARK 1:9-11

ESV

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

JOHN 17:1-5

ESV

Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

JOHN 7:39

ESV

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

JOHN 16:7

ESV

JESUS IS GOD

➤ Not the Father but God.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

COLOSSIANS 1:15-19

ESV

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells
bodily,

COLOSSIANS 2:9

ESV

JESUS = LORD

- LORD- *kyrios*
- Septuagint- Yahweh
- When NT authors use it, they are attesting to the deity of Christ.

because, if you confess with your mouth that
Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that
God raised him from the dead, you will be
saved.

For “everyone who calls on the name of the
Lord will be saved.”

ROMANS 10:9, 13 (JOEL 2:32)

ESV

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 CORINTHIANS 8:6

ESV

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

HEBREWS 1:1-3

ESV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

JOHN 1:1-5

ESV

CONFIRMATION

- Colossians, Hebrews, John all show the same picture of a cosmic Christ who plays the role of God in creating and sustaining.

DEITY OF CHRIST

- There are numerous places that Jesus is referred to as God.

But of the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no

HEBREWS 1:8-12 end.”

ESV

waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing
of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus
Christ,

TITUS 2:13

ESV

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7

ESV

No one has ever seen God; the only God,
who is at the Father's side, he has made him
known.

JOHN 1:18

ESV

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my
God!”

JOHN 20:28

ESV

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. He is the true God and eternal life.

1 JOHN 5:20

ESV

NEXT TIME

- Not Meeting the 23rd
- Read:
 - The Doctrine of God- The Trinity- pp. 21-56

QUESTIONS?

The background is a dark blue gradient with a wavy, undulating texture. It is filled with numerous small, white, star-like specks of varying sizes and brightness. A faint, circular, glowing shape is visible in the lower-left quadrant, resembling a planet or a nebula. The overall effect is that of a vast, deep space or a complex data visualization.