

NEWCOMERS CLASS #3

PART 1 – GOD IS A TRIUNE GOD – THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

PART 2 – JESUS IS TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

I. GOD IS A TRIUNE GOD – THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. GOD IS ONE GOD

1. Genesis 1:1 – God is one God. He is called Elohim; a Hebrew word with a plural ending but with a meaning that is singular in nature.
2. God is one God but He manifests Himself as the **Father**, who is above us; the **Son**, who is God with us; and the **Holy Spirit** who is God in us.

B. GOD IS SPIRIT

1. Numbers 23:19 – God is not a man but He is always referred to by personal titles.
 - a. God is always referred to as “He” in the Greek
 - b. God is not one of man’s inventions. The Bible does not attempt to prove or explain the existence of God. Those that come to God must first believe that He is.... God is eternally existent within Himself.
2. John 4:24 – God is a Spirit – we must **worship** Him in **spirit** and in **truth**.
 - a. There are several spirits in the Bible, God is a spirit, man is spirit, angels are spirits, and there are demonic spirits.
 - b. The word spirit comes from the Greek word **Pneuma** which means wind. A spirit has no physical body but there is personalities, intellect will (the ability to make choices).
 - c. Man’s spirit longs to reconnect with God but if we don’t we will reach for the spirit in something else, i.e. wine, drugs, etc.
3. God is a Spirit but Jesus let us know He has substance – Luke 24:37-39 – Jesus differentiates His resurrected body with that of a spirit.

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4. I Timothy 1:17 – some attributes of God
 - a. God is **eternal** – He has no beginning or end.
 - b. He is **immortal** – death is not at work in Him, He cannot die.
 - c. He is **invisible** – Cannot be seen by the naked eye.
 - d. He is the only **wise** God – wisdom is His personality.

5. John 1:18 – No man has seen God – there were many misconceptions about the nature and personality of God. Jesus was sent to declare God to us.

C. THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOD

1. Deuteronomy 6:4 states that we should believe in one God – this is not a pagan religion.
2. Mark 12:28-29 – Love God with everything in you and love your neighbor as yourself
 - a. Make sure you love the one true God and not a false God.
 - b. A pagan god is created by mans devices and from our limited understanding. Be careful what you worship because we become like what we worship.
3. I Corinthians 8: 1-4 – Paul is addressing a controversy in Corinth about the eating of foods offered to idols. Paul says since there is only on true God the food was in fact offered to nothing therefore it’s okay to eat it unless it goes against your conscience, then don’t eat it. In essence, don’t violate someone’s conscience, walk in love.

D. GOD IS TRIUNE

1. Genesis 1:1, 26 – there is one God but a plurality of expression.
2. Numbers 6:24-26 – different characteristics of God.
3. Isaiah 6:3 – in the temple of God there are Seraphim crying “holy, holy, holy...” acknowledging the three expressions of the one God.
4. Matthew 3:13-16 – The only time on earth where the Godhead comes together – the baptism of Jesus.
5. I Peter 1:2 – Peter acknowledges the three manifestations of the Godhead.

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6. I Corinthians 12:4-6 – we see the plurality and diversity of the Godhead.
7. II Corinthians 13:14 – acknowledgement of the triune nature of God.

The class closes with an exhortation on the importance of reading the Word of God. There is a discussion of various systems that can be used to read the Word on a consistent basis so that we can begin to get understanding of the “whole counsel of God.”

E. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Where is God?

God’s throne and home is in heaven, yet it can be said that God inhabits the whole earth and is EVERYWHERE (II Chronicles 16:9; Isaiah 66:1; Proverbs 15:3; Psalms 139:7-8).

2. Twelve Descriptions that help us understand God:

- a. **ETERNAL** – Unlimited by time, “the everlasting God” – Genesis 21:33
- b. **UNCHANGING** – Unaffected by circumstances, immutable. “I am the Lord, I change not” – Malachi 3:6.
- c. **OMNIPOTENT** - All powerful “I am the Almighty God” – Genesis 17:1.
- d. **OMNISCIENT** – All knowing, “God...knoweth all things” – I John 3:20.
- e. **OMNIPRESENT** – Unlimited by space, He is everywhere. “Do I not fill heaven and earth?” saith the Lord” – Jeremiah 23:24.
- f. **HOLY** – Absolutely pure, sinless, and hating sin. “I the Lord your God am holy”- Leviticus 19:2
- g. **JUST** – Fair and impartial; truth is the basis of His righteousness. “A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He” – Deuteronomy 32:4
- h. **FAITHFUL** – Absolutely trustworthy; He keeps His word. “He abideth faithful. He cannot deny Himself – II Timothy 2:13.
- i. **BENEVOLENT** – Good, kind, desiring our welfare. “ The Lord is good to all.” – Psalm 145:9

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- j. **MERCIFUL** – Full of pity. “The Lord...merciful...keeping mercy” –Exodus 34:6-7.
- k. **GRACIOUS** – Showing undeserved kindness, forgiving. “I will hear; for I am gracious” – Exodus 22:27.
- l. **LOVE** – “God is Love” – I John 4:8.

3. What description concerning God does the Bible reveal?

The Bible reveals to us the mystery that is the makeup of the ONE true God; there is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that these THREE are ONE. Matthew 3:16-17; I Timothy 3:16; Colossians 1:26; Isaiah 9:6.

4. How are the three identities distinct from one another?

In their operation and manifestation. Genesis 1:1; Galatians 4:4-5; I Peter 1:2.

5. How can three distinct identities be ONE?

Because they are all of the same substance. The Eternal God has revealed Himself as Father and Son and Holy Spirit. That *they may be ONE as WE are ONE* John 17: 1b. *In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God – John 1:1 Hear O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord – Deuteronomy 6:4.*

6. What is the main reason that people misunderstand the Godhead?

Most people do not realize that the God of the Bible is both VISIBLE and INVISIBLE. With the visible manifestations of His being we are well acquainted – the Lord Jesus Christ is the visible Word or expression of God. However, there are also two INVISIBLE entities, even the Father and the blessed Holy Spirit. John 1:1,14; I John 1:1-3; Colossians 2:9.

7. Is there anything that can illustrate this truth?

Yes, man himself. While man is positively body, soul, and spirit, it is the BODY alone that is visible. The soul and spirit are invisible, yet they are nonetheless real and necessary to the revelation of the complete man!

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PART 2 – JESUS IS TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

I. JESUS IS TRUE GOD AND TRUE MAN

A. Old Testament Prophecies of His Coming

1. Isaiah 9:6 – The announcement that a child will be born a son given who will have the **government** upon His shoulders. He will be called Mighty God Everlasting Father.
2. Isaiah 40:1-3 – Prophecy of a forerunner to **prepare** the way of the LORD (God).
3. Isaiah 7:14 – Emmanuel (God with us) is promised. The sign will be that He is born of a virgin.

B. Fulfillment of the prophecies

1. Matthew 3:1 – John the Baptist begins to cry out to prepare the way of the Lord.
2. Matthew 1:23 – The virgin, Mary, conceives and is with child (Emmanuel).

C. The deity of Jesus – John 1:1-14, 18 – The word is the **logos** (expressed thought) of God. Verse 14 is the miracle of the incarnation; Jesus came to **declare** the Father to us; to clear up misconceptions about God.

D. The humanity of Jesus

1. Philippians 2:5-8 – Jesus was a man. This is the **kenosis** (emptying out) of Christ.
2. Jesus looked like a regular person – when the Sanhedrin came to arrest Jesus they had to pay Judas to identify Jesus in the garden.

E. Colossians 1:15-16 – Christ is the **image** of the invisible God – He shows us how God feels about certain issues.

F. Hebrews 1:2-4 – Christ fulfills all Old Testament rituals. He is better than the angels.

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II. DIVINE ATTRIBUTES

- A. Eternal-Isaiah 9:6, 41:4; John 8:58; cf. Revelation 1:17, 22:13
- B. Immutable – Malachi 3:6 cf. Hebrews 13:8
- C. Omnipotent – Matthew 28:18; Philippians 3:21
- D. Omniscience – John 13:1, 11, 16:30, 21:17
- E. Omnipresent – Matthew 28:20; John 3:13

III. DIVINE ACTS

- A. Creation – John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2
- B. Preservation – Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:17
- C. Forgiveness of Sins – Colossians 3:13; Acts 5:31
- D. Resurrection of the Dead – John 5:25-29; I Corinthians 15: 21-22
- E. All Judgment – Psalm 9:7-8; John 5:22

IV. PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS OF JESUS

- A. John 4:6 – Jesus got thirsty – he asked for a drink of water.
- B. Matthew 4:2 – After 40 days of fasting Jesus got hungry. God identifies with hunger, weariness, and thirst.
- C. Matthew 21:18 – Jesus was hungry in the morning. Shows us Jesus did eat, He didn't fast all the time.
- D. Matthew 23:37 – Jesus is sad over the city. Jerusalem has missed their day of visitation.
- E. John 19:30 – Jesus died – He said “it is finished” and bowed His head and died (it is unusual for people dying on the cross to die with their heads down).
- F. Hebrews 4:14-16 – Jesus is a high priest that is touch by our infirmity because He experienced our human limitations.

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General Reference Information

Jehovah – Name God was known by when He dealt with His own (Israel). Significance: Isaiah 42:8; Jeremiah23: 5-6; Psalm 83:18; cf I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 5:21.

This class closes with an exhortation to study the Word of God. There is a discussion of the study tools needed while at Rhema Christian Center.