

Defending and Building Your Faith Christian Apologetics – Worksheet 02

Week 2 – The One True God and the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

As the title indicates, this week we will discuss the One True God and the Deity of Jesus. Our topics include:

- World Views of God (or gods)
- The One True God – AG Fundamental Truth #2
- The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ – AG Fundamental Truth #3

These topics will provide the basis for this brief examination which will hopefully re-affirm your beliefs and strengthen your faith. We will begin with a quick overview of some possible world views of God (or rather, gods).

World Views of God (or gods)

Before discussing the One True God and the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ we will briefly review some of the various views people have about God.

Atheism

It might seem strange to include a section about atheism in this section of study. However, many atheists make statements about God even as they attack God's existence. Atheists can fall into one of several different basic categories as noted below.^{SMJ2}

"_____ atheism": This atheist believes there is no God and sometimes even claims that he knows there is no God (for example, Penn Gillette of Penn & Teller). In this, he is actively believing something; namely, that there is no God.^{SMJ2}

"_____ atheist": This atheist states that he sees no evidence for God's existence and so does not believe in God and is even sometimes rather agnostic about God, not knowing if God does or does not exist.^{SMJ2}

"_____": This atheist holds the perspective that they simply lack belief in God. They exercise no belief or disbelief in God. These atheists sometimes say the concept of God is unimportant. They view God the same way they view the concept of invisible pink unicorns - the concept simply has no value, importance, or relevance to them.^{SMJ2}

Pantheism

_____ is the position that God is _____ to the universe, it says that God is the world. This means that all is one essence, and that God, the universe, matter, people, etc., are all of the one and same essence. Therefore, all is one and one is all. Pantheists see people as being part of nature. Pantheists see the universe as the ultimate reality and an object of reverence. Most Taoists are pantheists, as are as Buddhists, Unitarian Universalists, etc. When pantheists speak of the reverence of the universe, they are not speaking of a supernatural being. There is no Heaven, no Hell, no Incarnation of the Son.

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There is only the universal essence, and one day we will return to that essence as we are absorbed into it. We are nature, and nature is us. This means that creation is an emanation of God's existence. Therefore, good and evil both flow from the universal being that is the universe. But, pantheists generally hold that evil is an illusion, which is, of course, problematic, since there is nothing illusionary about murder, rape, etc. ^{SMJ2}

Panentheism

_____ is different from pantheism. Panentheism is the belief that God is in the world, while pantheism states that God is the world. A common analogy is found in the relationship between the soul and the body. The soul is in the body; it is not the body. Pantheism states the universe is God's body, and that God is not distinct from the world (as theism teaches), and that He is in the universe, and part of it. In panentheism, God is _____ with the world which was created by God, and the world is dependent upon Him. Because God is in the world, and also outside of the world, panentheism has developed into a bipolar view of God; namely, that one pole of God is identified with the changing and temporal world, and the other is in the infinite/potential existence of all things. ^{SMJ2}

Deism

Deism flourished between the _____ and _____ centuries in Europe, but now it has become rather unpopular, so you will not likely encounter too many deists. Nevertheless, a deist is someone who believes that God exists, but that He is not involved in the world. He is somewhat like a _____ who makes a watch, winds it up, and lets it run on its own, with no further intervention. In deism, God made the universe, "wound it up," and is letting it run. He is not involved in the affairs of the universe, or of men. He has, like the watchmaker, made it, set it in motion, and is uninvolved. Therefore, deists deny the inspiration of the Bible along with its miracles. They deny the incarnation of Jesus Christ as God in flesh. ^{SMJ2}

Open Theism

Open Theism, also called, "Openness," and, "The Open View," is a theological position dealing with human free will and its relationship to God, and the nature of the future. It is the teaching that God has granted to humanity free will, and that in order for the free will to be truly free, the future choices of individuals cannot be _____ ahead of time by God. Open Theists maintain that if God knows what we are going to choose, we cannot be truly free when it is time to make those choices; a counter choice cannot be made by us, since it is already "known" what we are going to do. ^{SMJ2}

An entire class will be devoted to looking at Open Theism more in-depth later in the course.

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Theism

Theism is the position that maintains there is a God who is _____ from the world/universe, that He created the universe, and that He is _____ in the world. (Remember, deism states that although God exists, He is uninvolved in the world.) Therefore, theism includes Christianity as well as cults such as Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Christadelphianism. World religions like Islam fall into the category of theism as well. Theists believe in a creator God, a Designer, a Being who performs miracles, and who is concerned and active in the affairs of people.^{SMJ2}

The One True God

The One True God – AG Fundamental Truth #2

The topic of “One True God” is also the second Fundamental Truth of the Assemblies of God. While there are ten (10) sub-statements to this truth, the summary states the following:

The one true God has revealed himself as the _____ self-existent “I AM,” the Creator of heaven and earth and the _____ of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).^{AG1}

The first two Scriptures referenced in the truth stated above teach us that there is One True God.

*Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:
Isaiah 43:10-11 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

Albert Barnes states the following about the verses that begin with Deuteronomy 6:4.

These words form the beginning of what is termed the “Shema” (“Hear”) in the Jewish Services, and belong to the daily morning and evening office. They may be called “the creed of the Jews.”

This weighty text contains far more than a mere declaration of the unity of God as against polytheism; or of the sole authority of the revelation that He had made to Israel as against other pretended manifestations of His will and attributes. It asserts that the Lord God of Israel is absolutely God, and none other. He, and He alone, is Jehovah (Yahweh) the absolute, uncaused God; the One who had, by His election of them, made Himself known to Israel. (Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4)

Some additional Scriptures that demonstrate the fact that there is One True God include the following: Isaiah 43:10; 44:6,8; 45:5,14,18,21,22; 46:9; 47:8; John 17:3; 1 Cor. 8:5-6; Gal. 4:8-9.

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The Trinity

The second Fundamental Truth also states, and Christianity teaches, that the One True God is described as having three principles of _____, or in other words, as being a Trinity. So, while there is only One True God, the Bible shows plurality when describing Him, as the additional supporting Scriptures of the second Fundamental Truth demonstrate.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

The Trinity is the Christian teaching that God exists in three eternal _____: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is not the same Person as the Son; the Son is not the same Person as the Holy Spirit; and the Holy Spirit is not the same Person as Father. They are not three gods and not three beings. They are three distinct Persons; yet, they are all the One God. Each has a will, can speak, can love, etc., and these are demonstrations of personhood. They are in absolute perfect _____, consisting of one substance. They are co-eternal, co-equal, and co-powerful. ^{SMJ2} When a person removes or changes the attributes of any one of the Trinity they no longer are referring to the God of the Bible.

A further point of clarification is that God is not one Person, the Father, with Jesus as a creation, and the Holy Spirit as a force (Jehovah's Witnesses). Neither is He one Person who took three consecutive forms, i.e., the Father, became the Son, who became the Holy Spirit. Nor is God the divine nature of the Son (wherein Jesus had a human nature perceived as the Son, and a divine nature perceived as the Father (Oneness theology). Nor is the Trinity an office held by three separate gods (Mormonism). ^{SMJ2}

The word, "_____", is used to describe the three members of the Godhead, because the word, "person," is appropriate. A person is self aware, can speak, love, hate, say, "you," "yours," "me," "mine," etc. Each of the three Persons in the Trinity demonstrates these qualities. ^{SMJ2}

Some people to whom you speak might tell you the word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible. This is true. However, just because the word isn't found there, doesn't mean the concept isn't taught. Lots of things described in the Bible have no specific words for them but they are clearly taught. The following chart shows how the concept of the Trinity can be arrived at systematically by using the whole of Scripture.

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Characteristic	FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
Called God	Phil. 1:2	John 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isaiah 64:8	John 1:3; Col. 1:15-17	Job 33:4, 26:13
Resurrects	1 Thess. 1:10	John 2:19, 10:17	Rom. 8:11
Indwells	2 Cor. 6:16	Col. 1:27	John 14:17
Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matt. 28:20	Psalms 139:7-10
All Knowing	1 John 3:20	John 16:30; 21:17	1 Cor. 2:10-11
Sanctifies	1 Thess. 5:23	Heb. 2:11	1 Pet. 1:2
Life Giver	Gen. 2:7; John 5:21	John 1:3; 5:21	2 Cor. 3:6, 8
Fellowship	1 John 1:3	1 Cor. 1:9	2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1
Eternal	Psalms 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Rom. 8:11; Heb. 9:14
A Will	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Cor. 12:11
Speaks	Matt. 3:17; Luke 9:25	Luke 5:20; 7:48	Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:2
Love	John 3:16	Eph. 5:25	Rom. 15:30
Searches the heart	Jer. 17:10	Rev. 2:23	1 Cor. 2:10

SMJ2

The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

Who is Jesus?

"Who is Jesus?" is one of the most important questions that can be asked. The answer means so much. If Jesus is just an ordinary man, then everything said about Him in the Bible is false. If Jesus is an angel who became a man, then the Jehovah's Witnesses are right. If Jesus is the brother of the devil, and the literal offspring of God and his goddess wife, then the Mormons are right. If Jesus is the divine manifestation of the Christ consciousness in us all, then the New Agers are right. But, if Jesus is God in _____, second Person of the _____, then the Christians are right. ^{SMJ2}

Few people in history have as much written about them, invite as much controversy, and inspire as much devotion, as Jesus. Who is Jesus? Is He God in flesh? Is He a man? Is He an angel? Is He a great teacher? ^{SMJ2}

When defending the Christian faith, it is necessary to ask questions. One of the best questions to ask is, "Who is Jesus?" You will get all sorts of answers, but only one answer is true: Jesus is God in _____, second Person of the _____ (John 1:1,14). Jesus is both God and man (Col. 2:9). The answer you get when you ask, will tell you in which direction to go. If the person doesn't know who Jesus is, then you can tell him. If he is in error about who Jesus is, then you can lovingly correct him, according to the Scriptures. ^{SMJ2}

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Jesus is what the Bible is about. John 5:39 says, "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me." Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Heb. 1:3). He is the Creator of all things (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-17). Jesus is the Rock (1 Cor. 10:4), the Savior (John 4:42; 1 John 4:14), the King (Matt. 2:1-6; Luke 23:3), and the Light of the world (Rom. 9:5). Without a doubt, Jesus is _____, unlike anyone else. ^{SMJ2}

It is Jesus Who died for us (1 Thess. 5:10), and rose again (1 Thess. 4:14). It is Jesus Who reveals grace and truth (John 1:17; John 6:45), Who reveals the Father (Matt. 11:27; Luke 10:22), Who cleanses us from our sins (1 John 1:9), is worshipped, (Matt. 2:2,11; 14:33; John 9:35-38; Heb. 1:6), gives eternal life (John 10:28; 5:40), and Who alone is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). ^{SMJ2}

Jesus is Lord. ^{SMJ2}

As a Christian who seeks to know Jesus better, and to know how to more effectively teach Who He is, you must, you absolutely must learn as much as you can about Him. This means you must study the Word of God, and find Him in deeper ways, as you discover more and more truths about Him. ^{SMJ2} You must first know Him and once you know Him, you must continue learn about Him as you lead others to Him. The chart below is provided to help guide your studies.

- Jesus draws all men to Himself - John 12:32
- Jesus resurrects - John 5:39; 6:40,44,54; 11:25-26
- Jesus has all authority - Matt. 28:18; John 5:26-27
- Jesus judges - John 5:22,27
- Jesus opens the mind to understand Scripture - Luke 24:45
- Jesus bears witness of Himself - John 8:18; 14:6
- We come to Jesus - John 6:35,37,45,65; 7:37
- The Father draws us to Jesus - John 6:44
- The Law leads us to Christ - Gal. 3:24
- Jesus is the Rock - 1 Cor. 10:4
- Jesus is the Savior - John 4:42; 1 John 4:14
- Jesus is the King - Matt. 2:1-6; Luke 23:3
- In Jesus we have been made complete Col. 2:10
- Jesus is able to save completely - Heb. 7:25
- The Father will honor us if we serve Jesus - John 12:26
- The Father wants us to fellowship with Jesus - 1 Cor. 1:9
- The Father tells us to listen to Jesus - Luke 9:35; Matt. 17:5
- Jesus sends the Holy Spirit - John 15:26
- Jesus offered up Himself - Heb. 7:27; 9:14
- Jesus is the Light of the world - Rom. 9:5
- Jesus has overcome the world - John 16:33
- Jesus delivers us from the wrath to come - 1 Thess. 1:10
- Jesus rendered the devil powerless - Heb. 2:14
- Jesus came to die and destroy Satan's power - Heb. 2:14
- Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets - Matt. 5:17
- Jesus came to give life - John 10:10,28
- Jesus came to taste death for everyone - Heb. 2:9
- Jesus came to proclaim freedom for believers - Luke 4:18

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The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ – AG Fundamental Truth #3

The third Fundamental Truth declares that Jesus is _____, the _____ Son of God. It states:

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:
AG1

- (a) His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35). AG1
- (b) His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22). AG1
- (c) His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38). AG1
- (d) His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21). AG1
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4). AG1
- (f) His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3). AG1

Some Scripture that clearly demonstrate that Jesus is Deity, the Son of God include: Luke 4:41; Mat. 3:17; Mark 14:61-62; John 1:34; 1:49; 10:30.

Mark 14:61-62 But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

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Week 2 Conclusion and Challenge

Today we learned some basics about the One True God and the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Next week we will explore the basis of our belief in creation and the fall, salvation and sanctification of man.

Week 2 Challenge

I challenge you to memorize two of the following (as shown below) by next Sunday: Deuteronomy 6:4, Luke 3:22 and Mark 14:61b-62a. At the beginning of class next week I'll ask for someone to say at least two of these from memory. The first one to raise their hand and say two of the Scriptures from memory will earn a reward. I hope to see you all next week. Until then, I pray you have a blessed week.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Luke 3:22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.

Mark 14:61b-62a Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am.

Week 2 Review Questions

What is the definition of theism?

Name at least one Bible verse that declares there is One God.

What could you say to someone who says the word, "Trinity," is not in the Bible?

Name at least one Bible verse that clearly demonstrates the concept of the Trinity.

Name at least one Bible verse that clearly demonstrates that Jesus is Deity, the Son of God.