



BOTH+AND — THREE + ONE

Warm-Up Question:

Why might it be appropriate to ask, "Which God?" if one says they believe in God?

**READ: Genesis 1:1-2,26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Malachi 2:10;
Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 4:4-6**

Read & discuss the quote in the sidebar and these 3 truths about God:

- 1) God is one;
- 2) God eternally exists as 3 persons, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
- 3) There is one God

I. BOTH + AND: FATHER

- ▶ What do you learn about God from Gen.1:1-2, 26, Deut.6:4; 32:6, & Mal. 2:10?
- ▶ Why is it important to not only know God as the Almighty and Sovereign Creator, but also as a heavenly Father... your heavenly Father.
- ▶ How does the relationship with our own father affect our view of God as our Father? How might that relationship have affected your view of God as Father?

II. BOTH + AND: SON

- ▶ Read John 1:1; 5:17-18; 8:58; 10:30 & Col 1:19 and discuss how Jesus relates to God the Father. How do you see he is the same God but a different person?
- ▶ Discuss the relationship between the Father, Son & Spirit from Matt. 3:16-17. Think about how they have related for millions & billions of years in eternity.
- ▶ Thinking about Jesus having an eternally joyful relationship with the Father, what must have been the most difficult part about the cross?

III. BOTH + AND: HOLY SPIRIT

- ▶ Read Matt. 28:19; John 14:16-17; 16:8, 13; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16 and discuss who the Spirit is and how he relates to the Father and Son.
- ▶ Discuss the roles of each person of the trinity in our salvation. The Father plans, the Son executes, the Spirit applies.
- ▶ Being that there is unity and diversity in the 3 persons of God, how should that affect how we seek unity in the midst of diversity in the church?

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What makes Christianity absolutely distinct is the identity of our God. Which God we worship: that is the article of faith that stands before all others.

The bedrock of our faith is nothing less than God himself, and every aspect of the gospel — creation, revelation, salvation — is only Christian insofar as it is the creation, revelation, and salvation of this God, the triune God. I could believe in the death of a man called Jesus, I could believe in his bodily resurrection,

I could even believe in a salvation by grace alone; but if I do not believe in this God, then, quite simply, I am not a Christian. And so, because the Christian God is triune, the Trinity is the governing center of all Christian belief, the truth that shapes and beautifies all others.

The Trinity is the cockpit of all Christian thinking.

— Michael Reeves,
Delighting in the Trinity

For Prayer:

- Praise the Father, Son and Holy Spirit distinctly from what you learned.
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SEVEN RIVERS
CHURCH

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Scriptures Used

Gen. 1:26 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Mal. 2:10 Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our fathers?

Matt. 3:16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; **17** and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

Matt. 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Eph. 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

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

John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, “My Father is working until now, and I am working.”

John 5:18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

John 10:30 I and the Father are one.

Col. 1:19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** 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 16:8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? **4** While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”

Rom. 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

1Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you?