

*Qadosh Israel Jehovah Shammah  
Jehovah Tsidkenu Jah Semah El Olam  
El Roi El Shaddai Jehovah  
Elyon Paaclete Adonai Asa  
Jehovah Mekkeh Qana Jehovah  
Almighty Omnipotent Jehovah  
Elohim Paterfamilias Jehovah M'Kaddesh  
Jehovah Rohi Jehovah Thara  
El Elyon Israel Jehovah Shalom  
Jehovah Tsebaoth Amnos Arnion*

# THE NAMES OF GOD

*The Trinity Revealed*

**Stephen Phinney, Ray Stedman,  
Richard Young, Daniel Wallace,  
and Thomas Kempis.**

*King of Kings Redeemer that Ever Liveth  
Beautiful Bridegroom My Shepherd Savior  
Suffering Servant Son of the Living God*  
RAM AT ABRAHAM'S ALTAR CITY OF OUR REFUGE  
Lord of Lords Kingman Redeemer Blessed Hope  
Messenger with Beautiful Feet Resurrection Son of Man  
*Watchman Avenger*  
Messiah **I AM** Miracle Worker  
Sun of Righteousness *Healer Weeping Prophet*  
Passover Lamb Wonderful Four-Faced Man *Lord*  
Judge *Friend* High Priest Burden Bearer Soon Comina Kina

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# The Names of God

## Old Testament (The Hebrew Scriptures, or Tanach):

**EL:** אֵל God ("mighty, strong, and prominent") used 250 times in the OT See Gen. 7:1, 28:3, 35:11; Nu. 23:22; Josh. 3:10; 2 Sam. 22:31, 32; Neh. 1:5, 9:32; Isa. 9:6; Ezek. 10:5. El is linguistically equivalent to the Moslem "Allah," but the attributes of Allah in Islam are entirely different from those of the God of the Hebrews. ELAH is Aramaic, "god." Elah appears in the Hebrew Bible in Jer. 10:11 (which is in Aramaic, and is plural, "gods"). In Daniel (the Aramaic sections) Elah is used both of pagan gods, and of the true God, also plural. Elah is equivalent to the Hebrew Eloah which some think is dual; Elohim is three or more. The gods of the nations are called "elohim." The origin of Eloah is obscure. Elohim is the more common plural form of El. Eloah is used 41 times in Job between 3:4 and 40:2, but fewer than 15 times elsewhere in the OT.

**ELOHIM:** אֱלֹהִים God (a plural noun, more than two, used with singular verbs); Elohim occurs 2,570 times in the OT, 32 times in Gen. 1. God as Creator, Preserver, Transcendent, Mighty and Strong. Eccl., Dan. Jonah use Elohim almost exclusively. See Gen. 17:7, 6:18, 9:15, 50:24; I Kings 8:23; Jer. 31:33; Isa. 40:1.

**EL SHADDAI:** אֵל שֶׁדַּי God Almighty or "God All Sufficient." 48 times in the OT, 31 times in Job. First used in Gen. 17:1, 2. (Gen. 31:29, 49:24, 25; Prov. 3:27; Micah 2:1; Isa. 60:15, 16, 66:10-13; Ruth 1:20, 21) In Rev. 16:7, "Lord God the Almighty." The Septuagint uses Greek "ikanos" meaning "all-sufficient" or "self-sufficient." The idols of the heathen are called "sheddim."

**ADONAI:** אֲדֹנָי Lord in our English Bibles (Capital letter 'L', lower case, 'ord') (Adonai is plural, the sing. is "adon"). "Master" or "Lord" 300 times in the OT always plural when referring to God, when sing. the reference is to a human lord. Used 215 times to refer to men. First use of Adonai, Gen. 15:2. (Ex. 4:10; Judges 6:15; 2 Sam. 7:18-20; Ps. 8, 114:7, 135:5, 141:8, 109:21-28). Heavy use in Isaiah (Adonai Jehovah). 200 times by Ezekiel. Ten times in Dan. 9.

**JEHOVAH:** יְהוָה LORD in our English Bibles (all capitals). **Yahweh** is the covenant name of God. Occurs 6823 times in the OT First use Gen. 2:4 (Jehovah Elohim). From the verb "to be", havah, similar to *chavah* (to live), "The Self-Existent One," "I AM WHO I AM" or "I WILL BE WHO I WILL BE" as revealed to Moses at the burning bush, Ex.3. The name of God, too sacred to be uttered, abbreviated ( . . . ) or written "YHWH"

without vowel points. The tetragrammaton. Josh., Judges, Sam., and Kings use Jehovah almost exclusively. The love of God is conditioned upon His moral and spiritual attributes. (Dan. 9:14; Ps. 11:7; Lev. 19:2; Hab. 1:12). Note Deut. 6:4, 5 known to Jews as the Sh'ma uses both Jehovah and Elohim to indicate one God with a plurality of persons.

**JEHOVAH-JIREH:** **יהוה יראה** "The Lord will Provide." Gen. 22:14. From "jireh" ("to see" or "to provide," or to "foresee" as a prophet.) God always provides, adequate when the times come.

**JEHOVAH-ROPHE:** **יהוה רפא** "The Lord Who Heals" Ex. 15:22-26. From "rophe" ("to heal"); implies spiritual, emotional as well as physical healing. (Jer. 30:17, 3:22; Isa. 61:1) God heals body, soul and spirit; all levels of man's being.

**JEHOVAH-NISSI:** **יהוה נסִי** "The Lord Our Banner." Ex. 17:15. God on the battlefield, from word which means "to glisten," "to lift up," See Psalm 4:6.

**JEHOVAH-M'KADDESH:** **יהוה מקדש** "The Lord Who Sanctifies" "To make whole, set apart for holiness." The Lord says: "Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy." (Leviticus 20:7-8)

**JEHOVAH-SHALOM:** **יהוה שלום** "The Lord Our Peace" Judges 6:24. "Shalom" translated "peace" 170 times means "whole," "finished," "fulfilled," "perfected." Related to "well," welfare." Deut. 27:6; Dan. 5:26; I Kings 9:25 8:61; Gen. 15:16; Ex. 21:34, 22:5, 6; Lev. 7:11-21. Shalom means that kind of peace that results from being a whole person in right relationship to God and to one's fellow man.

**SHEPHERD:** **רעה** Psa. 23, 79:13, 95:7, 80:1, 100:3; Gen. 49:24; Isa. 40:11.

**JUDGE:** **שפט** Psa. 7:8, 96:13.

**JEHOVAH ELOHIM:** **יהוה אלהים** "LORD God" Gen. 2:4; Judges 5:3; Isa. 17:6; Zeph. 2:9; Psa. 59:5, etc.

**JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU** **יהוה צדקנו** "The Lord Our Righteousness" Jer. 23:5, 6, 33:16. From "tsidek" (straight, stiff, balanced - as on scales - full weight, justice, right, righteous, declared innocent.) God our Righteousness.

**JEHOVAH-ROHI:** יהוה רועה "The Lord Our Shepherd" Psa. 23, from "ro'eh" (to pasture).

**JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH:** יהוה שמה "The Lord is There" (Ezek. 48:35).

**JEHOVAH-SABAOTH:** יהוה צבאות "The Lord of Hosts" The commander of the angelic host and the armies of God. Isa. 1:24; Psa. 46:7, 11; 2 Kings 3:9-12; Jer. 11:20 (NT: Rom. 9:29; James 5:4, Rev. 19: 11-16).

**EL ELYON:** אל על יוֹן "Most High" (from "to go up") Deut. 26:19, 32:8; Psa. 18:13; Gen. 14:18; Nu. 24:16; Psa. 78:35, 7:17, 18:13, 97:9, 56:2, 78:56, 18:13; Dan. 7:25, 27; Isa. 14:14.

**ABIR:** אביר "Mighty One", ("to be strong") Gen. 49:24; Deut. 10:17; Psa. 132:2, 5; Isa. 1:24, 49:26, 60:1.

**BRANCH:** צמח (tsemach), The Branch: Zech. 3:8, 6:12; Isa. 4:2; Jer. 23:5, 33:15.

**KADOSH:** קדוש "Holy One" Psa. 71:22; Isa. 40:25, 43:3, 48:17. Isaiah uses the expression "the Holy One of Israel" 29 times.

**SHAPHAT:** שפֹּט "Judge" Gen. 18:25

**EL ROI:** אל ראי "God of Seeing" Hagar in Gen. 16:13. The God Who opens our eyes.

**KANNA:** קנא "Jealous" (zealous). Ex. 20:5, 34:14; Deut. 5:9; Isa. 9:7; Zech. 1:14, 8:2.

**PALET:** פלֹט "Deliverer" Psa. 18:2.

**YESHUA:** ישוע (Yeshua) "Savior" ("he will save"). Isa. 43:3. Jesus is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew "Joshua." The latter is a contraction of Je-Hoshua. ("Christ", the anointed one is equivalent to the Hebrew Maschiah, or Messiah).

**GAOL:** גאל "Redeemer" (to buy back by paying a price). Job 19:25; For example, the antitype corresponding to Boaz the Kinsman-Redeemer in the Book of Ruth.

**MAGEN:** מגן "Shield" Psa. 3:3, 18:30.

**STONE:** (eben) אבן Gen. 49:24

**EYALUTH:** אִילּוּת "Strength" Psa. 22:19.

**TSADDIQ:** צַדִּיק "Righteous One" Psa. 7:9.

**EL-OLAM:** אֵל עוֹלָם "Everlasting God" (God of everlasting time) Gen. 21:33; Psa. 90:1-3, 93:2; Isa. 26:4.

**EL-BERITH:** אֵל בְּרִית "God of the Covenant" Used of Baal in Judges 9:46. Probably used originally to refer to the God of Israel.

**EL-GIBHOR:** אֵל גִּבּוֹר Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)

**TSUR:** צוּר "God our Rock" Deut. 32:18; Isa. 30:29.

Malachi calls Messiah "The Sun of Righteousness" (Malachi 4:2).

Isaiah calls Messiah "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God (El Gibhor), Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

'Attiq Yomin (Aramaic): "Ancient of Days," Dan. 7:9, 13, 22.

**MELEKH:** מֶלֶךְ "King" Psa. 5:2, 29:10, 44:4, 47:6-8, 48:2, 68:24, 74:12, 95:3, 97:1, 99:4, 146:10; Isa. 5:1, 5, 41:21, 43:15, 44:6; 52:7, 52:10.

"The Angel of the Lord: " Gen. 16:7ff, 21:17, 22:11, 15ff, 18:1-19:1, 24:7, 40, 31:11-13, 32:24-30; Ex. 3:6, 13:21, Ezek. 1:10-13. Seen in the theophanies, or pre-incarnate appearances of the Son of God in the OT (See I Cor. 10:3 NT).

**FATHER:** אב 2 Sam. 7:14-15; Psa. 68:5; Isa. 63:16, 64:8; Mal. 1:6.

**THE FIRST AND LAST:** Isa. 44:6, 48:12.

**IMMANUEL, or EMMANUEL, or IMANUEL:** "God with us." Isaiah 7:14, 8:8. Quoted in Matthew 1:23.

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## New Testament Scriptures, (Greek):

**KURIOS:** (kurios) "Lord" Found some 600 times in the NT.

**DESPOTES:** (despotes) "Lord" 5 times: Lu. 2:29; Acts 4:24; 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4; Rev. 6:10.

**THEOS:** (yeos) "God" (equivalent to the Hebrew Elohim), 1,000 times in the NT. In the NT all the persons of the trinity are called "God" at one time or another.

**I AM:** Jesus upset his generation especially when He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM," John 8:58. Note also his claim to be Jehovah in such phrases as "I AM the Light of the world," "the bread of life," living water," "the Resurrection and the Life," "the Way, Truth and the Life" in John's Gospel. From the Hebrew OT verb "to be" signifying a Living, Intelligent, Personal Being.

**THEOTES:** "Godhead" Col. 2:9; Rom. 1:20.

**HUPSISTOS:** "Highest" Mt. 21:9.

**SOTER:** (soter) "Savior" Luke 1:4 7.

**WORD:** (logos) John 1:1ff

**ALMIGHTY:** (pantokrator) 2 Cor. 6:18, Revelation, 9t, e.g. 19:6.

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**JESUS:** Derived from the Hebrew "Joshua" (Y'shua) or "Je-Hoshua" meaning JEHOVAH IS SALVATION.

ישוע

**CHRIST:** is equivalent to the Hebrew 'Messiah' (Meshiach), "The Anointed One."

**Other NT Titles for Jesus:** Shepherd of the Sheep; Master; King of kings; Lord of



lords; Bishop and Guardian of our Souls; Daystar, Deliverer, Advocate, Last (or Second) Adam, Ancient of Days, Branch, Chief Cornerstone, Immanuel, First Born, Head of the Body, Physician, Rock, Root of Jesse, Stone, Potentate; Chief Apostle; Great High Priest; Pioneer and Perfecter of our Faith (or Author and Finisher); Lamb of God; Lamb Slain before the Foundation of the World; Lord God Almighty.

**LOGOS:** "The Word of God" John I; Rev. 19:13.

**SOPHIA:** "The Wisdom of God," referring to Christ, refers back to Proverbs (I Cor. 1,2)

**Father, Son, Holy Spirit:** Christian orthodoxy has always understood God to be One God in Three Persons (Elohim). In The NT each person of the godhead is called "God" and "Lord" at least once.

**Names for the Holy Spirit:** Counselor; Comforter; Baptizer; Advocate; Strengtheners; Sanctifier; Spirit of Christ (not the same as the spirit of Christ); Seven-Fold Spirit (Rev.); Spirit of Truth; Spirit of Grace; Spirit of Mercy; Spirit of God; Spirit of Holiness; Spirit of Life. Symbolized in OT and NT by (1) breath or wind; (2) fire; (3) water; (4) oil; (5) light; (6) a dove.

**The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ:** Most Study Bibles have notes that reference the Deity of our Lord Jesus Christ. Here is what the Scofield Study Bible Notes say:

(1) In the intimations and explicit predictions of the O.T. (a) The theophanies intimate the appearance of God in human form, and His ministry thus to man (Gen. 16:7-13; 18:2-23. especially v. 17; 32. 28 with Hos. 12:3-5; Ex. 3:2-14). (b) The Messiah is expressly declared to be the Son of God (Psa. 2:2-9), and God (Psa. 45:6, 7 with Heb. 1:8,9; Psa. 110. with Mt. 22:44; Acts 2:34 and Heb. 1:13; Psa. 110.4 with Heb. 5:6; 6. 20:7. 17-21; and Zech. 6:13). (c) His virgin birth was foretold as the means through which God could be "Immanuel," God with us (Isa. 7:13, 14 with Mt. 1:22, 23). (d) The Messiah is expressly invested with the divine names (Isa. 9:6, 7). (e) In a prophecy of His death, He is called Jehovah's "fellow" (Zech. 13:7 with Mt. 26:31). (f) His eternal being is declared (Mic. 5:2 with Mt. 2:6; John 7:42).

(2) Christ Himself affirmed His deity. (a) He applied to Himself the Jeho-vistic I AM. (The pronoun "he" is not in the Greek; cf. John 8:24; John 8:56-58. The Jews correctly understood this as our Lord's claim to full deity [v. 59]. See, also, John 10:33; 18:4-6, where also, "he" is not in the original.) (b) He claimed to be the Adonai of the O.T. (Mt. 22:42-45. See Gen. 15:2, note). (c) He asserted His identity with the Father (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 14:62; John 10:30; that the Jews so understood Him is shown by vs. 31, 32; John 14:8, 9; 17. 5). (d) He exercised the chief prerogative of God (Mk. 2:5-7; Lk. 7:48-50). (e) He asserted omnipresence (Mt. 18:20; John 3:13); omniscience (John 11:11-14, when Jesus was fifty miles away; Mk. 11:6-8); omnipotence (Mt. 28:18; Lk. 7:14; John 5:21-23; 6. is); mastery over nature, and creative power (Lk. 9:16. 17; John 2:9, 10:28). (f) He received and approved human worship (Mt. 14:33; 28: 9, John 20: 28, 29).



(3) The N.T. writers ascribe divine titles to Christ (John 1:1; 20: 28; Acts 20:28; Rom. 1:4; 9:5; 2 Thess. 1:12; 1 Tim. 3:16; Tit. 2:23; Heb. 1:8; 1 John 5:20).

(4) The N.T. writers ascribe divine perfections and attributes to Christ (e.g. Mt. 11:28; 18:20, 28:20; John 1:2, 2:23-25; 3:13; 5:17; 21:17; Heb. 1:3, 11, 12 with Heb. 13:8; Rev. 1:8,17,18; 2:23; 11. 17; 22:13).

(5) The N.T. writers ascribe divine works to Christ (John 1:3. 16:17, Col. 1:16, 17; Heb. 1:3).

(6) The N.T. writers teach that supreme worship should be paid to Christ (Acts 7:59, 60; 1 Cor. 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14, Phil. 2:9, 10; Heb. 1:6; Rev. 1:5, 6; 5. 12, 13).

(7) The holiness and resurrection of Christ prove His deity (John 8:46; Rom. 1:4).

Philippians 2 is the great Chapter on the kenosis or self-emptying of the Lord Jesus Christ when He became a man. His equality with the Father as the Son of God is stated here.

Note also John 5:18 "This was why the Jews sought all the more to kill him, because he not only broke the Sabbath but also called God his Father, making himself equal with God."

A well-known NT passage of mine is Romans 9:5 "...to them (the Jewish race) belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Messiah (who is) God who is over all, blessed forever. Amen."

**ALPHA AND OMEGA:** The First and the Last, The Beginning and The End (Rev. 1).

# The Trinity

## Notes on the Trinity

These notes briefly comment on the idea of Jesus being God in human flesh and the idea of the trinity (the One God consisting of three persons).

The unique thing about Jesus is that he was fully man and fully God. That is, He is God come in the flesh. So, just as the Tabernacle was the place where God dwelt among the Israelis, so was Jesus. That is why John wrote:



**"And the Word [i.e., God - see John 1:1] became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).**

In the Old Testament, we see God clothe Himself in a cloud, a pillar of fire (see Ex 13:21), and as a man when He appeared to Abraham (see Gen 18). [Jesus was tempted but without sin, His death was because He was punished for our sins which were put upon Him; I'll not dwell on this aspect of the incarnation but go into the main idea of the trinity].

The concept of the "trinity" is that God consists of three persons who are one in being and nature. The concept of the "trinity" is not something that one just reads a verse or two and says, "so there it is!" The word itself is not a translation of any word or phrase found in the Bible. The concept is derived and "falls out" of the evidence. Without Jesus' revelation when He was on earth, I would say that the idea of the trinity would be difficult to determine from the Hebrew Scriptures, for after all, Deuteronomy 6:4 states, "the LORD is one." But, because of Jesus, we must re-examine our first impression understanding of this statement. Here are the pieces:

(1) Jesus speaks to the Father in the second person. Jesus refers to the Father and the Holy Spirit in the third person. Jesus refers to His will as being distinct from His Father's "not my will but yours be done."

(2) The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are called God. Each is described as deserving of worship by us, something only God Himself is worthy of.

(3) The Scriptures clearly teach that "the LORD is one" and that there are "none besides Him."

From these pieces, the idea of God's nature being more complex than we would have imagined emerges. The question then needs to be addressed as to exactly what "one" means in Deuteronomy 6:4. Consider what Jesus said about His relationship to the Father. Jesus said that He and the Father were one (see John 17:22). Jesus wants us to be one as He is one with the Father. Further, when God created man and woman, He desired that they be united as "one flesh" (Gen 2:24). This could not simply be a reference to the bearing of children, which are, in a sense, a one flesh result of their union. It must refer to the marriage itself, for certainly they were "one flesh" before they bore any children. This concept of "one" does not refer to a uniform or homogeneous state of being; men and women are very different (despite what some feminists would have you believe), and the members of the body of Christ are also very different.

## Marriage

Hebrews 13:4 tells us: "Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge." Marriage is not only to be held in high honor by all, but its object in this passage is stating that "honor" is to be shown to marriage as an institution. It is not to be undervalued as though celibacy were purer. It should not be dishonored by any violation of the marriage contract. This means, the "contract" established between a man and woman is a "covenant" sealed in heaven. What God joins in a union, no man or his laws can separate. Matthew 19:6 says: "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate." When mankind devalues the marriage institution, they are subtly attacking the "marriage of the Lamb." For God, the Father gave us the institution of marriage to demonstrate, by law and relationship, what is to come with His Son.

Individuals who are united in marriage do not lose their individual traits, such as their own thoughts, emotions, etc. And a married couple does not have the same blood type after they were married if their blood types were different before they were married. If the members of the body of Christ were to become a "uniform and homogeneous" being, then we each would lose our identity as "self," and what would emerge would be something akin to an Eastern religious "cosmic consciousness." The "oneness" must refer not to a homogeneous singularity. The oneness of the marriage and the body of Christ reflect the nature of God Himself.

## The History of Marriage

Marriage was instituted in the Garden of Eden when man was in his innocence (Gen. 2:18-24). Here we have its original contract, confirmed by our Lord, as the basis on which all laws and marital guidelines are to be framed (Matt. 19:4-5). It is evident that monogamy (one spouse until death) was the original design of marriage (Matt. 19:5; 1 Cor. 6:16). This design was violated

very early on, when man's problems with lust began to overflow into God's ordinances of marriage (Gen. 4:19; 6:2). We meet the occurrence of polygamy (two or more wives) and concubinage (a wife of secondary rank) in the patriarchal age (Gen. 16:1-4; 22:21-24). Polygamy was recognized in the Mosaic Law, made its way into legislation, and continued to be practiced through Jewish history until their captivity to Egypt, after which there is no instance of it on record.

Why is all this significant? The lust of our forefathers wanting plurality of wives didn't have the option of divorce, because divorce didn't exist. Therefore, they instituted polygamy and concubinage to fulfill their appetites for trying out different women. The leadership of that day "buckled" under the pressure of the men and legislated their lust. Polygamy and concubinage were the entrance, or gateway, for divorce. Shortly after the legislation of polygamy, divorce was instituted to keep God's laws of monogamy. In the eyes of our forefathers, this became the new and legal way to fulfill the lust of their flesh.

## **The History of Divorce**

If we don't understand the history of divorce, we will not be able to embrace the words of Jesus when the "religious leaders" were testing Him with the laws of Moses. Matthew 19:3 shows us: "Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?'" Jesus' response was consistent with history. "And He answered and said, 'Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE', and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH? So, they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate'" (Matt. 19:4-6). The statement "let no man separate" is translated out as "let no man's law separate." The other significant statement made here is "from the beginning." Jesus was not caught by their reasons for satisfying their lust. He simply went back to His Father's design of monogamy (one wife until death).

## **Satan's Purpose for Divorce**

Now the big question: Why would the enemy push so hard for legislating divorce? Another simple answer: Because if the enemy can break up the original design of "one woman + one man + one Father = one flesh," he would then be able to ingrain into the hearts of man that just maybe, "One Father + One Son + One Spirit = One God" is a lie. Secondly, he would be able to convince the Bride of Christ that there is a possibility Christ would forsake (divorce) them. Divorce is the human tool used by the enemy to try to "break up" the Trinity in the hearts of man. Divorce needs to be viewed through the eyes of God first and secondly, through history. This is man's futile attempt to legislate lust! God the Father ordained the institution of marriage to set in concrete (for mankind) the fundamental Truth of "One Father + One Son + One Spirit = One God."

## **The Father's View of Marriage**

The charter of marriage is in Gen. 2:24, reproduced by our Lord with greater distinctness in Matt. 19:4-5. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all separate individual beings, but are One. God the Father established the institution of marriage in the Garden to prepare the way for the original eternal design and union of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:31; Mark 10:5-9; 1Cor. 6:16; 7:2). The point is this: A husband and wife, united in marriage, combine to form one perfect human being; the one is the complement and completer of the other. Therefore, Christ makes the Church a necessary appendage to Himself. He is the model from whom, as the blueprint, the Church is formed (Romans 6:5). He is her Head, as the husband is of the wife (1Cor. 11:3; 1Cor. 15:45). Death is the tool that severs the bridegroom and the bride, but death cannot separate Christ and His bride. Our death is what unites us to Him (Matt. 19:6; John 10:28-29; 13:1; Rom. 8:35-39).

“This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church” (Eph. 5:32).

In this passage, the phrase "this mystery is great" is the Truth--hidden once, but now revealed. Christ's spiritual union with the Church is mysteriously represented by marriage. Not marriage in general, but the marriage of Christ and the Church. In Eph. 5:30, Paul says, "For we are members of His (glorified) body, (being formed out) of His flesh and of His bones" (NKJV, parentheses added). This statement should sound a bit familiar to you. When Adam was placed in a deep sleep, the Father “formed” Eve out of his opened side, symbolizing Christ's death, which was the birth of His spouse, the Church (John 12:24; 19:34-35). As Adam gave Eve a new name ('ishshah means "woman" or "wife"--the counterpart of 'iysh, meaning "man" or "husband"), so Christ gives the Church His new name: “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it' (Rev. 2:17).

## **The Father Chooses the Bride for His Son**

Even though it is not a popular idea today, Hebrew tradition reveals the father of the groom played a significant role of “picking” the bride for his son. The father looked for economic, social, and spiritual qualities, as well as a pure bloodline. These elements were important for the father because these qualities would preserve his investments. It took the wisdom of a father to look through the son's desires of the flesh to marry and assist him in finding a bride who would be a suitable helpmate. The father was interested in protecting his investment in his son. A wise father understood that a woman could take all that away in a very short period. Since the purpose of a father's life was to “set up” the next generation to responsibly manage his inheritance (rewards of his labor), he made sure his son had a wife who would not squander it (Exodus 34:16). For it was the father's responsibility to form his son's future; then, teach him how to do the same with his sons.

Another significant point is a young man typically looked at the outward beauty of a woman as the primary qualification to marry her, while the father looked at the inward beauty. Because

young men lack experience, they tend to look at women externally. Old men, men of wisdom, understand that external beauty quickly fades away, the man is left with the inward woman, and many times that wasn't much. Therefore, the son had to have complete trust in his father to do the "picking."

Let it be known that a son had the right to look and desire, but the father is the one who did the choosing. Judges 14:2 shows us, "So he came back and told his father and mother, 'I saw a woman in Timnah, one of the daughters of the Philistines; now therefore, get her for me as a wife.'" The simple point here is that the son knew he had no ability to obtain a woman on his own--it required the father to "work the deal" for him.

## To Be Betrothed

Betroth = be-troth (אָרשׁ, 'āras) derives from the word "troth" or the Hebrew word for "trooth" (אמת, 'ēmeth) or truth. The literal meaning here is to "be" engaged in "trooth". This explains the critical reason why the parents worked diligently in the "negotiations of dowry" to discover the truth of the groom, his family, the bride, and her family. When you married, you married tribes, and tribes have traditions and beliefs that affected the couple for generations to come.

Another critical factor is once you were "betrothed," according to Hebrew law, you were sealed for marriage. That means if you decided to "end" the relationship during the engagement, you would have to go through the divorce process. In the story of Joseph getting ready to "send her (Mary) away" (because of her pregnancy with Jesus), God had to send an angel to tell Joseph it was a supernatural conception by God.

Matthew 1:18-20 says: "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.'"

The parallel is this: when Jesus accepted us for Salvation, He was agreeing to becoming engaged or "betrothed" to us. The actual wedding has not occurred yet. This is what the Second Coming of Christ is for--to come and get His bride. During the engagement phase with Christ, He is "cleaning us up" and preparing us for His wedding. Ephesians 5:27 says, "That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless." Our "betrothed" period with Christ is for the "working out of our Salvation" (Phil. 2:12).

- Look up Philippians 2:12 and rewrite the verse using your name.

Here is the point: the engagement period is a promise "by one's truth" to fulfill the process of preparing for marriage. This usually took place a year or more before marriage. From the time of betrothal, the woman was regarded as the lawful wife of the man to whom she was betrothed



(Deut. 28:30; Jdg. 14:2, 8; Matt. 1:18-21). This idea is figuratively representative of the spiritual connection between God and His people (Hos. 2:19-20).

- As God illustrates this point perfectly in Hosea, look up Hosea 2:19-20 and make a summary statement regarding what you read.

Hosea, in his great parable of the prodigal wife (surpassed only by a greater Teacher's parable of the prodigal son), uses betrothal as the symbol of God (the Father's) pledge of His love and favor to penitent Israel. Since we are grafted into the Hebrew (Jewish) blood lineage, this principle also applies to us (Romans 11:23). At the point of Hosea's betrothal to Gomer, she was a whore (an unclean woman who gives herself away to "men of the covenant"). Like Gomer, we, too, are a "mess" when Christ decides to "betroth" Himself to us. However, the good news is that He takes the engagement period to "clean us up" by washing us with the Word--His Father.

## **The Negotiations of Betrothal**

Genesis 34:6-17--This passage is one of the clearest Hebrew pictures of the betrothal process. The situation here is Prince Shekem lusted after one of Jacob's daughters (Dinah), took her to the field, and had sex with her. Her protective brothers found out about it and now we have the betrothal process. Note: Even though the situation here is grim, the process of betrothal is quite clear.

- Read Genesis 34:1-31 before continuing.

It all starts with a conference, as such, between the parental parties. As in the case with Hamor, the father of Shekem (son of lust), and Jacob (the father of Dinah), the parents on both sides are the principals of authority in the negotiation. The sons of Jacob, being brothers of the injured damsel, are present according to custom. The actions were to check out any deeds that were contrary to sanctity, which must characterize God's holy people. Hamor makes his proposal of restitution; he proposes a political alliance or merger of the two tribes, to be sealed and affected by intermarriage. He offers to make them joint possessors of the soil (breath of the father) and of the rights of dwelling, trading, and acquiring property.

Shekem now speaks with respect and sincerity. He offers any amount of dowry, or bridal presents, and of gift to the mother and brothers of the bride. It must be acknowledged that the father and the son were inclined to make whatever amends they could for the grievous offense that had been committed. The sons of Jacob answer as a representative of their father and they respond with the following conditions of giving Jacob's daughter over to Shekem. They said that they cannot intermarry with the uncircumcised; only on condition that every male be circumcised will they consent (see Gen. 34:14-15). On these terms, the father and son promised to "become one people" with the "bride's" Hebrew race/traditions.

Even though Jacob's sons used this dowry to kill Shekem and his people, the negotiation process reveals the traditions of betrothal. The price for Shekem's bride was death; he just didn't realize



it at the time. It is amazing how one of the most “fleshly” and deceptive stories in the Bible clearly reveals the ways of the Father--Hebrew traditions.

God the Father, of the Son to be “betrothed”, had to negotiate with the “father of lies” to retain the bride for His Son. The price was His Son! Like Hosea, He had to come and take on the sins of the “bride to be,” take the punishment for those sins, then open His arms for “betrothal.” He, again like Hosea, had to “put up with” the “betrothed bride” going back to her sins of preference until the day of sanctification. God required Hosea, and Christ, to be the one responsible for the “cost” of “betrothal,” not the “betrothed” bride. God knows that the full price of dowry falls on the groom because He is the One who set the rules of engagement. In His case, the dowry was death! Secondly, He was responsible for making sure the bride was ready for the wedding day. Once the bride was purified and ready, He would come for her--i.e. the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

## Jesus the Bridegroom

Matthew 25:1--“Then the kingdom of heaven will be comparable to ten virgins, who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.” The coming of Christ (to receive His people to Himself) is often represented by the likeness of a marriage, with the Church representing His spouse or bride. The marriage relationship is the most tender, firm, and endearing of any known on earth; and on this account, it rightfully represents the union of believers to Christ (Matt. 9:15; John 3:29; Rev. 19:7; 21:9; Eph. 5:25-32).

Ten virgins--These virgins, without question, represent the Church. Virgin is the name given because it is pure and holy (2 Cor. 11:2; Lam. 1:15; 2:13). These virgins took their lamps and went forth to meet the bridegroom. The lamps used on such occasions were torches. They were made by winding rags around pieces of iron or pottery, sometimes hollowed to contain oil, and fastened to handles of wood. These torches were dipped in oil and gave out a lot of light. Marriage ceremonies in the East were conducted with great ritual and seriousness. Friends attended for both the bride and bridegroom. The betrothed was escorted in a seat carried on poles by four or more persons. After the marriage ceremony, there was a feast for seven days. This feast was celebrated in the father of the bride’s house. At the end of that time, the bridegroom escorted the bride, with great pageantry and splendor, to the home he had prepared for her during the engagement.

## Jesus Comes for His Bride

As mentioned earlier, the bridegroom came for his bride at the most unexpected time of day, usually late at night (Jer. 7:34; 25:10; 33:11). The primary reason for this was as soon as the bridegroom finished the addition onto his father’s house, he came for his bride. In Millennial times, we would call this rude and selfish. In the days and times of God, it was by law; when the work was finished, the groom would come for his bride immediately.

**Critical Note:** All their gear was ready, from the day the bride’s father gave his daughter in betrothal to the day the groom came to get her, because they didn’t know when the groom would

be finished with the preparations of the household. It is noteworthy to mention that the groom did not associate with the bride during the time of engagement. Both parties spent this time preparing for the marriage. Compare this to our relationship with Christ: After He “proposed” to us, He left, we mourn and fast, and then He returns: “And Jesus said to them, ‘The attendants of the bridegroom cannot mourn if the bridegroom is with them, can they? But the days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast’” (Matt. 9:15).

Many friends and relations attended them. In addition to those who went with the couple from the house of the bride, another company came out from the house of the bridegroom to meet and welcome them. These were probably female friends and relatives of the bridegroom. These were known as the virgins mentioned in this parable.

## **The Wedding Feast**

Once the bride and groom arrived at his house, they would enter under a canopy (symbolizing the covering or authority of the groom’s father). There, they had a wedding feast with eating, drinking, and celebrating, which took a great deal of time. No, the groom didn’t take her to the marriage bed--that typically didn’t happen for seven days. Once the ceremony was on its way, at the groom’s father’s house, a contract was prepared on a sheet of papyrus (a manuscript written on material made from the papyrus plant). The document was dated with the year, month, and day of the agreement. This document was signed by the fathers, the bride, the groom, and a specially chosen host of witnesses. The terms of the deed were extraordinary as to the dowry required on both sides, together with the clauses of requirements and payment for the privilege of the groom beholding the bride. In the case of Christ, that payment was by blood--His blood. Since the Abba Father is our Father as well, He paid the cost by giving up His Only Son for the price of marriage.

Once the document was signed, the actual dowry was recited to include the specified sum and the rights of the children (which may, after the present time, come from the marriage). The payment was to benefit the mother of the bride directly. The father of the groom further proclaimed the eldest son birthed from the marriage to be the heir of all parental property, present and future.

After the signing and reading of the contract, a small and intimate ceremony occurred for joining the two in holy matrimony. Traditionally, the ceremony was attended by both parents, two witnesses (one from each family), and the bride and groom. After the “I do’s” were officially stated, it was time for the consummation of the marriage.

The guests were there to witness the consummation of the marriage (Gen. 29:22-23); the groom would come out of the bed chambers and show the blood-stained bed coverings, demonstrating the bride had been a virgin (Duet. 22:13-21). At that point the party was over, at least in most cases. The Hebrew people were known for celebrating beyond the seven-day mark.

In the case of Christ and the Church, the “I do” will be a special point in the ceremony for God, the Father. Jehovah will finally be reunited with Israel and His earthly bride, the elect Church (Isa. 54:5; 62:4-5; Hos. 2:19; 2 Cor. 11:2; Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9; 22:17).

## **Christ Consummates His Marriage**

The Hebrew marriage ceremony is one of the most touching and powerful symbols of intimacy our Father has given His children. If you read through this information quickly, you WILL miss the important details. I have spent almost eight years researching, to write you these highlights. Learning about the Hebrew marriage needs to be taken as seriously as your relationship with Christ Jesus--for it is one and the same.

After the ceremony was completed and the Rabbi had blessed the marriage, the groom and his bride went into the room he had prepared (attached to his father's house), closed the door, and consummated the marriage by going into her and depositing his seed, to form one flesh union (Matt. 25:1-10; Rev. 19:7). As stated before, the groom would then come back out with a blood-stained sheet in hand and hold it up before the fathers, proving he had married a virgin. The fathers would agree, bless the son once again, and leave the groom and his bride for further intimacy.

## **Jesus Christ Coming for His Bride**

When Christ comes to get His bride (the Rapture), we will be given perfect (virgin) and changed bodies--taken, or formed, from the side of Jesus Christ, Himself. As with the body of Eve, this will make us one flesh from the moment of receiving our “glorified” bodies.

Our Lord corrected many false notions that existed about marriage (Matt. 22:23-30) and placed it as a divine institution on the highest grounds. The apostles clearly stated and enforced the nuptial duties of husband and wife (Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7). Marriage is said to be honorable (Heb. 13:4). The exclusion of it is noted as one of the marks of degenerate times (1 Tim. 4:3). We live in those degenerate times: women with women and men with men, all committing unnatural acts that come against the holy and prophetic institution of marriage.

The Father gave us a commission to protect the Bridal members of the Groom. The enemy, the Antichrist, will work diligently to captivate the Bride into believing half-baked ideas, distracting her from living and preparing for the Groom. The enemy wants the Bride to cast a die. One example is opening the Bible at random to determine a point of duty or doctrine. This practice opposes the Truth. The phrase “the trickery of men” is understood to be by the mere chance of people or holding to opinions that match the way one feels on any given day. The enemy is a crafty and deceitful teacher, who lies in waiting to deceive--literally, “unto the method of deceit.” His teachers use plausible pretenses and would, if possible, deceive the professed Bridal members of Christ with ill-conceived ideas that match the role of the Antichrist himself. The Father gave us angels, equipped to guard us against such teachers, and living not by their opinions or ideas, but by the Word of God alone.

It is time to bring back the foundational and traditional roots of God's ordained plan for marriage. It starts in our heart, our home, and in our community.

### **Reviewing the Steppingstones of a Hebrew Wedding:**

1. Go out and meet the bridegroom--After waiting at length (most commonly near midnight), the very words of Scripture were announced by someone in the community "Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him" (Matt. 25:6, KJV). The bride took a preparatory bath (Ezek. 23:40). "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless" (Eph. 5:25-27).
2. Lighting of the lamps--All the persons engaged now lit their lamps, or torches, holding them in their hands while running to take their place in the procession. Some had lost their lights and were unprepared, but it was then too late to find or replace them.
3. Off to the bride's house--Typically late in the evening, like a thief in the night (1 Thess. 5:2), the bridegroom came with his groomsmen ("companions" in Jdg. 14:11; "children of the bride chamber" in Matt. 9:15, KJV), singers, and torch/lamp bearers leading the way (Jer. 25:10). The bride, in the meantime, was with her maidens eagerly awaiting his coming.
4. The betrothed couple's garments--The bridegroom was carried in by a magnificently dressed horse, flaunting all his colors. The bridegroom wore an ornamental turban (Isa. 61:10--"ornaments" or "a magnificent headdress") like that of the high priest, appropriate to the "kingdom of priests" (Ex.19:6). He had a nuptial garland or crown. Song of Solomon 3:11 states, "the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals (wedding)" [parentheses added] and was also richly perfumed (Song 3:6). It was not only tradition, but a requirement, for a bride to wear a white robe, sometimes embroidered with gold thread (Rev. 19:8, KJV; Psa. 45:13-14) and jewels (Isa. 61:10). White symbolized purity (virginity) and the gold thread was the statement of wealth of the bride's father. With all her dress readied and in order, it was now time for the groom. The bride's father would then call his daughter out from his home to give her hand to the groom.
5. The groom sees himself--God called woman the "help meet (mate) for him" (Gen. 2:18, KJV, parentheses added). This means that in her preparation, she adorns herself in the groom's image, so the groom may recognize himself when he sees her. I hope you understand this Hebrew clarity. For example, when Adam saw woman for the first time--he saw himself. When Christ looks at you, because you are saved, He sees Himself in you. Christ (or an earthly husband) is to love, honor, and cherish His (his) bride. The bride of Christ (or an earthly wife) is to be helpful, be in reverent subjection, and have a meek and quiet spirit. Together, the bride and groom are the fellow heirs of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Cor. 14:34-35).
6. Party time--Once the bride was brought to the groom, the father of the bride announced the "time of celebration--the feast of marriage." In the pre-Mosaic times, when the proposals

were accepted and the marriage price given, the bridegroom could come at once and take away his bride to his own house (Gen. 24:63-67). In general, the marriage was celebrated by a feast in the house of the bride's parents, to which all friends were invited (Gen. 29:22, 27). On the day of the marriage, the bride concealed under a thick veil was conducted to her future husband's home.

**NOTE:** In the case of Christ and the Church, the party will be held at the home of the Groom--heaven. This is because the Father of the bride is also the Father of the Groom! This concept and truth leads us back to the Garden of Eden, where sons married daughters. Adam's children married Adam's children to populate the earth.

- With the bridegroom having received his bride, his cloud of witnesses (Heb. 12:1) rejoiced and were fulfilled in hearing the bridegroom's voice of joy and triumph (John 3:29).
- The feast lasted for seven days and was enlivened by riddles and stories (testimonies) of the bride and groom (Song 3:11; Jdg. 14:12).
- Wedding garments were provided by the groom's father and choosing not to wear the "garment of praise" was an insult to him (Gen. 24:53). This was a direct connection to God, the Father, covering Adam and Eve: "The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them" (Gen. 3:21). The garment, or robe, literally translates out as the covering of redemption, or the robe made by a righteous father. All wedding guests needed to be purified with the covering of the father. No impure person or thing could be part of the celebration.
- Large water pots for washing the hands and for purifying ablutions (the ritual cleansing of a priest's hands or body, or of sacred vessels, during a religious ceremony) were provided (Mark 7:3). As with Jesus, these had to be filled before Jesus changed the water into wine; the minor circumstances were in keeping with one another; the feast being advanced, the water was previously emptied out of the water pots for the guests' ablutions (John 2:7). An interesting point: The water Jesus turned into wine was the same water that had been used to purify the guests. This meant that the water was the symbol of "washing of the Word," the voice of the groom's Father, and the Word being transfigured (to transform the appearance of somebody or something, revealing great beauty, spirituality, or magnificence) to the wine, or "blood of Christ." After being washed in the Word of the Father, we (His bride) had to drink from the same cup Jesus was required to fill with His own life source. When, in the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ asked His Father about "this cup," He knew the cup required of Him to drink His own blood. Jesus had to be the first, once again, to drink from the wedding cup. Moreover, the Father needed wine (blood) to fill the wedding feast cup.
- Jesus knew that the bent of man was to "clean the outside of the cup" while filling it with "robbery and self-indulgence" (Matt. 23:25). The cup itself symbolizes the Groom's body (His bride), the cleaning of the cup is the washing of the Word, and the filling of the cup is the blood (identity of a life source) of the Husband, who was to lay His life down for His bride.

7. Groom takes his bride to his father's house--To remove the bride from her father's house to that of the bridegroom, or his father, was an essential part of the ceremony.

## **Divorce--Division by Force**

"Yet you say, 'For what reason?' Because the LORD has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant. But not one has done so who has a remnant of the Spirit. And what did that one do while he was seeking a Godly offspring? Take heed then to your spirit, and let no one deal treacherously against the wife of your youth. 'For I hate divorce,' says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'and him who covers his garment with wrong,' says the LORD of hosts. So take heed to your spirit, that you do not deal treacherously" (Malachi 2:14-16).

I have received more "Christian persecution" from self-proclaimed "Christians" on this topic than any other. That is saying a lot for over 35 years of ministry. Since most "followers" of Christ prefer happiness over Truth, this topic is rated "most controversial and dangerous" to the Millennial church. And a surprise to all (not really), I am compelled to share the results of my study.

## **The Father's View of Marriage**

Anyone who has come to know me as a husband, father, grandfather, or pastor, quickly begins to see my immovable views on God the Father. The role of father and patriarch is of utmost priority and importance to my spiritual health and well-being.

We learn in Gen. 2:24, and reproduced by our Lord with greater distinctness in Matt. 19:4-5, that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all separate individual beings--but are One. God, the Father, established the institution of marriage in the Garden of Eden to prepare the way for the original, eternal design and union of Christ and the Church (Eph. 5:31; Mark 10:5-9; 1 Cor. 6:16; 7:2). The point is that a man and woman, united in marriage as husband and wife, combine to form one perfect human being; one is the complement and completer of the other. Therefore, Christ makes the Church a necessary appendage to Himself. He is the model from whom, as the blueprint, the Church is formed (Romans 6:5). He is her Head, as the husband is of the wife (1 Cor. 11:3; 15:45). Death is the tool that severs the bridegroom and the bride, but death cannot separate Christ and His bride. Our death is what unites us to Him (Matt. 19:6; John 10:28-29; 13:1; Rom. 8:35-39).

"This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church" (Eph. 5:32).

In this passage, the phrase "this mystery is great" is the Truth; hidden once, but now revealed. Christ's spiritual union with the Church is mysteriously illustrated by marriage, not marriage in general, but the marriage of Christ and the Church. In Eph. 5:30, Paul says, "For we are members of His (glorified) body, (being formed out) of His flesh and of His bones" (NKJV, parentheses added). This statement should sound a bit familiar to you. When Adam was placed in a deep sleep, the Father formed Eve out of his opened side, symbolizing Christ's death--which



was the birth of His spouse, the Church (John 12:24; 19:34-35). As Adam gave Eve a new name ('ishah, woman or wife--the counterpart of iysh, man or husband), so Christ gives the Church His new name: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it" (Rev. 2:17).

Every member in the Church should keep his/her place, just as every bone, nerve, and muscle in the human frame. Every member of the body should be in its right position; the heart, the lungs, the eyes, and the tongue should occupy their right place. And every nerve in the system should be laid down just where the Father designed it to be. If so, all is well. If not, there is deformity or disorder, just as it is often in the Church. Many Christians have asked the question: "Why did God allow deformities in mankind?" For me, it is not difficult to understand. I believe God the Father gave humans, who suffer with deformities, to help us see what happens when the body does not conform or cooperate with itself. When one or more members of a body do not rightly fit together, the body is forced to form in its own image, which is deformity in God's design. Today, we live in a world that has a "deformed" body of Christ--separated, independent, opinionated, and full of itself. The engagement period of the Bride is for uniting, purifying, and forming her for a perfect fit unto her Husband, Christ. "Being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love" (Eph. 4:16)

**FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY:** The Church compared with the human body.

The idea is that as the head in the human frame conveys vital influence, rigor, motion, etc., to every part of the body; so, Christ is the source of life, rigor, energy, and increase to the Bride. The sense is the whole human body is admirably arranged for growth and thoroughness. Every member and joint contributes to its healthful and harmonious action. One part lends vigor and beauty to another, so that the whole is finely proportioned and admirably sustained. The whole body depends on the head with reference to the most important functions of life and all derive their vitality from the head; so, it is with the Church. Everything is designed to be in its proper place and nothing, by the divine arrangement, is lacking in its organization to its perfection. For this is the reflection of the creation of the Father. His creation was, and is, a visual demonstration of the fitting together of the Body of Christ. Through the illustration of the human body being dependent on the head, He has shown us how the Church depends on Christ (as the head) to sustain, invigorate, and guide it.

**FITTED AND HELD TOGETHER:**

The Body whose members are properly united to produce the most beauty and strength.

Each member is in the best place and properly united with the other members. Let anyone read any work on anatomy and he will find innumerable instances of the truth of this; not only in the proper adjustment and placing of the members, but in the way members are united to the other parts of the body. The foot, for instance, is in its proper place. It should not be where the head or the hand is. The eyes are in their proper place. They should not be in the knee or the heel.



The mouth, the tongue, the teeth, the lungs, the heart are in their proper places. No other place would answer the purpose so well. The brain is in its proper place. Anywhere else in the body and it would be subject to compressions and injuries, which would soon destroy life. In addition, these parts are as admirably united to fill other parts of the body, as they are perfectly located. For instance, let's examine the tendons, nerves, muscles, and bones, which secure the foot to the body and by which easy and graceful motion is obtained. We will be satisfied with the wisdom by which the body is joined together. We do not know how far the knowledge of the apostle extended on this point; but all the investigations of anatomists only serve to give increased beauty and force to the general terms which he uses here. All that Paul says here of the human frame is strictly accurate. The word used here, for "fitted together" (συναρμολογέω or sunarmologeō), means to properly sew together; to fit together; to unite, to make one. It is applied often to musicians who produce harmony of various parts of music. When the Bride of Christ is functioning in perfect harmony with itself, we are a song of worship unto His ears.

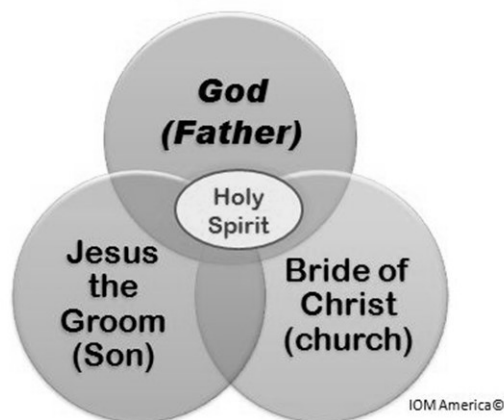
## BY WHAT EVERY JOINT SUPPLY:

Literally, "through every joint of supply" --that is, which affords or ministers mutual aid.

The word joint (ἀφή haphē, from ἅπτω haptō "to fit") means anything which binds, fastens, and secures. This does not refer to the joint in the sense in which we commonly use it, as denoting the articulation of the limbs or the joining of two or more bones; but rather, that which unites or fastens together the different parts of the frame, i.e. the blood vessels, cords, tendons, and muscles. In other words: every such means of connecting one part of the body with another minister's nourishment, and the body is well cared for. One part is dependent on another. One part derives nourishment from another. Thus, all become mutually useful contributors to the support and harmony of the whole. Therefore, it furnishes an illustration of the connection in the members of the Bride of Christ and of the aid one can render to another.

(You can learn more by ordering the book, "*The Father*," by Dr. Stephen Phinney [HERE](#).)

## Marriage of the Lamb



What exactly does "oneness" then mean? The Hebrew word used for God as one "*echad*." Echad can mean one as in "one goat," "one day," "one stone," etc. However, it can also refer to a plural unity such as in a composite whole. For example, in Num 13:23 echad refers to a cluster of grapes. And in Gen 11:6 those who built the tower of Babel are referred to as "one people." When we refer to a person we know that the "one" person consists of several distinct components (emotions, thoughts,

hands, heart, liver, etc.). Yet we all understand all of these parts constitute "one person." Echad was the word to describe the "one flesh" of marriage (Gen 2:24). Since God is referred to as "echad" in the same way as man and woman are referred to as "echad" this heavily implies that the oneness of marriage reflects the oneness of God. We also see echad used very intensely in Ezekiel 37:15-28 in the prophecy of the "two sticks" of Israel and Judah becoming one. In that prophecy we have a representative picture and the actuality.

Examine the passage carefully and you will see that the intent of the two sticks is to be a picture that Ezekiel first shows to the captive Jews in Babylon. The idea is that they would remember this message as they go about their daily activities and would pick up sticks (for building cooking fires, for example) and be reminded of this promise of God and have hope. In Ezek 37:17 the sticks don't fuse together into a single stick. It appears that this was representative of the reality of what happens in God's hand in Ezek 37:19. Even then, Judah and Israel contain distinct tribes (after all, one must know who the Levites are for priests and who the tribe of Judah is from which the Messiah will come). So the oneness of the two sticks in Ezekiel's hand obviously is a representative oneness and echad in Ezek 37:17 could be easily translated as "united." But, nevertheless, the oneness of Israel and Judah still consists of many individuals from twelve distinct tribes. The individuals do not become a homogeneous consciousness or a physical singularity of any sort. We are dealing on a spiritual level of oneness, which is reflective of God's nature. The "oneness: we observe in marriage and the other examples are shadows of the reality of the oneness within God.

Now the true nature of God's oneness we can only describe by how it appears to us from what Jesus said and did. The best words we have to describe the members of the trinity seem to be as "persons."

**What doth it profit thee to enter into deep discussions concerning the Holy Trinity, if thou lack humility, and be thus displeasing to the Trinity? For verily it is not deep words that make a man holy and upright; it is a good life which maketh a man dear to God. I had rather feel contrition than be skillful in the definition thereof. If thou knewest the whole Bible, and the sayings of all the philosophers, what should this profit thee without the love and grace of God? --Thomas a Kempis (1380-1471), *Of the Imitation of Christ***

## THE TRINITY (GENERAL)



God is a trinity of persons: 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 separate persons; yet they are all the one God. They are in absolute perfect harmony consisting of one substance. They are co-eternal, co-equal, and co-powerful. If any one of the three were removed, there would be no God. 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 who became the Son who then became the Holy Spirit (United Pentecostal). Nor is the Trinity an office held by three separate Gods (Mormonism). The chart below should help you to see how the doctrine of the Trinity is derived from Scripture. The list is not exhaustive, only illustrative. "I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God" (Isaiah 45:5).

## THE TRINITY (ATTRIBUTES)

	<b>Father</b>	<b>Son</b>	<b>Holy Spirit</b>
<b>Called God</b>	Philippians 1:2	John 1:1,14	Acts 5:3-4
<b>Creator</b>	Isaiah 64:8; 44:24	Colossians 1:15-17	Job 33:4,26:13
<b>Resurrects</b>	1 Thessalonians 1:10	John 2:19, 10:17	Romans 8:11
<b>Indwells</b>	2 Corinthians 6:16	Colossians 1:27	John 14:17
<b>Everywhere</b>	1 Kings 8:27	Matthew 28:20	Psalms 139:7-10
<b>All knowing</b>	1 John 3:20	John 16:30	1 Corinthians 2:10-11
<b>Sanctifies</b>	1 Thessalonians 5:23	Hebrews 2:11	1 Peter 1:2
<b>Life giver</b>	Genesis. 2:7	John 1:3; 5:21	2 Corinthians 3:6,8
<b>Fellowship</b>	1 John 1:3	1 Corinthians 1:9	2 Corinthians 13:14
<b>Eternal</b>	Psalms 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Romans 8:11

<b>A Will</b>	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Corinthians 12:11
<b>Speaks</b>	Matthew 3:17	Luke 5:20; 7:48	Acts 8:29
<b>Love</b>	John 3:16	Ephesians 5: 25	Romans 15:30
<b>Searches the heart</b>	Jeremiah 17:10	Revelation. 2:23	1 Corinthians 2:10
<b>We belong to</b>	John 17:9	John 17:6	
<b>Savior</b>	1 Timothy 1:1; 2:3	2 Timothy 1:10	
<b>We serve</b>	Matthew 4:10	Colossians 3:24	
<b>Believe in</b>	John 14:1	John 14:1	
<b>Gives joy</b>		John 15:11	Romans 14:17
<b>Judges</b>	John 8:50	John 5:21,30	

### Some Unique Scriptures

Revelation 1:7-8 Jesus was the Almighty.  
Genesis 17:1 And the Almighty was God.

John 8:58 Jesus was the "I Am"  
Exodus 3:14 and the "I Am" was God

Acts 3:14 Jesus was the "HOLY ONE"  
Isaiah 43:15 and the "HOLY ONE" was God

John 8:24 Jesus is the "I Am He"  
Isaiah 43:10 and the "I Am He" was God

Revelation 22:13 Jesus is the "First and the Last"  
Isaiah 44:6 and the "First and the Last" was God

I Corinthians 10:4 Jesus was "The Rock"  
Psalm 18:31 and "The Rock" was God

II Corinthians 11:2 Jesus was the "One HUSBAND"  
Jeremiah 31:32 and the "One HUSBAND" was God

Matthew 23:8 Jesus was the "ONE MASTER"  
Malachi 1:6 and the "ONE MASTER" was God

John 10:16 Jesus was the "One SHEPHERD"  
Isaiah 40:11 and the "ONE SHEPHERD" was God

Acts 4:12 Jesus was the "ONE SAVIOR"  
Isaiah 45:21 and the "ONE SAVIOR" was God

Luke 1:68 Jesus was the "ONE REDEEMER"  
Isaiah 41:14 and the "ONE REDEEMER" was God

Revelation 19:16 Jesus was "LORD OF LORDS"  
1 Timothy 6:14 Jesus was "LORD OF LORDS"  
Deuteronomy 10:17 and the "LORD OF LORDS" was God

Philippians 2:10 Every knee must bow to Jesus  
Isaiah 45:23 Every knee must bow to God

John 1: 3-10 Jesus was the "ONE CREATOR"  
Isaiah 44:24 Jesus was the "ONE CREATOR"  
Genesis 1:1 and the "ONE CREATOR" was God

John 1:49 Jesus was "KING OF ISRAEL"  
Isaiah 44:6 and the "KING OF ISRAEL" was God

Deuteronomy 4:35 The Lord He is God, there is NONE else beside him

Deuteronomy 4:39 there is None Else

Deuteronomy 6:4 the Lord our God is ONE Lord

Deuteronomy 32:39 I even I, am He and THERE IS NO GOD WITH ME

1 Kings 8:60 The LORD is God - There is None Else

2 Kings 19:15 You ALONE are the only true God

Psalms 86:10 You are God, YOU ALONE

Isaiah 42:8 I am Jehovah, and to no one else shall I give my own glory

Isaiah 43:10,11 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 SAVIOR.

Isaiah 44:6 I AM THE FIRST, AND THE LAST: AND BESIDE ME THERE IS NO GOD

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord, and there is NONE ELSE, THERE IS NO GOD BESIDE ME

Isaiah 45:6 There is NONE beside Me. I am the Lord and there is NONE else.

Isaiah 45:15 you are a God, the /god of Israel, a Savior.

Isaiah 45:22 turn to me and be saved. For I am God, and there is no one else

Isaiah 48:11 I will not give my glory unto another.  
Isaiah 45:5

Isaiah 48:12 I am he, I am the first, I also am the Last. Revelation 1:8

Hosea 13:4 I am Jehovah your God, there was no God except me, and there was no savior but I.

Joel 2:27 I am your God, and None Else

Zechariah 14:9 In that day shall there be ONE LORD AND HIS NAME ONE

Philippians 2:11 that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father

Matthew 23:9 For one is your Father, the heavenly one

Mark 12:29 Jehovah our god is one Jehovah

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## The "I AMs" of Jesus

### Introduction

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush, and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said,



"I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain." Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.(Exodus 3:1-15)

### **John's Gospel:**

1. **Jesus answered them**, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you; for on him has God the Father set his seal." Then they asked him, "What must we do, to be doing the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Lord, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. (John 6:26-35)

2. **Again, Jesus spoke to them**, saying, "**I am the light of the world**; he who follows me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." The Pharisees then said to him, "You are bearing witness to yourself; your testimony is not true." Jesus answered, "Even if I do bear witness to myself, my testimony is true, for I know whence I have come and whither I am going, but you do not know whence I come or whither I am going. 15 You judge according to the flesh, I judge no one. Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone that judge, but I and he who sent me. In your law, it is written that the testimony of two men is true; I bear witness to myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness to me." They said to him, therefore, "Where is your Father?"



Jesus answered, "You know neither me nor my Father; if you knew me, you would know my Father also." These words he spoke in the treasury, as he taught in the temple, but no one arrested him, because his hour had not yet come. (John 8:12-20)

**3. "Truly, truly, I say to you,** he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; but he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door of the sheep.** All who came before me were thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

**4. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy;** I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. **I am the good shepherd.** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. He who is a hireling and not a shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. He flees because he is a hireling and cares nothing for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And I have other sheep, that are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will heed my voice. So there shall be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again; this charge I have received from my Father." (John 10:10-14)

**5. Jesus...said to them,** "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life;** he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you

believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world." (John 11:11-27)

**6. "Let not your hearts be troubled;** believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also and you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, **"I am the way, and the truth, and the life;** no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him." (John 14:1-7)

**7. "I am the true vine,** and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch of mine that bears no fruit, he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already made clean by the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If a man does not abide in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. (John 15:1-10)

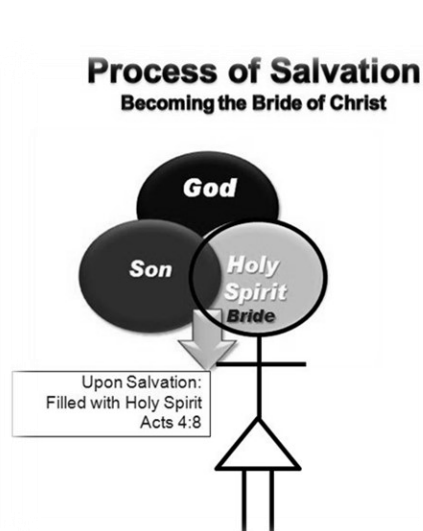
**8. Truly, truly, I say to you,** if any one keeps my word, he will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, as did the prophets; and you say, 'If any one keeps my word, he will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing; it is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say that he is your God. But you have not known him; I know him. If I said, I do not know him, I should be a liar like you; but I do know him and I keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced that he was to see my day; he saw it and was glad." The Jews then said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**" So they took up stones to throw at him; but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple. (John 8:51-59)

**9. When Jesus had spoken these words,** he went forth with his disciples across the Kidron valley, where there was a garden, which he and his disciples entered. Now Judas, who betrayed him, also knew the place; for Jesus often met there with his disciples. So Judas, procuring a band of soldiers and some officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, went there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Then Jesus, knowing all that was to befall him, came forward and said to them, "Whom do

you seek?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "**I AM.**" Judas, who betrayed him, was standing with them. When he said to them, "**I AM,**" they drew back and fell to the ground. Again he asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he; so, if you seek me, let these men go." This was to fulfill the word which he had spoken, "Of those whom thou gravest me I lost not one." (John 18:1-9)

## More Notes on the Trinity

The concept of the "trinity" is that God consists of three persons who are one in being and nature. The concept of the "trinity" is not something that one just reads a verse or two and says, "so there it is!" The word itself is not a translation of any word or phrase found in the Bible. The concept is derived and "falls out" of the evidence. Without Jesus' revelation when He was on earth, I would say that the idea of the trinity would be difficult to determine from the Hebrew Scriptures, for after all, Deuteronomy 6:4 states, "the LORD [YHWH] is one." But, because of Jesus, we are forced to re-examine our first impression understanding of this statement. Here are the pieces:



1) Jesus speaks to the Father in the second person. Jesus refers to the Father and the Holy Spirit in the third person. Jesus refers to His will as being distinct from His Father's "Not my will but yours be done."

2) The Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all referred to as God. Each is described as deserving of worship by us something only God Himself is worthy of.

3) The Scriptures clearly teach that "the LORD is one" and that there are "none besides Him." [Scriptures will be provided later in this article that demonstrate these items].

From these pieces, the idea of God's nature being more complex than we would have imagined emerges. The question then needs to be addressed as to exactly what "one" means in Deuteronomy 6:4. Consider what Jesus said about His relationship to the Father. Jesus said that He and the Father were one (see John 17:22). Jesus wants us to be one as He is one with the Father. Further, when God created man and woman, He desired that they be united as "one flesh" (Gen 2:24). This could not simply be a reference to the bearing of children, which are, in a sense, a one flesh result of their union. It must refer to the marriage itself, for certainly they were "one flesh" before they bore any children. This concept of "one" does not refer to a

uniform or homogeneous state of being; men and women are very different (despite what some feminists would have you believe), and the members of the body of Christ are also very different. Individuals who are united in marriage do not lose their individual traits, such as their own thoughts, emotions, etc. And a married couple does not have the same blood type after they were married if their blood types were different before they were married. If the members of the body of Christ were to become a "uniform and homogeneous" being then we each would lose our identity as "self," and what would emerge would be something akin to an Eastern religious "cosmic consciousness." The "oneness" must refer not to a homogeneous singularity. The oneness of the marriage and the body of Christ reflect the nature of God Himself.

What exactly does "oneness" then mean? The Hebrew word used for God as one is "echad." Echad can mean one as in "one goat," "one day," "one stone," etc. However, it can also refer to a plural unity such as in a composite whole. For example, in Num 13:23, echad refers to a cluster of grapes. And in Gen 11:6 those who built the tower of Babel are referred to as "one people." When we refer to a person we know that the "one" person consists of several distinct components (emotions, thoughts, hands, heart, liver, etc.). Yet we all understand all of these parts constitute "one person." Echad was the word to describe the "one flesh" of marriage (Gen 2:24). Since God is referred to as "echad" in the same way as man and woman are referred to as "echad" this heavily implies that the oneness of marriage reflects the oneness of God. We also see echad used very intensely in Ezekiel 37:15-28 in the prophecy of the "two sticks" of Israel and Judah becoming one. In that prophecy we have a representative picture and the actuality. Examine the passage carefully and you will see that the intent of the two sticks is to be a picture that Ezekiel first shows to the captive Jews in Babylon. The idea is that they would remember this message as they go about their daily activities and would pick up sticks (for building cooking fires, for example) and be reminded of this promise of God and have hope. In Ezek 37:17 the sticks don't fuse together into a single stick. It appears that this was representative of the reality of what happens in God's hand in Ezek 37:19. Even then, Judah and Israel contain distinct tribes (after all, one must know who the Levites are for priests and who the tribe of Judah is from which the Messiah will come). So the oneness of the two sticks in Ezekiel's hand obviously is a representative oneness and echad in Ezek 37:17 could be easily translated as "united." But, nevertheless, the oneness of Israel and Judah still consists of many individuals from twelve distinct tribes. The individuals do not become a homogeneous consciousness or a physical singularity of any sort. We are dealing on a spiritual level of oneness, which is reflective of God's nature. The "oneness" we observe in marriage and the other examples are shadows of the reality of the oneness within God.

Now the true nature of God's oneness we can only describe by how it appears to us from what Jesus said and did. The best words we have to describe the members of the trinity seem to be as "persons."

Let's look at some Scriptures pertaining to the trinity.

At the baptism of Jesus we see the following:

"Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." (Luke 3:21-22). We see three mentioned:

**1) Jesus**

**2) Holy Spirit**

**3) Father** (implied by "my beloved Son")

We see these three mentioned together at other times:

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all." (2 Cor 13:14).

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." (Eph 4:4-6).

Jesus later tells his disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matt 28:19).

The point of this is that we are speaking of three distinct persons. Now let's press on to examine each of these persons.

## **The Father:**

I don't think I need to go into any detail here. It is pretty clear that the references to "the Father" are to God (see, for example, John 20:17). So let me go on.

## **The Son:**

The Scriptures tell us that only God is permitted to receive worship (see Matt 4:10; Luke 4:8; Ex 20:2-5)

Yet Jesus receives worship:

"Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.' And he said, 'Lord, I believe.' And he worshiped Him." (John 9:35-38).

"When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, 'You are certainly God's Son!'" (Matt 14:32-33).

"And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, 'And let all the angels of God worship Him.'" (Heb 1:6).

We see that the angels of God refuse worship:

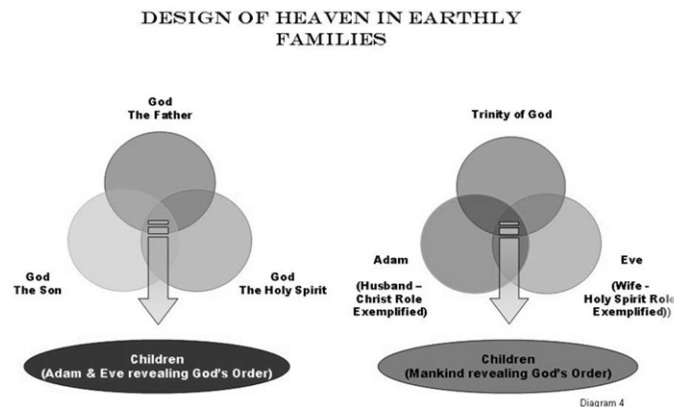
"Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, 'Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'" (Rev 19:10). See also Rev 22:8-9.

### Jesus is declared to be God:

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bondservant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason, also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name, which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil 2:5-11).

An interesting note here is that Paul stated that "bestowed on Him the name which is above every name." YHWH is referred to as "the Name" (Hebrew, "hashem"). To say that Jesus is above every name can only mean one thing to a Jew like Paul. Only one name is above every name, and that is hashem (YHWH). Thus, Paul has unmistakably referred to Jesus as YHWH.

"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 came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.... And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the





Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:1-3,14). Note how John 1:1 parallels Genesis 1:1. The parallel is intentional to show that Jesus is the Creator God of Gen 1:1.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Col 1:15-17).

"For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form" (Col 2:9).

"looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus" (Titus 2:13).

Jesus is given the same titles and attributes as YHWH. Below are several parallels. For each attribute, there are two sets of references. The first reference set is to Jesus, and the second is to YHWH in the Hebrew Scriptures: (from The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict by Josh McDowell)

Creator: John 1:3 (Jesus); Isa 40:28 (YHWH)

Savior: John 4:42 (Jesus); Isa 45:22; 43:11 (YHWH)

Raise the dead: John 5:21 (Jesus); I Sam 2:6 (YHWH)

Judge: John 5:27; Matt 25:31-46 (Jesus); Joel 3:12 (YHWH)

Light: John 8:12 (Jesus); Isa 60:19-20 (YHWH)

"I AM": John 8:58; 18:5,6 (Jesus); Ex 3:14 (YHWH)

Shepherd: John 10:11 (Jesus); Ps 23:1 (YHWH)

Glory of God: John 17:1,5 (Jesus); Isa 42:8; 48:11 (YHWH)

First and last: Rev 1:17; 2:8 (Jesus); Isa 41:4; 44:6 (YHWH)

Redeemer: Rev 5:9 (Jesus); Hosea 13:14 (YHWH)

Bridegroom: Rev 21:2; Matt 25:1ff (Jesus); Isa 62:5; Hosea 2:16 (YHWH)

Rock: I Cor 10:4 (Jesus); Ps 18:2 (YHWH)

Forgiver of sins: Mark 2:7,10; Jer 31:34 (YHWH)

Worshiped by angels: Heb 1:6 (Jesus); Ps 148:2 (YHWH)



Addressed in prayer: Acts 7:59 (Jesus); throughout Hebrew Scriptures (YHWH)

Creator of angels: Col 1:16 (Jesus); Ps 148:5 (YHWH)

Confessed as Lord: Phil 2:11 (Jesus); Isa 45:23 (YHWH)

Because of who Jesus is (i.e., YHWH) then we are to give Him the proper respect and worship He deserves.

## **Spirit:**

The Holy Spirit is a person, distinct from Jesus and the Father:

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17).

The Spirit teaches, testifies, convicts, lives, and is grieved:

"for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." (Luke 12:12).

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me" (John 15:26)

"But 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. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment" (John 16:7-8).

"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you." (Rom 8:9a) See also I Cor 3:16.

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." (Eph 4:30).

## **The Holy Spirit is God:**

"And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him." (Luke 12:10).

"But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.'" (Acts 5:3-4).

"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Cor 3:17).

## **The Nature of God as "One"**

The Apostle John wrote in one his letters that "God is love." This statement sounds simple but is packed with implications. First, since God is love from all eternity (without any creation) and by Himself then it must be understood with respect to God Himself. But love only has a meaning when it involves a relationship between persons. This implies that the One God - if He is love in and of Himself - must exist as a relationship. Let's explore this concept of God being "One" a little bit further.

The relationships God has established between people (e.g., marriage partners, parent/child, king/subject, etc) are pictures of the relationship within God and between God and man. Each image presents a different facet of that relationship. Each is necessary to grasp the reality.

Consider what Jesus said about His relationship to the Father. Jesus said that He and the Father were one (see John 17:22). Jesus calls us to be one with Him, as He is one with the Father. Further, when God created man and woman He desired that they be united as "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). This could not simply be a reference to the bearing of children, which are in a sense, a one flesh result of their union. It must refer to the marriage itself, for certainly they were "one flesh" before they bore any children. This concept of "one" then does not then refer to a uniform or homogeneous state of being; men and women are very different (despite what some feminists would have you believe). The "members of the body of Christ" are also very different. Individuals who are united in marriage do not lose their individual traits, such as their own thoughts, emotions, etc. And a married couple does not have the same blood type after they were married if their blood types were different before they were married. If the members of the body of Christ were to become a "uniform and homogeneous" being then we each would lose our identity as "self" and what would emerge would be something akin to an eastern religious "cosmic consciousness." The "oneness" must refer not to a homogeneous singularity. The oneness of the marriage and the body of Christ are reflective of the nature of God Himself.

What exactly does "oneness" then mean? The Hebrew word used for God as one is *echad*. *Echad* can mean one as in "one goat," "one day," "one stone," etc. However, it can also refer to a plural unity such as in a composite whole. For example, in Numbers 13:23 *echad* refers to a cluster of grapes. And in Gen 11:6 those who built the tower of Babel are referred to as "one people." When we refer to a person we know that the "one" person consists of several distinct components (emotions, thoughts, hands, heart, liver, etc.). Yet we all understand all of these parts constitute "one person." *Echad* is the word to describe the "one flesh" nature of marriage (Gen. 2:24). Since God is referred to as *echad* in the same way as man and woman are referred to as *echad* this heavily implies that the oneness of marriage reflects the oneness of God. The individuals do not

become a homogeneous consciousness or a physical singularity of any sort. We are dealing on a spiritual level of oneness, which is reflective of God's nature. The "oneness" we observe in marriage and the other examples are shadows of the reality of the oneness within God.

Now the true nature of God's oneness we can only describe by how it appears to us from what Jesus said and did. The best words we have to describe the members of the trinity seem to be as "persons."

## **Who Is God?**

By Ray C. Stedman

God consists of three persons: Father, Son and Spirit. We cannot experience him in any other way. But though we usually list him as Father, Son and Spirit, the actual experience of God is different. We first meet the Son, by means of the Spirit, and then the Father.

The Father is the source. The Father is unseen, unknown, except as he continually embodies himself (makes himself visible) in the Son. The Son is who we see and hear and know. He is ceaselessly embodying the Father, day by day, hour by hour, moment by moment. He is perpetually revealing the Father, hitherto invisible.

The Father is logically first, but not chronologically. For the Son exists as long as the Father exists, and is coexistent with the Father. The Father acts through and in the Son. He makes himself visible only in the Son. It is in the Son that the Father becomes a part of human life, and so is born and lives and dies in human life.

The Spirit, in turn, comes from the Son. He does not embody the Son. On the contrary, God, in issuing from the Son into the Spirit becomes invisible again. The Spirit proceeds silently, endlessly, invisibly from the Son.

But the Son is not the source of the Spirit which proceeds from him. The Father is the source of both the Son and the Spirit.

Back of the Son is the Father out of which the Son comes. The Spirit issues and proceeds from the Father, through the Son.

The Son therefore comes out from the invisible Father and perpetually and ever-newly embodies the Father in visible, audible, livable form, and returns again into invisible God in the Spirit.

The Spirit acts invisibly. He continually influences us with regard to the Son. He casts light upon the Son. That is his great function. He helps us to live in the Son which we know, and with reference to the Father whom we expect to see. (Ray C. Stedman)

### Daniel Wallace's analysis of John 1:1c.

William Mounce summarizes some of Wallace's analysis in his book *Basics of Biblical Greek*. Wallace goes into more detail in his book, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics: An Exegetical Syntax of the New Testament* (Zondervan, 1995):

In English the subject and predicate nominative are distinguished by word order (the subject comes first). Not so in Greek. Since word order in Greek is quite flexible and is used for emphasis rather than for strict grammatical function, other means are used to determine subject from predicate nominative. For example, if one of two nouns has the definite article, it is the subject.

Generally speaking, when a word is thrown to the front of a clause it is done for emphasis. When a predicate nominative is thrown in front of the verb by virtue of word order it takes on emphasis. A good illustration of this is John 1:1c. The English versions typically have, "and the Word was God." But in Greek, the word order has been reversed. It reads, *kai* (2532) *theos* (2316) *en* (2258) *ho* (3588) *logos* (3056) "and God was the Word"

We know that "the Word" is the subject because it has the definite article [*ho*, 3588], and we translate it accordingly: "and the Word was God." Two questions, both of theological import, should come to mind: (1) why was *theos* [2316] thrown forward? And (2) why does it lack the article? In brief, its emphatic position stresses its essence or quality: "What God was, the Word was" is how one translation brings out this force. Its lack of a definite article keeps us from identifying the person of the Word (Jesus Christ) with the person of "God" (the Father). That is to say, the word order tells us that Jesus Christ has all of the divine attributes that the Father has; lack of the article tells us that Jesus Christ is not the Father. John's wording here is beautifully compact! It is, in fact,

one of the most elegantly terse theological statements one could ever find. As Martin Luther said, the lack of an article is against Sabellianism; the word order is against Arianism.

To state this another way, look at how the different Greek constructions would be rendered:

*kai ho logos en ho theos* "and the Word was the God" (i.e., the Father; Sabellianism)

*kai ho logos en theos* "and the Word was a god" (i.e., Arianism)

*kai theos en ho logos* "and the Word was God" (Orthodoxy)

Jesus Christ is God and has all the attributes that the Father has. But he is not the first person of the Trinity. All this is concisely affirmed in *kai theos en ho logos*.

*It has been our honor to provide for you some of the basics of what is hidden within the names of God. We trust that as you contemplate His names, you will be blessed.*

**-Dr. Stephen R. Phinney**

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