

God and the Bible

City Church
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Who is God?

The Bible teaches us that God is one consisting of three persons. These three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is a triune being that we refer to as the Trinity – the Three in One. Each person in the Godhead has their own distinct characteristics. Yet, God is one. He exists in perfect community.

For humans, this is difficult to understand. John Wesley, a famous preacher and theologian, once said to show him a worm that perfectly understood a human, and he could show you a human who could perfectly understand God. What we do understand, we understand through the Bible, the Holy Spirit, and what God has revealed to us through his creation. In this short book, we will explore who God is and what the Bible is.

The Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit (from our view)

The Bible Project creates multiple videos to teach people about the Bible and about different theological topics of the Bible. In the video provided below, they discuss the Trinity – the Great I AM. Although there is no perfect way for us to describe the Three in One, many have found this video helpful.

The video walks through an analogy of how we see God from our perspective (like we are in a two dimensional field). However, it explains that if we could see him like he is that we could better understand the idea of the Trinity. Hopefully, this video will be useful to you in helping you understand the Three in One.



What is the Bible?

God has spoken to us through his word, the Bible. It provides us with words of life that can help correct, rebuke, train, and equip us in matters of life and doctrine. Since it is God's word revealed, we can rely on it as solid Truth in a world where many consider truth to be relative.

The Bible contains 66 books within it written by about 40 different authors. Some of these books are stories (narrative). Some are poetry. Some are expository (like letters of instruction), and some are prophecies with symbolism and pictures. The Bible was written over a time of approximately 1500 years.

In the following two videos, we learn more about the Bible, who wrote it, and how it can inform us about God, about how we live, and about what we believe.



Who is Jesus?

The Bible teaches that Jesus is both 100% God and 100% man. He is God who took on human flesh. A good way to understand this is to think about a world class runner who ties another person's leg to them to run a race. The runner is still a world class runner, but they have taken on the limitations of another person.



This is like what Jesus did for us. As God, he chose to take on human flesh, live a perfect life, and provide his life as a sacrifice for our sins. The Bible teaches us that Jesus was the maker and the fulfiller of the

promises that God has made. As part of the Trinity – God Three in One, Jesus made the promises. As a man, Jesus fulfilled the promises. The video included here can help you learn more about who Jesus is and what he has done for us.

Why Jesus?

Although humankind has rejected God our Father and has rebelled against him, our Father had a plan to redeem and restore humankind to their original purpose. He started by making a new nation called Israel from the line of a man named Abraham. He promised Abraham that from him a Seed would come through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

Abraham then had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob, and Jacob became the father of twelve sons. These sons would become the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel through whom this Seed would come.

Later, God made promises to these Israelites that if they followed him, he would be their God, and they would be his people. Out of all the nations of the earth, they would be a special people to him.

God then promised that there would always be a high priest for the people of God. In addition, he promised King David that someone would come from his line who would be a ruler forever. Finally, he made a promise that he would eventually write his law on the hearts of his people through a new reality in him.

After all these promises, the nation of Israel did not live for God. It turned out they were just like the rest of humankind. Even after God's special revelation to them, they continued to defile his image, pursue their own kingdoms instead of his, and refused to grow his family. They did not walk in relationship with him, and it caused them to treat one another poorly. They sinned just as the other nations around them did.



However, Jesus still arose from this nation. He was the Seed promised to Abraham. He was the perfect Israelite. He was the King promised to David, and he was the High Priest promised to Israel. He was perfect. He was the walking temple of God. He was what the first humans were supposed to be and more.

He perfectly displayed God's image. He perfectly demonstrated his Father's rule and reign. He grew God's family through offering salvation to everyone as a free gift of God. He walked with his Father perfectly and walked with others perfectly. He is God in human flesh. He is 100% God and 100% human.

Jesus claimed to be before Abraham (eternal). He claimed to be from heaven. He claimed to be God's special and only Son. He claimed to be the only way to get to the Father and be made right with him. He did numerous miracles and good deeds in support of this and was without sin. He was the first human who was without sin.

Despite all of this, he was rejected, beaten, and crucified. He was not recognized for who he was. He died a cruel death among criminals. He was forsaken, and humankind did not esteem him. He was despised by his own, and his own did not follow him. God had come to humankind through the person of Jesus, and humankind continued their wicked ways by murdering him.

However, due to his sinless perfection, death could not hold Jesus. The grave was powerless against him. He was raised from the dead, and he has been exalted to the right hand of the Father and back to his rightful place in heaven.

Rather than destroying humankind for their wickedness, Jesus has now offered his life for our own. He gave a perfect life to God to pay for the sins of the imperfect lives of us. He created an opportunity for a transaction to occur. The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through his life, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, he has completely paid for sin, defeated death, and conquered the grave. He has offered us eternal life when we should receive judgment. He has offered this as a free gift. In his own words, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life." As the Apostle Paul later wrote, "Whoever confesses with their mouth that Jesus is Lord and believes in their heart that God has raised him from the dead will be saved."

What humankind could never have achieved on their own has now been achieved by God. Whoever decides to accept this gift of salvation transitions from death to life, from one kingdom to another, and back into relationship with God and his people. This is the beauty of what Jesus did.

Therefore, everyone can be restored back to relationship with God. Anyone can begin to be conformed to God's image through Jesus. Anyone can demonstrate God's reign through Jesus, and anyone can extend God's family through Jesus.

All it takes is to pray to him, confess him as Lord, repent from (turn to him and away from) your sins, and believe (place your life) in Jesus under his rule and reign and not your own.

When we follow Jesus, we are finding the way to the Father and back into relationship with God. We are also becoming part of his purpose. We are not pursuing a monument of a dead religious philosopher. Instead, we are pursuing a living Jesus and now living in the movement he started. Jesus is the path to God that we could never construct on our own. Jesus is the sinless One who sits at the right hand of God, has paid for our sin, and forged a way back to God. He is also the One who has the power to one day judge and correct all the evil, suffering, death, pain, and unjustness that has been released on the earth due to our sin and rebellion.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Jesus. He is the Spirit of Truth. He is the Comforter. He is the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of the Lord, the Eternal Spirit, and the Spirit of life. When we believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell inside of us to transform us more into the image of Jesus.

He guides us into truth. He helps us bear fruit as followers of Jesus. He helps us display the life, character, and ministry of Jesus in our lives. He is one of the members of the Trinity, and we desperately need him to lead us, assure us, and empower us in this life that we live as followers of Jesus. The video on the next page can help us understand more about the Holy Spirit.



As you can see from the video, it is God's desire that we be filled, led, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told his disciples in the Bible book of Luke that God our Father gives his followers good gifts. Jesus then goes on to say that the heavenly Father will give us the Holy Spirit, which is an unimaginable blessing!

The God of the universe can now live within and among his people by the Spirit of God. We can expect God to do great things through and among us by his Spirit that the Father and Son have freely given to us. Blessed be God for giving us this opportunity to walk with him in this way!

We have now learned about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – the Trinity – The Three in One. We have also learned about what the Bible is and why it is so beneficial to us in our lives as followers of Jesus.

It would be good to take some time to thank God for who he is and what he has done for us. It would also be good to explore other resources in this Understanding the Basics section to learn more about the basics of the faith.

The Great I AM is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit spoken about in the Bible.

The Great I AM is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit spoken about in the Bible. Jesus calls us to come and follow him and by doing so to enter into relationship as sons and daughters with our Father. This also results in us receiving the Spirit of God/the Spirit of Jesus – the Holy Spirit.

To grow in this faith, it is important that we pursue the truth of God's word and the Presence of the Holy Spirit with others in the community of believers. This is one aspect of growing as a disciple in Jesus – understand the truth of God and his word.

Conclusion

It is important that we understand who God is and that we understand his written word – the Bible. Part of being a follower of Jesus is learning more about who God is and what the Bible teaches.

**The Lord our God,
the Lord is One.**

- Deuteronomy 6:4
