

Sabbath School

Date: 1/10/21

Topic: WCF 2.1(1): The Unity of God

WCF 2.1

There is but one only[a] **living and true God**,[b] who is infinite in being and perfection,[c] a most pure spirit,[d] invisible,[e] without body, parts,[f] or passions,[g] immutable,[h] immense,[i] eternal,[k] incomprehensible,[l] almighty,[m] most wise,[n] most holy,[o] most free,[p] most absolute,[q] working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will,[r] for his own glory;[s] most loving,[t] gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin;[u] the rewarder of them that diligently seek him;[w] and withal most just and terrible in his judgments;[x] hating all sin,[y] and who will by no means clear the guilty.[z]

Prooftexts

[a]: **Deut. 6.4** Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD. **1Cor. 8.4** As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. **1Cor. 8.6** But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

[b]: **Jer. 10.10** But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. **1Thes. 1.9** For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q.5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q.6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; **and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.**

“Although there are more persons than one in God, yet there are not more natures. All persons partake of one and the same infinite nature, not by division, but by communication. If three persons in human things indicate three men, we ought not to infer that in divine things three persons are three Gods; or that the unity of the divine essence implies also a unity of person (as Socinus wishes). Of three human persons, there are three singular, numerically distinct essences, since even one subsistence exhausts and bounds their finite singular essence. But of the three divine persons, there is only one undivided and singular essence which, being infinite, is communicable to more than one.” (Francis Turretin, *Institutes of Elenctic Theology*, Vol. 1, p. 182)