

Theology Proper — The Simplicity of God

I. SCRIPTURAL — *Examining a relevant passage of Scripture.*

“Hear O Israel: Jehovah our God, Jehovah is one! You shall love Jehovah Your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.” (Dt. 6:4-5)

- A. JEHOVAH, OUR GOD, IS NUMERICALLY ONE; THAT IS, UNIQUE.
- B. JEHOVAH, OUR GOD, IS ESSENTIALLY ONE; THAT IS, INDIVISIBLE.

II. DOCTRINAL — *Summarizing the teaching of Scripture as a whole.*

- A. GOD’S SIMPLICITY REFERS TO THE INDIVISIBLE UNITY OF HIS ESSENCE: HE IS “WITHOUT PARTS” (WCF 2.1).
- B. ALL THAT IS IN GOD — *including His existence and all of His attributes, as revealed to us in general and special revelation — IS GOD.*
- C. GOD’S BEING AND ATTRIBUTES ARE INDIVISIBLY ONE WITHIN HIS ESSENCE, YET CONCEPTUALLY DISTINCT IN THEIR REVELATION TO FINITE CREATURES.

III. POLEMICAL — *Addressing relevant questions and controversies.*

- A. IS DIVINE SIMPLICITY A GREEK PHILOSOPHICAL ABSTRACTION IMPOSED UPON THE CHRISTIAN FAITH BY MEDIEVAL SCHOLASTICS? (We Deny.)
- B. DOES DIVINE SIMPLICITY UNDERMINE THE ACCURACY OF REVELATION, THEREBY MAKING GOD’S ESSENCE ENTIRELY UNKNOWABLE? (We Deny.)
- C. DOES DIVINE SIMPLICITY MEAN THAT GOD’S MERCY IS HIS JUSTICE? (We Distinguish.)
- D. IS IT INAPPROPRIATE TO SPEAK OF GOD IN TERMS WHICH REFLECT THE PLURALITY OF DIVINE ATTRIBUTES REVEALED IN SCRIPTURE? (We Deny.)

E. IS DIVINE SIMPLICITY NECESSARY TO UPHOLD THE BIBLICAL TEACHING CONCERNING GOD’S PERFECTION, IMMUTABILITY, AND ASECITY? (We Affirm.)

F. IS DIVINE SIMPLICITY NECESSARY TO UPHOLD THE BIBLICAL TEACHING CONCERNING THE TRINITY? (We Affirm.)

G. IS THE DENIAL OF GOD’S SIMPLICITY A DAMNABLE HERESY? (We Distinguish.)

H. DOES DIVINE SIMPLICITY MAKE GOD TO BE IMPERSONAL? (We Deny.)

IV. PRACTICAL — *Applying the teaching of Scripture to our lives.*

- A. OUR UNDIVIDED GOD CLAIMS UNDIVIDED LOYALTY & AFFECTION!
- B. GOD’S IMAGE, SIMILAR TO HIS ESSENCE, IS AN INDIVISIBLE WHOLE, CONSISTING IN THE ALL-ENCOMPASSING GRACE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE!
- C. IN THIS WORLD, WE LIVE AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING IN GOD’S ENTIRE ESSENCE — THAT IS, ALL OF HIS ATTRIBUTES.
 - 1. UNCONVERTED
 - 2. CONVERTED
- D. BEWARE OF A “BUFFET-STYLE” OR “MR. POTATO-GOD” THEOLOGY, WHICH VALUES SOME DIVINE ATTRIBUTES MORE HIGHLY THAN OTHERS!
- E. UTILIZE THE TWO MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF PRESERVING AND PROMOTING A BALANCED DOCTRINE OF GOD’S ATTRIBUTES:
 - 1. PSALM-SINGING
 - 2. SYSTEMATIC BIBLE-READING