

# Systematic Theology

A study of the major doctrines of Scripture.

Topic 2 - The Doctrine of God

Lesson 21 - The Attributes of God: Unity

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# Unity: Oneness and Simplicity

- The unity of God may be defined as follows: “God is not divided into parts, yet we see different attributes of God emphasized at different times.”
- God’s being is not a collection of attributes that are added together. His whole being includes all of His attributes.
- - Grudem, pg. 177-178
  
- God is the complete fullness of each and all of His perfections.
- - MacArthur, pg. 174

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- God's unity is His perfect uniqueness of essence, so that neither is He more than one essence nor is there more than one divine essence.
- God is only one essence.
- Deut. 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"
- Mark 12:29 Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- God is unique; there is only one God.
- Deut. 4:35 To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.
- Deut. 32:39 'Now see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
- Psa. 18:31 For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?
- Isa. 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- Isa. 43:10 “You are My witnesses,” says the Lord, “And My servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. 11 I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior.
- Isa. 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.
- Isa. 45:5a I am the Lord, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me.

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- Idols are vain and empty.
- Deut. 32:21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; they have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.
- Psa. 96:5 For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.
- Isa. 41:29 Indeed they are all worthless; their works are nothing; their molded images are wind and confusion.

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- Isaiah 44:9 Those who make an image, all of them are useless, and their precious things shall not profit; they are their own witnesses; they neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. 10 Who would form a god or mold an image that profits him nothing? 11 Surely all his companions would be ashamed; and the workmen, they are mere men. Let them all be gathered together, let them stand up; yet they shall fear, they shall be ashamed together. 12 The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, fashions it with hammers, and works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint. 13 The craftsman stretches out his rule, he marks one out with chalk; he fashions it with a plane, he marks it out with the compass, and makes it like the figure of a man, according to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. 14 He cuts down cedars for himself, and takes the cypress and the oak; he secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it.

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- Isa. 44:15 Then it shall be for a man to burn, for he will take some of it and warm himself; yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; indeed he makes a god and worships it; he makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. 16 He burns half of it in the fire; with this half he eats meat; he roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire.” 17 And the rest of it he makes into a god, his carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, prays to it and says, “Deliver me, for you are my god!” 18 They do not know nor understand; for He has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand. 19 And no one considers in his heart, nor is there knowledge nor understanding to say, “I have burned half of it in the fire, yes, I have also baked bread on its coals; I have roasted meat and eaten it; and shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?” 20 He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside; and he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, “Is there not a lie in my right hand?”



# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- In the New Testament, God's unity is revealed in Jesus Christ.
- John 17:3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.
- Acts 17:24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.
- Romans 3:30 since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.
- 1 Cor. 8:4 Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), 6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

# Unity - Numerical Oneness

- Ephesians 4:5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

# Unity - Simplicity

- Simplicity = Indivisibility. Each and all of His perfections are His essence, and He cannot be divided into “parts.”
- God is the complete fullness of each and all of His perfections.
- God is truth, righteousness, wisdom, spirit, light, life, love, and holiness.
- Jeremiah 10:10 But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, and the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.
- Jeremiah 23:6 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

# Unity - Simplicity

- John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.
- John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
- John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”
- John 14:6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
- 1 Cor. 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

# Unity - Simplicity

- 1 John 1:5 This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 4:8 He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.
- 1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

# Unity - Simplicity

- Compatibility with the Doctrine of the Trinity
- God's simplicity does not contradict the doctrine of the Trinity. God's essence is not composed of three persons. Rather, the uncompounded, undivided divine essence exists in each of the three persons. The various personal properties unique to each person are not things added to the divine essence but are only distinctions of personal subsistence and of relationship. In all the external works of the Trinity, each person acts without dividing the divine essence.
- Colossians 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.