

Theology Proper

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- I. Foundations for the Trinity Part 2: One God
- a. Overview: We are laying the foundations for the doctrine of the Trinity. Last week we looked at the Creator/Creature Distinction and noted that we cannot object to the Trinity for being different than anything else among God's creation and creatures.
 - b. Establish the need: We take it for granted often that there is one God but have we studied this thoroughly in such a way that it changes our lives and renew our worship of God?
 - c. Purpose: See today how there is One true God and explore what does that mean for our life.
 - d. How does this fit into our consideration of the Trinity?
 - i. The Trinity is still Monotheism (belief in one God).
 - ii. Error can come about if we do not understand that the Bible teaches there is One God: Some think the Bible and Christianity teaches Tritheism which believes there are three Gods.
 - iii. Tritheism is not the same thing as the Trinity.
 - e. Proofs from Passages that there is one God
 - i. Note: We can survey some and not all the various monotheistic passages.
 - ii. Yahweh, the God of the Bible is alone in that He is qualitatively incomparable: *"Who is like You among the gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders?"* (Exodus 15:11)
 1. Here in context is Moses' song after the Exodus
 2. With all that Moses heard and seen He knew God was different than other so called "gods."
 - iii. *"See now that I, I am He, And **there is no god besides Me**; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is **no one** who can deliver from My hand"* (Deuteronomy 32:39)
 1. Here in context is Moses' song to the people (v.44)
 2. Some people have argued that the Bible is a product of evolution; that in the beginning of the Bible the people believed in henotheism which "is the belief that there are other gods, but only one God is to be worshipped."¹ See for example above in Exodus 15:11.
 3. But note the "*no god...no one*" language in this verse that shows the possibilities of other gods being closed.
 4. This is significant in that this appeared in the first five books of Moses thus questioning the thesis that the Bible was originally henotheistic.
 5. Thus reference to other gods must be seen as rhetorical. More about false gods below.
 - iv. Other Old Testament monotheistic passages in historical books affirmed by others: 2 Samuel 7:22, 1 Kings 8:60, 1 Chronicles 17:20.²

¹ Tim Chester, *Delighting in the Trinity* (Purcellville, VA: The Good Book Company, 2010), 24.

² As cited from Robert Morey, *The Trinity: Evidences and Issues* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, 1996), 64.

- v. Isaiah's Theology is clearly monotheistic: **Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, 44:8, 45:5-6, 45:14, 45:18, 45:21-22, 46:9.**³
 - 1. Survey these passages and we see the strong use of “*no other besides me*” language.
 - 2. Note how **Isaiah 37:16** refer to the fact that there is one God even when considering other kingdoms and their gods: “*O LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, who is enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.*”
 - 3. For an Old Testament book Isaiah is definitely heavier in its emphasis on Monotheism.
- vi. Jesus Himself affirmed there is only one true God: “*This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*” (**John 17:3**)
 - 1. Jesus the Son of God Himself attest to the One True God.
 - 2. Do you value your knowledge of the one true God? Don't forget **John 17:3** that this is eternal life!
- f. What does the Bible says about other gods?
 - i. The Bible calls them idols: “*For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens.*” (**Psalm 96:4-5**)
 - ii. The Bible evaluates idols as worthless; read **Psalm 115:4-7** and also **verse 8** with its implication of what it means for those who follow them.
 - iii. These other gods do not truly have Divine natures: “*However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.*” (**Galatians 4:8**)
 - iv. These other gods are demonic: “*However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.*” (**Galatians 4:8**)
- g. Theological Implications
 - i. The passage above shows that quantitatively there is only one true God.
 - ii. The passage above also shows that the one true God is qualitatively in a different class of His own. He is unique (“One of a Kind”).
- h. What does this mean for our lives?
 - i. If something is one of a kind we often go out of our way to see it and adore it; how much more should God be worthy of our worship and adoration!
 - ii. It is not enough to know there is one God; it has ethical implications! We must also live out knowing it is true that there is One God. Note **James 3:19-20**= “*You believe that [r]God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder. 20 But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*”
 - iii. Even in the New Testament era we have John's admonition to flee from Idols; **what functional gods is holding up your life from fully obeying and following Him?**
 - iv. Other passages that talks about one God also talks about the need for a mediator: “*For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and*

³ As cited from Robert Morey, *The Trinity: Evidences and Issues* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, 1996), 63-64.

*men, the man Christ Jesus,” (1 Timothy 2:5) Do you know that Mediator
Jesus Christ?*

- v. Again do you value your knowledge of the one true God? Don't forget
John 17:3 that this is eternal life!

