

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORD



by Bruce Woolard



WONDER 2: CREATOR GOD

God's Word, the Bible does not try to prove God's existence. The opening words of Genesis 1:1 simply state: "In the beginning God....."

THE TRUE GOD

In ancient times people believed in many gods (polytheism). Some believed that God was in everything and therefore all living organisms contained the life force or energy that makes up God (pantheism). The Judaeo-Christian concept of God is called Monotheism.

A counterfeit cannot be detected without knowledge of the genuine. The Bible constantly warns of false prophets, false spirits and false beliefs. Truth brings freedom (John 8:32).

What is truth? **John 17:17** says: "**Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.**"

Here it is established that God's Word is the truth and we should therefore consult and consider what the Bible says about God.

PLURAL PRONOUN

While God is ONE, He is described in plural terms as Father, Son and Holy Spirit; us and we (**Genesis 1:26**) (**1 John 5:7 KJV**). Some translations do not include it, consider a scribe's comments.

The word "God" can be used in singular terms and in plural terms as with the word "sheep" denoting one or more than one. Often the Bible refers to God in the singular when speaking of the function of one of the members of the trinity and in other instances God is used in the plural when referring to the trinity. **Deuteronomy 6:4 – The Lord is One**. This oneness is "Echad" a compound unity – see **Genesis 2:24 – Two become One (Echad)**. The same word in **Deuteronomy 6:4**.

*Without the truth,
you cannot
recognise error!*

*Error tries to ride
on the back of
truth.*

The Hebrew word “Elohim” is equivalent to our English word “God” and the Greek equivalent is “Theos”.

ONE – UNITY – TRINITY

When we speak of unity, we speak of oneness. **Deuteronomy 6:4** says “Hear O Israel, the Lord thy God is One Lord.” The Hebrew word for “one” is “echad”. It is a compound unity and therefore refers to plurality. The same word “echad” is used in **Genesis 2:24** that refers to a husband and wife becoming one in marriage. If this unity takes place in marriage, it should not seem strange that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are described as a Triunity.

As male and female nuptially bonded become one family but retain their individuality, so in the trinity there is One God consisting of three Persons. As there are three points to a triangle but one triangle, so there are three Persons but One God.

TRINITY AND TRITHEISM

The concept of the trinity must not be confused with the concept of tritheism.

DIFFERENT ROLES

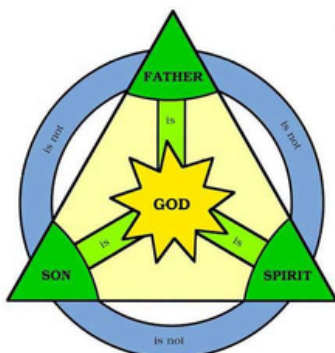
Although the trinity of Persons within the Godhead are the same in essence, they have different functional roles and therefore functional subordination, although real, does not imply inferiority.

Consider that Jesus was God in the flesh (**Matthew 1:23 and John 1:1-5**). Salvation has God the Father as the Source, God the Son as the Means and God the Holy Spirit as the Effect, convincing and converting the souls of repentant sinners.

TRINITY
3 persons in one
essence, equal in
substance but still one
God
 $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$

TRITHEISM
Promotes 3 separate
gods
 $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$

WHAT IS MEANT BY ESSENCE?



By “essence” we mean nature. The following illustration serves to point out that the trinity of three persons and one God in essence is not contradictory. It is necessary to the essence of a triangle that it has the following characteristics:

- a) It must have 3 sides;
- b) It must have 3 corners;
- c) The sum of the three angles must be 180 degrees.



Each corner has a point (essence) and so does each side, but together they make one triangle.

ATTRIBUTES

God's divine attributes indicate that God is personal. He is not some impersonal force or cosmic energy in the universe. God is love, He is wisdom, He is just and righteous. God is a jealous God (protective), He is eternal and infinite.

IMMUTABILITY:	<i>Unchanging</i>
IMPASSIBILITY:	<i>Not subject to temptation or sin</i>
OMNIPOTENCE:	<i>All powerful</i>
OMNIPRESENCE:	<i>Everywhere, transcends space and time</i>
OMNISCIENCE:	<i>All knowing, past, present and future.</i>

Jesus in His humanity was tested – Matthew 4 – see Hebrews 4:15.

CONCLUSION again let's consider Romans 1:19-26

The God of the Bible and God of the patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob has a glorious plan for man. Our God is a magnificent Wonder of the Word.

FILL IN THE MISSING WORDS - Romans 1:19-26:

Since what may be is plain to them, because God has made
to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine
nature—have been, being understood from what has been made, so that
..... For although they knew God, they neither glorified
him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their and their
foolish hearts were Although they claimed to be wise, they
..... and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made
to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore, God
..... in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the
degrading of their bodies with one another. They about
God for, and worshiped and rather than
.....—who is forever praised. Amen. Because of this, God gave
them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for
.....

MIND – IDEAS – WORDS

The trinity is like the relation of the mind to ideas, and ideas to words. They are distinct but yet united. One's words cannot be separated from ideas, and the mind is behind these ideas – distinct but ONE.

GOD – THE GREAT “I AM”

When Moses was confronted with God, the Lord identified Himself as “I AM.” (**Exodus 3:14**). The expression “I AM” is a reference to God's eternal nature. God is self-existent and God is Spirit (**John 4:24**). God does not consist of material matter that can be fragmented and divided. He is immortal, eternal and invisible (**1 Timothy 1:17**).

The Seven Metaphorical Statements Jesus the ‘I AM’

- The Bread of Life (**John 6:35**): Jesus satisfies spiritual hunger.
- The Light of the World (**John 8:12**): Jesus guides people out of spiritual darkness.
- The Door / Gate (**John 10:7**): Jesus provides exclusive access to God's safety and fold.
- The Good Shepherd (**John 10:11**): Jesus protects and lays down His life for His followers.
- The Resurrection and the Life (**John 11:25**): Jesus gives eternal life and conquers death.
- The Way, the Truth, and the Life (**John 14:6**): Jesus is the sole path to God the Father.
- The True Vine (**John 15:1**): Jesus sustains believers so they can bear spiritual fruit

God can choose to manifest Himself in physical form when engaging with mortal beings but still retain His nature of immortality.

THE ASEITY OF GOD

All things created have a beginning. God the Creator is self- existent (**Revelation 1:8**) and therefore eternal.

We are governed by time and space. As earth orbits the sun, time is divided into days and nights. We change, we age and we are finite, limited beings, dependent on so many things. God is independent of time and space. He does not rely on energies or forces outside of Himself. He is infinite and is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

When the Bible speaks of God in human terms (anthropomorphism) it is using analogy or metaphors so that we can understand in our terms of reference. The word “aseity” is derived from the Latin word “aseite” which literally means “of oneself.” God is uncreated and totally separate from His creation. **Hebrews 2:10** says it well:

“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things.....”

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