

Systematic Theology

3. Doctrine of God, Part 1

It is a basic biblical truth that God's self-revelation is itself a call to active

[Romans 1:18-21](#) “18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.”

[Gen 17:1-2](#) “1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, 2 that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.””

[Rev 4:11](#) “11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.””

Two opposite dangers or errors:

1. The danger of _____ that does not terminate in obedience and worship. [Jas 1:22-24](#); [2:18-19](#); [Matt 7:21-22](#); [John 13:17](#)
2. The danger of “_____” and “worship” without knowledge. [1 Tim 4:1-3](#); [2 Tim 4:3-4](#); [Rom 10:2](#)

3.1 Dual Doctrines: The Incomprehensibility and Knowability of God

Definition: Because of his self-revelation, God can be known, but never _____ understood, by his human creatures.

3.1.2. God is incomprehensible in that He cannot be fully known.

1. We have nothing to which to _____ Him.

“Who is like the LORD?” [Exo 15:11](#); [Psa 35:10](#); [113:5](#); [Isa 44:7](#); [Jer 49:19](#); [50:44](#)

2. He is _____; we are finite.

[Psa 145:3](#) “3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.” cf [Psa 147:5](#); [Rom 11:33](#)

3. He is _____ of creation, while we are inside it.

[Genesis 1:1](#) “1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”

3.1.3 Though we cannot know God fully, we can know Him in _____, and only to the extent that He reveals Himself.

1. We are dependent upon Him for _____ knowledge of Him – non-saving knowledge: ([Rom 1:19](#) ESV) *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.*

2. We are dependent upon Him for _____ knowledge of Him. ([Mat 11:27](#) ESV) *...no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.*

3. God has not revealed _____. [Deut 29:29](#) “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

3.1.4. How should we live?

3.2 The Doctrine of the Trinity

Definition: The one true God is _____, or three-in-one, eternally existing as the three persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

3.2.1 There is only one God.

3.2.2 God eternally exists as three persons

The theme of _____: the same God in nature; sameness

The theme of _____: distinct in person; difference

([Mat 3:16-17](#)) *16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

([Mat 28:18-20](#)) *18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

[2 Cor 13:14](#) “14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

[1 Pet 1:1-2](#) “1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

[Jude 1:20-21](#) “20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.”

1. The _____ is God.
2. The _____ is God.
 - a. Jesus is recognized as _____. [Isa 40:3](#) “3 A voice cries: “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” [Matt 3:3](#) “3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”” cf. [Isa 6:1-5](#); [John 12:36-41](#)
 - b. Jesus is given other _____. [Isa 7:14](#) “14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” [Matt 1:21-23](#) “21 She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: 23 “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).” cf [Isa 9:6](#); [44:6](#); [Rev 1:7-8](#)
 - c. Jesus’ gives His own _____. [John 8:58](#) “58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”” [John 10:30](#) “30 I and the Father are one.”” cf [John 3:13](#); [6:62](#); [17:5](#)
 - d. The rest of the NT _____. [Col 2:9](#) “9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily...” cf [John 1:1-4](#); [Phil 2:5-7](#); [Col 1:15-17](#); [Heb 1:1-3, 8-9](#)
3. The _____ is God.
 - a. Establishing the Father as God and the Son as God make the Trinitarian passages of the NT hold significant weight regarding the _____ of the Holy Spirit. [Matt 28:19](#); [1 Cor 12:4-6](#); [2 Cor 13:14](#)
 - b. Passage that equate the Spirit with _____
 - c. Passages assigning divine _____ to the Spirit
 - d. Like God alone, the Spirit gives _____
 - e. The Spirit’s role in the _____

Major Errors

1. The affirmation that God is only one _____.
2. The affirmation that there are three _____.
3. The denial of the _____ among the three persons.
4. The denial of the _____ of the Son.
5. The denial of the deity of _____.

How should we live?