

# No One Like Him

The Nature of God

## What He Is Not

- Anti-theism/Atheism
  - Practical Atheists
  - Theoretical Atheists
    - Dogmatic
    - Skeptical
    - Critical
- Pantheism
- Polytheism
- Other monotheistic faiths--Islam

## What He Is

- A Being
- Living/Alive
- Infinite
- Spirit

## Spirit

- Immaterial
  - John 4:24
  - Luke 24:39
  - Is. 31:3
- Invisible
  - 1 Tim. 1:17
  - John 1:18
  - Col. 1:15
  - Rom. 1:20
- Potential Misunderstandings:
  - Physical manifestations
  - Bodily parts
  - Our seeing God

## Spirit

- Implications
  - Invisible
  - Incorruptible
  - Immortal
- Application
  - Cannot perceive by the senses
  - Should not make any form
  - Should worship in spirit & in truth

## What He Is

- A Being
- Living/Alive
- Infinite
- Spirit
- Person/Personal

## Person/Personal

- Rational
  - Self-conscious
    - Ex. 3:14
    - Is. 43:10
    - Is. 54:7-8
    - 2 Tim. 3:16
  - Self-determining
    - Job 42:2
    - Ps. 115:3
    - Eph. 1:11
- Personal

## What He Is

- A Being
- Living/Alive
- Infinite
- Spirit
- Person/Personal
- Trinity

## The Trinity

- Three suppositions
  - God is One
  - Christ is God
  - Christ is Distinct from the Father
- Another form
  - God is three Persons
  - Each Person is fully God
  - There is one God

## The Trinity Defined—What It's Not

- Tritheism – three gods
- Modalism – not three Persons but only One in different modes
- Subordinationism – only the Father is in essence God; Christ and the Spirit are created and subordinate

## The Trinity Defined—What It Is

- God is one in His essential Being or constitutional nature (essence).
- In the one divine Being there are three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit .
- The essence of God belongs equally to each of the three persons.

## The Trinity Defended

- OT Intimations
  - Plural pronouns and plural verbs
  - Elohim
  - Plural forms of Creator and Maker
  - Distinctions between Members of the Godhead
  - The Angel of the Lord

## The Trinity Defended

- Scriptural Evidence of the 3 Propositions
  - God is One
  - Christ is God
  - Christ is Distinct from the Father

## God Is One

- Deut. 6:4
- Deut. 4:39
- Deut. 32:39
- Isaiah 45:5
- John 17:3
- Rom. 3:29-30
- 1 Cor. 8:4-6
- 1 Tim. 2:5
- James 2:19

## Christ Is God

## Christ Is Distinct From the Father

- Ps. 2:7
- Ps. 110:1
- Matt. 27:46
- John 5:32
- Gal. 4:4
- Rev. 1:1

## NT Passages the Link the Trinity

- Matt. 3:16-17
- Matt. 28:19
- 1 Cor. 1:3
- 1 Cor. 12:4-6
- 2 Cor. 13:14
- 2 Thess. 2:16-17
- Gal. 1:3
- Eph. 4:4-6
- 1 Pet. 1:2
- Jude 20-21

## The Trinity Working in Unity

- Same attributes applied to Each Person
- Creation (Gen. 1:1; Col. 1:16; Job 26:13; Ps. 104:30)
- Incarnation (Luke 1:35)
- Atonement (Heb. 9:14)
- Resurrection (Acts 2:32; John 10:17-18; Rom. 1:4)
- Salvation (1 Pet. 1:2)

## Implications

- Salvation
- Revelation

## The Pattern: the nature of that relationship

- The Extent of relationship
- The Attitudes toward relationship
- The Manifestations of relationship

## The Extent of Relationship

- Uniqueness of Personhood (John 1:31-34; 14:23-26)
- Unity (John 10:30, 38; 14:10-11, 23; 17:11)
- Mutual interdependence (John 8:28, 42; 12:49; 14:10)
- Companionship (John 16:32)
- Submission (John 8:28-29; 14:31; 16:13)
- Intimate knowledge of the other Persons (John 8:55; 15:15; 1 Cor. 2:10)

## The Attitude toward Relationship

- Desire to please (8:29; 15:15:10)
- Self-denial (Phil. 2:6-8)
- Humility (John 16:14; cf. Phil. 2:5-11)
- Honor and respect (John 8:49; cf. 2 Pet. 1:17)
- Love (3:35; 5:20; cf. 14:21; 15:15)
  - Verbal expressions (John 10:17; 14:31; 15:9; 17:23; Rom. 5:5).
  - Visible expressions (John 15:9-10; 17:4, 23)
- Truthfulness/Trustworthiness (John 3:33; 14:17; Tit. 1:1-2; Heb. 6:18)
- Concern for honor of the other (John 5:23; 12:27-30)

## The Manifestations of Relationship

- Involvement and cooperation—working together (Gen. 1:26; Luke 4:1; John 14:23; Col. 1:12-20)
- Perfect communication (John 8:28; 11:42—eagerness to listen; 15:15; 16:13; 2 Pet. 1:17)
- Expressions of thankfulness (John 11:41; cf. Matt. 11:25; 15:36; 26:27; Luke 10:21)
- Public praise (cf. Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 3:22)

## The Implications

- We were made for relationship
  - With God
    - John 17:3
    - John 10:14-15
    - John 15:9
    - John 17:23-24
  - With Others
    - John 14:20
    - John 17:11, 21-23
    - John 17:26
- Our lives must center on relationships
  - Christ's command (Matt. 22:34ff)
  - Christ's example