

## CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

### The One True God

*Doctrinal Statement: The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

#### A. Various Views of God

1. Atheism holds that there is NO God
2. Three false views of God are:
  - Pantheism - God is in every created thing
  - Polytheism - there are many gods
  - Deism - God is distant and does not care for his creation in any way
3. Monotheism holds that there is only one God

**B. God's Nature** (Here we are talking about God's constitutional nature. What God is made of, God's essence, his substance, what makes God God...these attributes really don't find analogies in our human existence) "God is not to be explained, but believed and described."

1. God is Spirit: *God does not have flesh and blood like humans and, therefore, has no physical limitations. Since He does not have the physical limitations of a human body, God is never limited to time or space. Moreover, because God is a spiritual being, we cannot see Him.*

John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

The Bible does not define “spirit” for us but it does offer descriptions. God as spirit is eternal, invisible, and immortal.

1 Timothy 1:17

All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God.

2. *God is Eternal: God has no beginning and no end. He is the cause of time. God is not limited by time in any way.*

The Bible pre-supposes God’s existence...”In the beginning, God.” At the moment our time and history came to be, God already existed.

Psalm 90:2

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

3. *God is Self-existent and Self-sufficient: He did not need anyone to give Him life and He does not need anyone to provide anything for Him.*

Acts 17:24-25

The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. <sup>25</sup> And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else.

Romans 11:35-36

“Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?” <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

4. *God is Immutable: God does not change; He is unchanging. He cannot improve because He is perfect. He cannot deteriorate because He would no longer be God. He is not subject to fads or culture.*

5. **God is Omnipotent:** *God is all-powerful*

Isaiah 14:27

For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him?  
His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

(2 Chron. 20:6; Ps. 147:5; Isa. 43:13; Dan. 4:35)

6. **God is Omniscient:** *God knows all things*

Hebrews 4:13

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

(Ps. 139:1-4; Isa. 40:28; Isa. 46:10; Rom. 11:33)

7. **God is Omnipresent :** *God is everywhere-present*

Psalms 139:7-10

Where can I go from your Spirit?

Where can I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I go up to the heavens, you are there;

if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

<sup>9</sup> If I rise on the wings of the dawn,

if I settle on the far side of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand will guide me,

your right hand will hold me fast.

8. **God is knowable.**

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

John 17:1-3

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

"Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may

glorify you. <sup>2</sup> For you granted him authority over all people that he

might give eternal life to all those you have given him. <sup>3</sup> Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

## C. God's Moral Attributes

1. God is Holy: completely separate from evil

Leviticus 11:44

I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy.

2. God is Good: inclined to act with generosity towards his creation

Psalms 100:5

The Lord is good and his love endures forever.

3. God is Righteous and Just: God is always right in his moral and ethical character and always does what is right, therefore he decides what is right

Psalms 72:2

May he judge your people in righteousness,  
your afflicted ones with justice.

4. God is Love

1 John 4:8-10

Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

## D. One God in Three Persons

1. The concept taught in Scripture that there is only one God is often called the unity of God. This means:

- God is numerically one being
  - God is completely unique
  - God is collectively one
  - God cannot be divided into parts
2. Two false teachings regarding the Trinity are:
- Sabellianism: Father, Son, and Spirit are three parts of one God.
  - Tritheism: Father, Son, and Spirit are three separate Gods.
3. The doctrine of the trinity states that one God exists in three persons—Father, Son, and Spirit.
- God is one substance, yet three distinct persons.
  - Father, Son, and Spirit are perfectly one in nature and character.
  - All persons of the Godhead are eternally equal in power and glory and operate with one will and purpose.
4. Though the Bible does not use the word “trinity” or the concept communicated throughout both the Old and New Testaments.
- Genesis 1:1 “Let us make man in our image.”
  - The Angel of the Lord is identified with Yahweh, but distinguished from Him, still Jacob says, “I saw God face to face” in reference to his encounter with the Angel of the Lord.

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- (Isa. 48:16; 61:1; Zec. 12:10)
- John 1:1-4  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.
- Jesus's birth, baptism, resurrection.