

Foundations **God's Identity**

2 Corinthians 13:14

"Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable." **Psalms 145:3**

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom & knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments & how inscrutable his ways!" **Romans 11:33**

Main Idea: God is Unlike Anyone, but is Accessible to Everyone

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." **2 Corinthians 13:14**

Three Truths Concerning God's Identity from 2 Corinthians 13:14

I. **God is Triune** - "...the Lord Jesus Christ...God...the Holy Spirit..."

What Does the Bible Affirm? God is Triune...

- **God is One** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- **The Father is God** "For on Him God the Father has set His seal." **John 6:27b**
- **The Son is God** "Waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ." **Titus 2:13**
- **The Spirit is God** "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." **2 Corinthians 3:17**

What Does the Bible Reject?

- **The Father is God, Jesus is God Jr & The Spirit is God III**
- **There are Multiple Gods**
- **The Father, Son & Spirit are not Distinct**

"If you deny the trinity, you lose your soul. If you try to explain it, you lose your mind." **Saint Augustine of Hippo**

"We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, & eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge & sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself & to make all things new for His own glory."
Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 1)

II. **God is Good** - "The grace of...& the love of...& the fellowship of..."

Grace: *charis* – kindness, extended in Jesus, **Love:** *agape* – affection, proven by Christ, **Fellowship:** *koinonia* – community with us possible b/c of Jesus.

The Bible Affirms –

- **God's Qualities Illustrated by:** Calling Him a Shepherd (Ps 23:1), Physician (Ex 15:26), Bridegroom (Isaiah 61:10), Father (Deut 32:6), Mother (Isaiah 66:13), Friend (Ex 33:11), Husband (Isaiah 54:5), Prosecuting Attorney (Jeremiah 2:9), Lion (Isaiah 31:4), Eagle (Deut 32:11), Lamb (Isaiah 53:7), Rock (Deut 32:4), Tower (Prov 18:10), Shield (Ps 84:11) and Shadow (Ps 91:1).

• **God's Names Reveal His Character:**

- **Elohim** –(Plural) Creator, Sustainer, Judge & Punisher
- **El** – (Generic) – "The Strong & Mighty One"
- **El Shaddai** – "God the All Sufficient"
- **El Roy** – "God who sees all"
- **Yahweh** –(Most Common) **Literally – I AM WHO I AM**
- **Emmanuel** – God with us!

• **There is No One Like our God:**

"To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with Him?"

Isaiah 40:18

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, & my thoughts than your thoughts."

Isaiah 55:8-9

"Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will bring you a man that can comprehend the triune God!" **John Wesley**

"We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God & fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus, Israel's promised Messiah, was conceived through the Holy Spirit & born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven & sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest & Advocate." **Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 4)**

III. **God is Present** – "...be with you all."

"We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, & in Him they are baptized into union with Christ & adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips & empowers believers for Christ-like living & service."

Salem Church Statement of Faith (Article 6)

Even though we cannot fully comprehend the Trinity, we CAN know God!

"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." **Matt 11:27**

Jesus is both the redeemer & the revealer of God! To know God, know Jesus!

"And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." **Acts 4:12**

The triune God of the universe, who extends grace, love & fellowship can be known, but only through a personal relationship with Jesus.

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict* – Josh McDowell (1999)
- *Theology for the Church* – Daniel L. Akin (2007)
- *Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *New Illustrated Bible Dictionary* – Ronald F. Youngblood (1995)
- *MacArthur New Testament Commentary* – John MacArthur (2004)
- *Strong's Concordance* – James Strong (1890)
- *Tony Evans Book of Illustrations* – Tony Evans (2009)
- *Swindoll's Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles Swindoll (1998)
- *How to Connect with God* – James Merritt (2010)
- *God, I've got a Question* – James Merritt (2011)
- *Knowing God* – J.I. Packer (1973)
- *Doctrine* – Mark Driscoll (2010)

