



SESSION ONE: THE NATURE OF GOD



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The Nature of God

“God exists as three persons yet He is one God....

The biblical teaching on the Trinity tells us that all of God’s attributes are true of all three persons, for each is fully God. Thus, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are also eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, infinitely wise, infinitely holy, infinitely loving, omniscient and so forth.....

God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.”

- Wayne Grudem. Systematic Theology



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“To reflect upon God in His Three-in-oneness yet perfect unity and harmony in mutual, everlasting love, is to catch a vision of something so unspeakably glorious, even beautiful and attractive that it has ever and again down the centuries, moved men and women to the heights of adoring worship, love and praise.”

- Bruce Milne



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The triangle of orthodoxy

- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are each fully God.

John 1:1-4. John 20:28. Isaiah 9:6. Acts 5:3-4. 1

Corinthians 12:6. 2 Corinthians 13:14. Ephesians 4:4-6

- There is one God.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct.

John 1:1-2. John 17:24. 1 John 2:1. John 14:26. John 16:7



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Errors outside of the triangle of orthodoxy

- The denial of the divinity of Christ and the Holy Spirit
- The denial of one God
- The denial that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct



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Old Testament revelation:

God reveals Himself to His people as 'One' God
(**Deuteronomy 6:4-5**)

However, there are also specific words that speak of 'plurality' within One God.

Genesis 1:26-27, Psalm 110:1, Daniel 7:13-14



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New Testament revelation:

The oneness of God is affirmed.

Mark 12:29-32, 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, Ephesians 4:6 and James 2:19

The trinity is referenced

Matthew 28:19, John 14:15-23, Acts 2:32-33, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Ephesians 1:1-14, 3:16-19



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Each 'person' of the Godhead is described as **fully divine**.

The Father: **Matthew 6:8. Galatians 1:1-3**

The Son: **John 1:1-18** (*With God* - separate personality. *Was God* - same substance).
Hebrews 1:3

The Holy Spirit. **2 Corinthians 3:17. John 14: 15-21**



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The Council of Nicea. 325 AD

Called to discuss and settle the nature of Jesus Christ, the 'Son of God' and oppose the error of Arianism.

Addressed what it meant for Jesus to be, 'the firstborn over all creation'. ***Colossians 1:15***

And

Was Jesus of 'the same substance as the Father' (homousios)

Or 'like the Father' (homoiousios)

The Nicene Creed was the result.



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The importance of the Nicene Creed

- It is important to distinguish between orthodox and heretical doctrines.
- It brings an understanding of God's work of salvation.
- It shapes our knowledge of God and therefore relationship with God.
- It helps us in prayer and worship.
- It helps us to understand how God is at work.



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The eternal relationship in the Godhead:

There has always been one God in three persons. The relationship between them was one of love. (**John 17:24**). God is love and this is expressed between the three persons so God is never 'alone'.

In His essential nature God exists in the community of the Trinity.



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Modern sects, cults and deviations:

Theosophy, Unitarianism, Christian Science,
Children of God, Moonies, Christadelphians,
Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons.