

# The Living God

## I. Description of The Living God

### A. His Being

1. God is spirit (John 4:24)
2. God is invisible (John 1:18; 14:17; Acts 17:29; I Timothy 3:16)
3. God is the Creator (Genesis 1:1; Acts 17:28)
4. God is eternal (Psalms 48:14; Isaiah 43:10; John 14:16))
5. God is self-existent (Exodus 3:14; John 5:26; John 8:58)
6. God is unchanging (I Samuel 15:29; Jeremiah 4:28)
7. God is all-knowing (Psalm 139:2-10; John 14:26; I John 3:20)
8. God is all-powerful (Isaiah 40:12-28; Luke 1:37)
9. God is present everywhere at all times (Ps. 139:1-12; Jer. 23:23-24)

### B. His Essence

1. God is holy (Isaiah 6:1-5; Revelation 4:8)
2. God is love (I John 4:8, 16)
3. God is light ( I john 1:5)

### C. His Character

1. God is righteous and just (Isaiah 10-13; Ezekiel ch. 25-32)
2. God is merciful and gracious (Deut. 4:31; Ps. 103:8-14; II Cor. 1:3)
3. God is faithful (Deut. 31:6; Psalm 125:2; Hosea 1-3; Heb. 13:5)

## II. The Triune Nature of God

### A. Unity of the Godhead

1. Jesus answered, “The foremost is, ‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; (Mark 12:29)

- a. “is one” – Greek = the one existing; self-existing or eternal
    - b. Mark 12:29 is identical to Deut. 6:4 in LXX: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.”
  - 2. Use of “no God but one” in I Cor. 8:4 in contrast to many gods (idols)
  - 3. Deuteronomy 6:4 in MT
    - a. Hebrew *echad* (H0259) means “united”
    - b. In context of Deuteronomy 4:35 “He is God; there is no one besides Him”
    - c. In context of Deuteronomy 4:39 “there is no other” (in contrast of the warning about serving other gods)
- B. Diversity of the Godhead
- 1. Plurality in the Old Testament
    - a. Genesis 1:26-27 (“let Us create . . .”)
    - b. Isaiah 6:8 (“Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” - MT; plural is not in LXX which says “who will go for Me?”)
  - 2. Triune God formula
    - a. At Jesus’ baptism (Matthew 3:16-17)
    - b. Command to Jesus’ disciples (Mathew 28:19; deliberate repetition of article; co-equal and three distant persons)
    - c. John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13-15; I Cor. 12:4-6; II Cor. 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; I Thessalonians 1:1-6
- C. God the Father
- 1. In the Old Testament (Psalm 103:13; Deut. 8:5)
  - 2. In the New Testament (Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17)
  - 3. As distinct from the Son (Luke 2:49; 23:46; John 3:16; 5:19; 14:9-12; ch. 17)
  - 4. Unity between the Father and Son (John 10:30; 14: 7-10)
- D. Jesus Christ as God
- 1. The Creator and “begotten” (John 1:1-3, 14)

2. Claim of equality with God (John 5:18)
3. The “I Am” (John 8:58; identical in the LXX in Exodus 3:14)
4. Title of Immanuel – “God with us” (Matthew 1:23 quoting from Isaiah 7:14)
5. Virgin birth (Luke 1:26-35: of divine origin)
6. Philippians 2:6; Colossians 1:19; 2:9; Titus 2:13; II Peter 1:1)

#### E. The Holy Spirit as God

1. Acts 5:1-4
2. I Corinthians 2:10-14
3. II Corinthians 3:17, 18
4. Imparts spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11)
5. Mediates revelation from God (I Corinthians 2:10)
6. Intercedes for the saints (Romans 8:26-27)
7. Regenerates (John 3:5-8)
8. Convicts of sin (John 16:8-11)
9. Guides believers into truth (John 16:13-15)
10. Gives authority for ministry (John 20:22-23)

### III. Summarized in Historic Creeds

#### A. Nicæan Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father.

## B. Athanasian Creed

We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; (4) Neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance. (5) For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son and another of the Holy Spirit. (6) But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. (7) Such as the Father is, such is the Son and such is the Holy Spirit. (8) The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated. (9) The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible. (10) The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. (11) And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal. (12) As also there are not three uncreated nor three incomprehensibles, but one uncreated and one incomprehensible. (13) So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty; (14) And yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty. (15) So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; (16) And yet they are not three Gods, but one God. (17) So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord; (18) And yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord. (19) For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every person by himself to be God and Lord; (20) so are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say: There are three Gods or three Lords. (21) The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. (22) The Son is of the Father alone; not made nor created, but begotten. (23) The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding. (24) So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits. (25) And in this Trinity none is afore, nor after another; none is greater, or less than another. (26) But the whole three persons are co-eternal, and co-equal. (27) So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped. (28) He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.

## What We Believe Regarding the Living God

The God who revealed Himself in the Bible is the one and only true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He is the eternal, self-existing and unchanging God and the Sovereign Creator who upholds all things by His own power and His word. He is holy and therefore righteous and just. He is love and therefore is merciful and gracious. He is unfailingly faithful to perform and fulfill what He has promised to His Covenant People.

This Living God expresses Himself in perfect unity in diversity as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Father as not begotten, in the Son as not created but begotten or generated from the Father *from eternity* and sent into the world of Jacob/Israel, and in the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and Son. There is one God expressing Himself in three distinct operations from the Father, through the Son and in the Spirit yet of the same divine essence or nature, the same purpose, mind, will and action.

This may be explained as an administrative ordering in space and time:

1. The Father as the creative source of ideas, the fountainhead of planning and the initiation of its manifestation;
2. The Son was sent by the father as “the exact representation of his being” (Hebrews 1:3) to radiate, model, express and exhibit the Father’s plans and purpose;
3. The Spirit sent by the Father and Son to powerfully bring to fulfillment the plans and purpose for the Father and Son;

This unity in plurality of the Triune Godhead can be illustrated in Ephesians 1:1-14:

- The Father chose us and predestined us – vs. 3-6
- The Son adopted, redeemed and forgiven us and having also obtained for us an inheritance through Him – vs. 7-12
- The Spirit sealed or confirmed for us as a pledge of our inheritance – vs. 13-14

The preponderance of the biblical data evidences beyond a reasonable doubt that the Father is God, the Son is God and the Spirit is God yet inseparable as one unified Godhead.