

**One God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

Various explanations declared heretical
by the mainstream church:

- Three separate but equal beings with unity of purpose, aim, and endeavor.
- One divine substance that adopted different forms.
- Only the Father is God. Jesus and the Holy Spirit are servants of God, but above angels.

References to God that are plural

- Genesis 1:26 “Let Us make man in Our image.”
- Genesis 11:7 “Let Us go down and confound their language.”
- The most frequently used Hebrew word for God is *elohim*, which is plural noun.

1. The “Us” could include other spiritual beings.
2. Elohim could be the “imperial plural.”

Two subjects with a singular verb

- 1 Thessalonians 3:11 “God our Father and Jesus direct(s) our way”
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:17 “The Lord Jesus Christ and God, who has loved us . . . , comfort(s)”
1. All those who have studied Greek agree that the verbs are singular.
 2. All ancient manuscripts have the same word.
 3. All modern English translations obscure this.
 4. It is unlikely that Paul made a grammar error.
 5. How are ordinary Christians to find this?

Persons called “God”

- **Father:** John 6:27, John 20:17, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Galatians 1:1, Philippians 2:11
- **Son:** John 1:1, John 20:28, 1 John 5:20
- **Holy Spirit:** Acts 5:3-4, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
mentioned together**

Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Jude 20-21

Some Attributes of Jesus

- John 10:30 “I and the Father are One.”
- Philippians 2:6 “Existed in the form of God . . . equality with God.”
- Colossians 2:9 “In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

**Worship God Only
Matthew 4:9 – 10**

- Acts 10:25 Cornelius tried to worship Peter
- Acts 14:11 – 15 Pagans tried to worship Paul and Barnabas
- Colossians 2:18 (*et al*) Do not worship angels
- Revelation 19:10, 22:8 – 9 John tried to worship an angel

Jesus accepted worship

- Matthew 2:2, 11 Magi
- Matthew 8:2 Leper
- Matthew 9:18 Synagogue official
- Matthew 14:33 Disciples
- Matthew 15:25 Woman
- Matthew 20:20 John's mother
- Matthew 28:9 Women
- Matthew 28:17 Disciples
- John 9:38 Blind man
- Hebrews 1:6 Let all the angels worship Him

Same attributes for Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- Eternal
 - Father: Romans 16:26
 - Son: 1 Timothy 1:17
 - Holy Spirit: Hebrews 9:14
 - Other eternal: life, condemnation, glory, gospel, kingdom
- Creation
 - Father: Genesis 1:1, Psalm 100:3
 - Son: John 1:3, Colossians 1:16
 - Spirit: Job 33:4

Same attributes for Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- Dwells in us
 - Father: 2 Corinthians 6:16, 1 John 4:12 – 14
 - Son: Ephesians 3:17
 - Holy Spirit: Romans 8:9 – 11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 2 Timothy 1:14, James 4:5

Only Begotten Son Was the Son created?

- **Only begotten:** John 1:14, 1:18, 3:16, 3:18, 1 John 4:9, Hebrews 11:17
- **Begotten:** Acts:13:33, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5, 1 John 5:1, 18, 1 Corinthians 4:15, Philemon 10
- **First born:** Revelation 1:5

What can we say for certain?

- Details are sparse concerning the relationships between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus was equal with the One God.
- Jesus now has all the fullness of Deity.
- Worship of the Son is proper.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are often interchangeable in function, but not always.
- While on earth, Jesus had a body, mind, and spirit, but His Spirit is God, taking the form of a bondservant, with the attitude of a Son.

God in Us

- We were born with a body, a mind, and spirit that was created in the image of God. This spirit should connect us with God, but does not overpower our minds or bodies.
- We killed our spirits with sin. Our spirits were raised at baptism and seated in Christ in the heavenly places. The Holy Spirit, who is God in the form of a Helper, dwells in each believer. Neither our resurrected spirits nor God in us overpowers our minds or bodies, but provide the capacity to overcome.