



BOOK



BASIC DOCTRINES

GLC ESSENTIALS

BOOK 6: BASIC DOCTRINES, 4th Edition
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INTRODUCTION

Strengthen your convictions on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith. For the purpose of this module, the biblical doctrines that we will examine are the basis for CCF's Statement of Faith.

What we grew up believing in is something that we usually take for granted, but it is important that each Christ-committed follower closely examines the source for his or her beliefs especially in relation to spiritual matters.

This module will help you discover the biblical basis for all that we do and teach as a church. You will gain a greater appreciation of God, whose unchanging, infallible and eternal Word is our only source and final authority for our doctrines. Additionally, this study will equip us to discern if a doctrinal teaching that we receive is truly biblical or a distortion of God's truth.

As you go through this study in your small group, remember that our aim is not to accumulate knowledge but to apply God's Word in our daily living; growing in maturity towards Christ-likeness.

Ephesians 4:13-15

until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; ¹⁵ but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

This workbook is for the GLC Essentials Book 6: Basic Doctrines Bible study for small groups. It can be used as a stand-alone Bible study guide for small groups. There is also a video teaching resource that you can access for free. Visit glc.ccf.org.ph, then click “RESOURCES” to access the videos. Please note that this workbook is the most updated version of Book 6: Basic Doctrines lessons.

Remember that the learning process is much more than just knowing the right answers to our doctrinal questions. Obedience to God’s truth through life application is more important. As we apply the lessons from Book 6: Basic Doctrines, we will experience greater intimacy with Jesus and more fruitfulness for His glory.

If you are a small group servant/facilitator, all you have to do is make sure that you do a personal Bible study using this workbook and the video ahead of your small group meeting. Encourage your group members to have their own workbooks and to watch the video either before your meeting, or at your meeting. Do not divert the teaching topic – stick to what is in the workbook. The workbook includes the Bible lesson and individual and small group learning activities to help you get the most out of your meetings. There are four parts in some sessions: Explore, Examine, Express and Experience.

- **Explore** — contains individual and small group activities that help prepare you for the Bible study.
- **Examine** — this is where you go through the Bible lesson with your group.
- **Express** — this is where the members of the group get a chance to express more of their insights, questions and thoughts about the Bible lesson. They can do it in writing, doodling or drawing, and sharing to the rest of the group.

-
- **Experience** — this section is accomplished outside the group meeting time. There are suggested individual or group Life Apps that will hopefully help you experience life transformation as you apply God’s truth in practical ways.

As you begin, please remember that this workbook is just a tool designed for us to make disciples. We need to depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us God’s truth and transform our hearts and those of our disciples as we go through the module.

SESSION 1

GOD'S WORD, THE BIBLE

EXPLORE

Discover the WORD

In your group, find the names of the Bible books in the puzzle sheet below.

HIDDEN BIBLE BOOK NAMES:

Can you find 56 books of the Bible in this paragraph? Highlight the word, like the sample given –“luke” in the 4th sentence of the first paragraph.

The following article contains the names of all the books of the Bible hidden within the words. See if you can find them all! I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept some people looking so hard for facts. And for others it was revelation. Some were in a jam. Especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments to you. Do these while you're watching TV, sitting on the john, eating tuna, humming your favorite reggae tune--- a song of Sol, “O Mon, I believe you!”

Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. There are those among us who might need music – a banjo, electric guitar, or drums! See how well you can compete. Relax now, listen to Genesis on the radio, or play your banjo! Nah, just concentrate on the task at hand. Find them all and be a pro! Verbs and subjects don't always agree in this article, but don't let that stand in your way!

I even asked for help from my ex. “O, Du!” she said. I replied, “Corinth, I answer your questions,” but she said, “Come back at Ramadan.” I eloquently thanked her. Frustrated, she said, “The puzzle is a ... I ... ah.. I don’t find these EZ. Ek! I elect not to do them!” I thought about offering her a juju decoration or perhaps alms, but decided not to pursue it. This just about chronicles our relationship.

Some of the hardest books to hide were Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Samuel, Nehemiah, Ecclesiastes, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Timothy, and Philemon. Remember that ten of the names are duplicated like First and Second Thessalonians, so you will only find fifty-six distinct names.

This puzzle is not EZ – rather, it is quite difficult. It would be simpler if the books were in a list that you could pick from. Answer can be anywhere in this article, so that makes this format the worst! Do your best and God bless

LEARNING NUGGET

The Bible has 66 books — 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. How well do you know what is taught in these books? We may have our “favorite” books and some we overlook because they are harder to understand and apply. However, if we truly believe that the Bible is God’s Word to us, then we will diligently read, study, memorize and apply all that the Bible teaches us to do and avoid what it tells us not to do. As we do, we will know Jesus more and we will be transformed into His likeness more and more.

See Appendix A for the answer key

EXAMINE & EXPRESS

WHY STUDY DOCTRINES?

What we believe about God influences everything in our lives. If we don't understand doctrine well, we can be misled.

Theology is simply the study of God; even if it is impossible to fully understand God, as believers in Christ our deepest desire is to grow in love and knowledge of Him.

And He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

Matthew 22:37

To love God, we need to know Him.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Challenges to the Bible

- “Whatever you believe is OK for you”
- Authority cannot be trusted
- The Bible is full of errors and contradictions
- The Bible isn't relevant today

Discussion 1

Describe a typical objection to the authority of the Bible that you have heard.

How did you respond?

What do you wish you would have known so that you could have responded better?

CCF Statement of Faith about the Bible

We believe that the Bible, composed of 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books, is the Word of God, supernaturally inspired, inerrant in its original form, infallible, so that it is our supreme authority in all matters of faith, doctrine and conduct.

1. The Bible claims to be authoritative because it is God's Word.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Inspiration is the work of the Holy Spirit to guide the authors of the Bible to compose and record in words, without error, God’s revelation to man.

For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. ¹⁹So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. ²⁰But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1:16-21

The words, “Thus saith the Lord” or “God said...” are found more than 1900 times in the Bible!

Discussion 2

What do you understand Paul to mean when he says, “all scripture is inspired by God?”

How do these passages clarify the meaning of inspiration? Why is this important?

2. The Bible’s claims are supported:

a. Internally

Fulfilled prophecy

Over 300 prophecies on the life of Jesus alone have been fulfilled in the New Testament.

Jesus' use of the Bible

But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the burning bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now He is not the God of the dead but of the living; for all live to Him.

Luke 20:37-38

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Until I put Your enemies beneath Your feet"'? ⁴⁵If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?"

Matthew 22:44-45

Internal consistency

- Written over 1500 years in 3 languages...
- By over 30 authors from different backgrounds...
- In 2 different continents...

b. External Evidence

Manuscript Evidence

- Earliest manuscripts (copies of the original) of the Bible written as early as 50 years after the original writings
- About 50,000 manuscripts are still existing today
- the Bible has remained uncorrupted based on the existing original manuscripts we still have today

Archaeology

- Sodom and Gomorrah
 - Ebla tablets
- The Bible is one of the best historical references for archaeologists

Influence

There are many Bible teachings that have been brought into societies that have changed the world.

Discussion 3

How would you answer someone who says, “The Bible is just another book? Why should I believe what it says?”

How should we respond?

1. Knowing that the Bible is reliable, what hinders you from really believing it? What stops you from sharing this to others? Choose at least 3 among the 6 that you would like to highlight in sharing the reliability of the Bible.

- Fulfilled prophecy
- Jesus' use of the Bible
- Internal consistency
- Manuscript evidence
- Archaeology
- Influence

Share these evidences with your Dgroup or someone who is doubting the bible. Make sure to use the explanation in the book. You may add more research you have found.

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will....

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

SESSION 2

GOD'S PERSON AND NATURE

EXPLORE

GOD IS

Give everyone a blank sheet of paper and pen. Invite the group to draw their own symbol, image or picture to represent their own understanding, belief or unbelief in God. They cannot use words, lettering or numbers. The picture should represent what they think about God. Emphasize that you are not looking for a work of art!

Allow five minutes to complete the picture and ask the group to reveal their picture to the rest of the group in the Express Part Discussion 1 later on. Invite the group to guess what they think each symbol represents about God, after which the 'artist' or the one who draws it can confirm if anyone got it right. Then proceed to answering the discussion questions.

Theological Truth

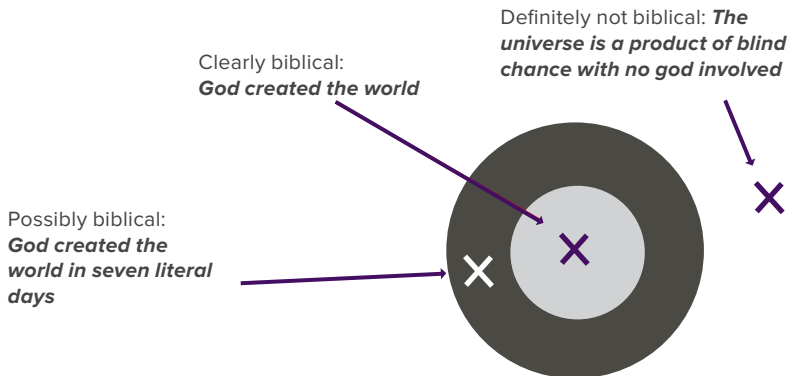
In the previous session, we saw that God has revealed Himself through His Word. For this reason we can know God, and understand what He is like. However, God did not choose to organize His revelation into a statement of faith, a book of doctrines or an FAQ. So how can we be sure about the nature of God?

Limits of Theology

The Creation Account

Possible Interpretations:

- Literal - creation in 7 days
- Not literal - creation on a longer duration



Our Response

- Give leeway on certain issues.
- Agree on the common core of theology.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

There are many views about God today

- Mystical view: We are all god(s)
- Other religions:
 - There are many gods
 - There is one God, but Jesus is not God
- Atheist view: There is no God

Even among Christians

- The cosmic genie: God is here to make you happy
- God is distant: God is so busy, He probably doesn't have time for me
- God is angry: He is waiting for me to blow it so He can smack me down

There are times that the way we learned about God also influences how we see and understand God.

Discussion 1

Before you came to Christ, what was your picture of God?

Do any of your wrong ideas about God from before continue to affect you as a believer? How?

What should we know?

CCF Statement of Faith about God

We believe that there is only one GOD eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is the Creator of Heaven and Earth.

What the Scripture Says About God

God's Person

1. Infinite

God is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity or of creation. He is not limited to our understanding.

-
- ¹ *Then Job answered the Lord and said,*
² *"I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be
thwarted.*
³ *'Who is this that hides counsel without
knowledge?'*
*Therefore I have declared that which I did not
understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not
know."*
⁴ *'Hear, now, and I will speak;
I will ask You, and You instruct me.'*
⁵ *"I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
But now my eye sees You;*
⁶ *Therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes."*

Job 42:1-6

2. Triune

One God in three persons. The triunity in Himself are three persons that have relationships between them.

3. Personal

God interacts with us as a person and we can relate to him as persons. He wants to have a relationship with us.

-
- ¹⁵ *The idols of the nations are but silver and gold,
The work of man's hands.*
- ¹⁶ *They have mouths, but they do not speak;
They have eyes, but they do not see;*
- ¹⁷ *They have ears, but they do not hear,
Nor is there any breath at all in their mouths.*
- ¹⁸ *Those who make them will be like them,
Yes, everyone who trusts in them.*

Psalm 135:15-18

We can create idols in our own lives but the only one who can truly satisfy is the God who is infinite, triune, and personal.

Discussion 2

What are some ways we might diminish God because of our limited perspective?

What do you wish you understood more about God?

God's Attributes

God's attributes are qualities of God that He has revealed to us so we can know, love and worship Him more.

Incommunicable: things we don't share with God

- **God is Sovereign**

⁹ *“Remember the former things long past,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is no one like Me,*
¹⁰ *Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things which have not
been done,
Saying, ‘My purpose will be established,
And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;*

Isaiah 46:9-10

- **God is Omniscient**

*Great is our Lord and abundant in strength;
His understanding is infinite.*

Psalms 147:5

“God knows instantly and effortlessly all matter and all matters, all mind and every mind, all spirit and all spirits, all being and every being, all creaturehood and all creatures, every plurality and all pluralities, all law and every law, all relations, all causes, all thoughts, all mysteries, all enigmas, all feeling, all desires, every unuttered secret, all thrones and dominions, all personalities, all things visible and invisible in heaven and in earth, motion, space, time, life, death, good, evil, heaven, and hell... Because God knows all things perfectly, He knows no thing better than any other thing, but all thing equally well. He never discovers anything. He is never surprised, never amazed. He never wonders about anything nor (except when drawing men out for their own good) does He seek information or ask questions.”

A.W. Tozer¹

“Omniscience means that God knows everything, things actual and possible, effortlessly and equally well.”

Charles Ryrie²

“God knows every detail of our lives. There is nothing that escapes His attention. ‘The very hairs of your head are all numbered,’ Christ said (Luke 12:7)...Perhaps this is the most astounding fact about God’s omniscience: He knows every detail about us, yet He still loves us...He knew all about our sins, yet willingly gave His Son to die for us on the cross.”

John MacArthur³

¹As cited in the online article sourced from <https://www.allaboutgod.com/define-omniscient-faq.htm>

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

- **God is Omnipresent**

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.

Psalms 139:7-10

- **God is Omnipotent**

Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?

Jeremiah 32:27

- **God is Immutable**

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

Discussion 3

Of the incommunicable attributes of God, what is most significant to you? Why?

Communicable: things we do share with God

- **God is eternal**

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:8

- **God is righteous**

“The Lord is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.”

Psalms 145:17

- **God is just**

The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.

Deuteronomy 32:4

- **God is Love**

We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

1 John 4:16

- **God is Truth**

Now, O Lord God, You are God, and Your words are truth, and You have promised this good thing to Your servant.

2 Samuel 7:28

Discussion 4

Of the communicable attributes of God, what is most significant to you? Why?

God's Incommunicable Attributes – those we don't share

- God is Sovereign Isaiah 46:9-10
- God is Omniscient Psalm 147:5
- God is Omnipresent Psalm 139:7-10
- God is Omnipotent Jeremiah 32:27
- God is Immutable Hebrews 13:8

God's Communicable Attributes – those we share

- God is eternal Revelation 1:8
- God is righteous Psalm 145:17
- God is just Deuteronomy 32:4
- God is love 1 John 4:16
- God is truth 2 Samuel 7:28

Summary

- ¹ *Then Job answered the Lord and said,*
² *“I know that You can do all things,
And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.*
³ *‘Who is this that hides counsel without
knowledge?’
Therefore I have declared that which I did not
understand,
Things too wonderful for me, which I did not
know.”*
⁴ *‘Hear, now, and I will speak;
I will ask You, and You instruct me.’*
⁵ *“I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear;
But now my eye sees You;*
⁶ *Therefore I retract,
And I repent in dust and ashes.”*

Job 42:1-6

How should we respond?

1. Knowing the attributes of God is a great way of getting to know the Lord. Let's explore ways on how God will help us in our relationships by knowing more of Him.

Give your favorite attributes. Give a verse/story that shows this attribute of God. Explain this in your own words. In what ways will this improve your relationship with your family, Dgroup, and work environment.

Attribute of God	Verse/Story Reference	What this means to you (Paraphrase)	How will this affect your relationship with your family?	How will this affect your relationship with your Dgroup?	How will this affect your relationship with your work environment?

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will....

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

SESSION 3

JESUS: HIS PERSON AND WORKS

EXPLORE

Individually, guess the right answer to the following trivia questions then compare your answers with your group members.

1. You can find the tallest building in the world in which country?
 - a. China
 - b. Dubai
 - c. Germany

2. In which place will you find the smallest dog in the world (as of February 2013)?
 - a. Kentucky, USA
 - b. Hokkaido, Japan
 - c. Dorado, Puerto Rico

3. Which is the most-populated city in the world?
 - a. Tokyo, Japan
 - b. Mumbai, India
 - c. Shanghai, China

LEARNING NUGGET

It's quite interesting to find out about the most unique characteristics of people, things and places in our world. To be unique is to be one-of-a kind; to stand out or to surpass others in the same category in quality or quantity. In our lesson today, we will learn about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Truly, He is one-of-a-kind in His person and in His work — eternally unsurpassed by anyone or anything in heaven, earth or anywhere else in all creation.

See Appendix B for the answer key

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- In many circles, belief in God is OK, just don't talk about Jesus!
- Some doubt His historical existence
- Others claim He was human but not God
- Still others doubt His supernatural works

Even among Christians

- Misunderstanding about being God and man
- Misunderstanding about what was accomplished on the cross

Discussion 1

Jesus asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?”
How would you answer that question today?

Before you came to Christ, what was your understanding of Jesus?

What should we know?

CCF Statement of Faith about Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and Man, that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life. He was crucified and He died to pay the penalty of death for our sins.

By His shed blood, the Lord Jesus Christ made a perfect sacrifice for sin once and for all time and was raised from the dead on the third day.

Later He ascended to the Father’s right hand where He is the Head of the Church and intercedes for believers. We believe He is coming again to the Earth bodily and visibly to set up His Kingdom.

The Person Jesus: His Humanity

- Born of a virgin

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, **a virgin** will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”*

Isaiah 7:14

This is the fulfillment of the prophesy of Isaiah:

*“Behold, **the virgin** shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”*

Matthew 1:23

This means that God is coming to man, He is going to be living among us.

...when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

Matthew 1:18-19

-
- He was human with intellect, will, emotions

Jesus had emotion, intellect, and was just like any other human being.

“And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”

Luke 2:52

- Normal physical limitations

He became hungry.

And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry.

Matthew 4:2

He became thirsty.

After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, to fulfill the Scripture, said, “I am thirsty...”

John 19:28

Jesus had physical needs just like all of us.

Jesus also had limitations

“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.”

Matthew 24:36

The Life of Christ

- Sinless

“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 4:15

- His mission: to seek and save the lost

For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

Luke 19:10

Jesus had a very clear mission, He knew what God called Him to do.

-
- His method: making disciples

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Jesus had a clear mission and a clear methodology and if we want to be like Him, we need to follow what He did.

Discussion 2

What is most significant to you about the fact that Jesus lived as a human on earth? Why is that important to you?

Jesus only ministered for three years, but the impact changed the world. Why was discipleship His method to fulfill His mission?

Jesus: His Deity

- Direct and indirect claims
- Received worship
- Did things only God can do
- Rose from the dead

Direct and Indirect Claims

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give **eternal life** to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of **My hand**. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the **Father’s hand**. ³⁰**I and the Father are one.**”*

John 10:27-30

- Jesus claims that He and the Father are one. In claiming this, He states that He and the Father are of the same essence.

*“Jesus answered them, “I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?”³³The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, **make Yourself out to be God.**”*

John 10:32-33

- The audience wanted to stone Jesus for blasphemy because they saw Jesus as a man who was claiming to be God.

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I am**’⁵⁹Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.”*

John 8:58-59

- Jesus is claiming, “before Abraham was, I am”
- “I am who I am.”
- “YHWH” translated into Greek is “ego eimi”, this is exactly what Jesus said.
- The Jews clearly understood that He was claiming to be God because He pre-existed Abraham and used the very name of God to identify who He was.

*“In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was **with** God, and the **Word was God.**”*

John 1:1

- Rule in the Greek language - “the” or “a”

*“And the **Word** became **flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

John 1:14

- He is God in the flesh, He is Jesus.

Jesus Received Worship

*“And they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples.
⁹And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and **worshiped Him.**”*

Matthew 28:8-9

- The only person that would be worshipped in the Jewish religion is God.

*“For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of **Jesus every knee will bow**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”*

Philippians 2:9-11

- We are all going to worship Jesus.

“I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another...”

Isaiah 42:8

- Only the Lord is supposed to get the glory. Only the Lord is supposed to be worshipped. He will not share His glory with anyone else.
- Philippians 2:10-11

If Jesus isn't God, there isn't any way that God will allow people to worship Him in heaven because only God deserves worship.

Jesus Did Works Only God Can Do

Forgive Sins

“And Jesus seeing their faith said to the paralytic, ‘Son, your sins are forgiven.’”

Mark 2:5

- Only God can forgive sins because only God is sinned against.

Create

“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 1:16

- Genesis 1 and Colossians 1
- Jesus was as instrumental to Creation as God the Father

Grant eternal life

*“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I **give eternal life** to them, and they will never perish;”*

John 10:27-28a

- Only God has authority to give people eternal life.

Judge all the nations

*“But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then **He will sit on His glorious throne.** ³²All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats...”*

Matthew 25:31-32

- Who is going to be judging the nations at the final judgement?
- Only God can judge--that is His job. This is not delegated to someone else.

Predicted His own death and resurrection

“Jesus answered them, ‘Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.’”

John 2:19

- Jesus not only knew that He was going to die and rise again, but He predicted how it was going to happen.

...and said, “This man stated, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to rebuild it in three days.’”

Matthew 26:61

- Not the physical temple
- The Jews knew that Jesus was claiming that He will rise from the dead. That was why when Jesus died and was buried, they asked a Roman guard to be put in front of the tomb of Jesus.

*“He is not here, for **He has risen, just as He said.** Come, see the place where He was lying. ⁷Go quickly and tell His disciples that **He has risen from the dead;** and behold, He is going ahead of you into Galilee, there you will see Him; behold, I have told you.”*

Matthew 28:6-7

- We know that Jesus is who He claims to be because He made the claims and predictions early on in His ministry.

- What happened at Pentecost?

“...this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. ²⁴But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power.”

Acts 2:23-24

- The greatest proof of the deity of Jesus is His resurrection.

Discussion 3

Imagine that you are having lunch with group of officemates who hear that you are a Christian. They challenge you to explain why you believe Jesus is God. How would you answer them?

The Work of Christ: Atonement

The most important thing that Jesus did was the work on the cross that made reconciliation with us possible. This is what theologians refer to when they talk about the “finished work of Christ” on the cross.

*“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ **reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

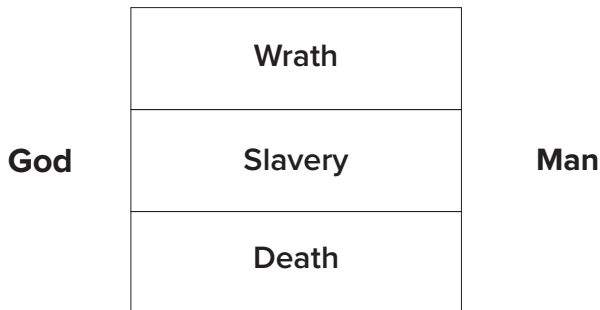
- Jesus came to reconcile us with God, this is the primary reason that He came to earth.

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”

1 John 2:1-2

- Jesus is the propitiation which means He is the complete satisfaction of what is required for us to be forgiven.
- The Old Testament atonement was just a picture of the perfect, final solution, that Jesus did on the cross many years later.

Three-fold Barrier Between God and Man



Christ's Death Overcame All!

• Wrath: Propitiation

- The abiding anger of God against sin
- Wrath satisfied by the atoning sacrifice of Jesus

• Slavery: Redemption

- We are slaves of sin and Satan.
- The solution to slavery is redemption.

• Spiritual Death: Substitution

- Before we come to Christ we are spiritually dead.
- Jesus died as a substitute (Romans 5:8)

Through His atoning sacrifice, He deals with the wrath of God, our slavery to sin, and spiritual death. This barrier is no longer in the way, what is left is for us to be reconciled with God.

Perfect Atonement

- Jesus took the place of the lamb that was supposed to be slaughtered for the sins of Israel.
- It was prophesied that all the sacrificial system would be eliminated after the Messiah would come.
- This whole system of animal sacrifice is no longer used, because it is no longer needed.
- Jesus was the one that paid the sacrifice that eliminated the need for the sacrificial system in the temple.

“Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; ¹²but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, ¹³waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet. ¹⁴For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.”

Hebrews 10:11-14

We do not need to sacrifice for our sins anymore because there is one sacrifice that has paid the penalty for everything wrong that we have ever done--past, present and future. Jesus has provided the perfect atonement for our sins.

How should we respond?

1. To understand Jesus is to know Him more and to further see His attributes. We need to clarify unbiblical thoughts about Him. What are the things you hear that are biblically not true of Jesus? Find verse references answering these concerns. Who will you share this new found information to?

Unbiblical Thoughts	Verse Clarification	New Meaning	Person You Will Share this to

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will...

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

SESSION 4

SALVATION

EXPLORE

Which item would you most likely line up for if it were given away for free?

1. Gift certificate for two in a Michelin Star restaurant that serves your favorite dishes.
2. Family vacation in one of the top tourist attractions in the world.
3. Air fare to a travel destination of your choice.
4. Latest mobile phone or tablet.
5. Voucher for an Eat-All-You-Can buffet.
6. Spa and beauty treatment at a well-known salon in the city.
7. Grocery items in time for Noche Buena (Christmas Eve dinner), New Year's Eve, or other special celebration.
8. Latest book from your favorite Christian author.
9. Movie passes for two for the premier showing of the latest offering of your favorite action/adventure trilogy.
10. Weekend stay at one of the highly-recognized hotels in the city.

LEARNING NUGGET

Most people will line up quickly ahead of the others for something that is given away for free. But have you ever wondered why most people will not line up for the gift of salvation that God offers to all of us for free? What is it about the nature of salvation that we need to share so that people will highly desire it? Today we will study CCF's Statement of Faith on the nature of salvation.

Why is this important?

- Today people are not even sure they have a problem
- Not only do they reject God, but they see no need for salvation
- What is important is their own happiness today

Even among Christians

- Still much misunderstanding about how people are saved
- Are they saved forever?
- Can you know for sure that you are saved?
- What is the basis for our salvation?

Discussion 1

What did you understand about salvation when you were younger? Was it biblical? Why or why not?

What changes do you see in people's attitudes to salvation today?

What should we know?

CCF Statement of Faith about Salvation

We believe that Salvation, with its forgiveness of sins, impartation of a new nature, and eternal life, is a free gift from God received when a person trusts in Jesus Christ to be their only Savior and Lord. Salvation is given by God's grace and cannot be earned by man through good works, baptism, church membership or any other means. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

We believe that good works are not the means of salvation but are the expected product in the life of a true believer in Christ. It is every believer's responsibility to pursue a life of good works through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

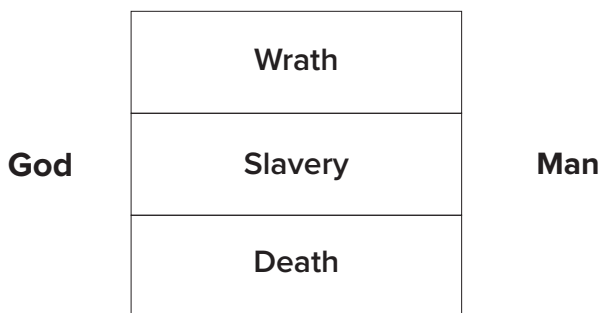
Salvation

Our Condition

At the Fall:

- We experienced spiritual death (Romans 5:12)
- We became slaves of sin and Satan (John 8:34; Romans 6:6)
- We became objects of God's abiding wrath (John 3:36)

Three-fold Barrier Between God and Man



And you were **dead in your trespasses and sins**, ² in which you formerly walked **according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air**, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. ³ Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were **by nature children of wrath**, even as the rest.

Ephesians 2:1-3

Christ's Death Overcame All

- Wrath: Propitiation
- Slavery: Redemption
- Spiritual Death: Substitution

Wrath: Propitiation

- *Thumos* – burst of anger
- *Orge* – abiding state of enmity
- *Thumos* is never used of God

My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

1 John 2:1-2

Propitiation: Satisfaction, Covering

- Mercy Seat
It is the mercy of God that allows the wrath of God to be satisfied.
- Jesus has made the perfect sacrifice. This is the propitiation, the satisfaction of God's just demands for sin to be paid for.
- Satisfaction also means covering. God sees us clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin. ³You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

Psalm 85:2-3 (ESV)

Slavery: Redemption

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. ³⁵The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.

John 8:34-36

Who can redeem?

- Someone free – not another slave
- A kinsman (Galatians 4:4-5)
- Someone willing to redeem (John 10:18)
- Someone able to redeem

But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life so that I may take it again. ¹⁸No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.

John 10:17-18

*No man can by any means redeem his brother
Or give to God a ransom for him—
⁸For the redemption of his soul is costly,
And he should cease trying forever—
⁹That he should live on eternally,
That he should not undergo decay.*

Psalm 49:7-9

Discussion 2

What is most meaningful to you about these two aspects of salvation? Why?

We can be tempted to think, this person isn't that bad, their life is OK (maybe even better than mine). How does knowing the truth about salvation change our perspective?

Spiritual Death

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...

Romans 5:12

When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions, ¹⁴having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Colossians 2:13-14

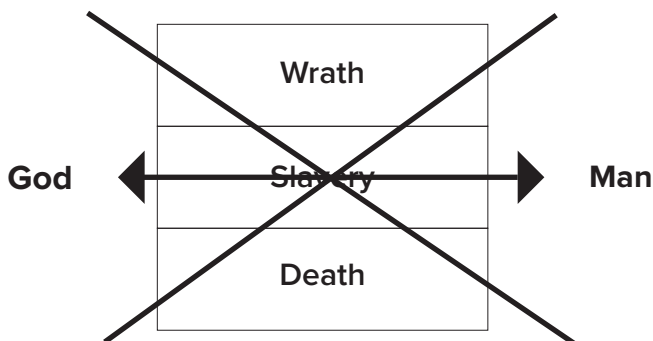
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

- How many of us have sinned?
- What do we deserve because of our sin?



All of the barriers have been taken away but we are still separated from God. We still need to be reconciled to God.

*Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled us to Himself through Christ** and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the **world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us **the word of reconciliation**.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God**.*

2 Corinthians 5:20

Who is saved?

Those who are **predestined?**

Those who **choose?**

The Biblical answer: **Yes!**

- The Bible says both of these are true.
- Scripture teaches both sides.
- Both have biblical support.

Elect: Key passages

*When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many **as had been appointed to eternal life believed.***

Acts 13:48

*...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **His own purpose and grace** which was granted us in Christ Jesus **from all eternity,***

2 Timothy 1:9

*What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! ¹⁵For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” ¹⁶So then **it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.***

Romans 9:14-16

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴just as **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵He **predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...***

Ephesians 1:3-5

Choose: Key passages

*As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; ¹⁵so that **whoever believes** will in Him have eternal life. ¹⁶For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes** in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

John 3:14-16

*If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, **choose for yourselves today** whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

Joshua 24:15

Joshua said to the people, 'You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen for yourselves the Lord, to serve Him.' And they said, 'We are witnesses.'

Joshua 24:22

*...that **if you confess** with your mouth Jesus as Lord, **and believe** in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved**; ¹⁰for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation. ¹¹For the Scripture says, '**Whoever believes** in Him will not be disappointed.' ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for **all who call on Him**; ¹³for '**Whoever will call** on the name of the Lord **will be saved**.'*

Romans 10:9-13

This is a tension

- Not every tension in Scripture is resolved.
- Humanly we cannot conceive of how God's sovereignty and man's will can function together.
- The solution is not to explain away the tension.

A way forward?

*To those...who are **chosen** ²**according to the foreknowledge of God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.*

1 Peter 1:1-2

Discussion 3

How does this discussion affect your understanding of the issue of predestination and free will?

What are we called to do as ambassadors for Christ? How are you doing that?

The result of salvation

- We are saved – salvation, free from the penalty of sin
- We **are being** saved – sanctification, becoming free from the experience of sin
- We **will be** saved – glorification, eternally free from the presence of sin

Our ministry

*Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in **Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

2 Corinthians 5:18-19

EXPERIENCE

How should we respond?

1. Salvation can be best explained by sharing the Gospel. Practice how you share the gospel and the points that you give in sharing. Identify the points and explain the background on the point. Review how you share the gospel. Should you tweak your process? Identify the improvements.

Points in Sharing the Gospel	Doctrinal explanation (Where in the Bible do we find this?)	Evaluation of your own sharing	How you will improve
Man has a sin problem			
God has a solution - Jesus died for our sins			
Jesus is the perfect sacrifice			
What our response should be			
What is the result of our faith			

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will....

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

SESSION 5

THE TRINITY

EXPLORE

True or False. Indicate whether the statements about the Godhead (Trinity) is true or false. Put T if it is true or F if it is false at the end of every statement.

1. Jesus Christ is God.
2. The Trinity means that there are three (3) Persons in one God, all of these Persons having equal rank and are of the same nature.
3. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Force.
4. Jesus Christ is half-God and half-man.
5. The Trinity means that there is only one God who exists in three (3) forms: as Father, who became the Son when He became man, and who became the Holy Spirit after the resurrection.
6. The Holy Spirit is God, equal with the Father and the Son.
7. Jesus Christ was just a man, a created being who was sinless.
8. The Trinity means that there are three (3) Gods of equal rank and of the same nature.
9. The Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ in spirit form.
10. Jesus Christ is God who became man and ceased to be God.
11. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but lesser in rank than the Father.

See Appendix C for the answer key

Why is this important?

- Different groups have different teachings about the nature of the Trinity.
- Christian cults like INC, Jehovah's Witnesses, United Pentecostals, and Mormons oppose Scriptural teaching.
- Islam teaches that Christians believe in a Trinity of God the Father, Jesus and Mary.

Even among Christians

- The Trinity is a difficult thing to explain.
- The more detailed we become in our explanation, often the more problems we encounter.
- The complexity of the Trinity lends itself to misunderstanding.

Discussion 1

Assign two people in your group to engage in a discussion. The first is a Christian. The second is not a Christian. The non-Christian should challenge the Christian's belief in the Trinity. The Christian should defend their belief in the Trinity. Other group members should make observations about the interaction. What did you learn?

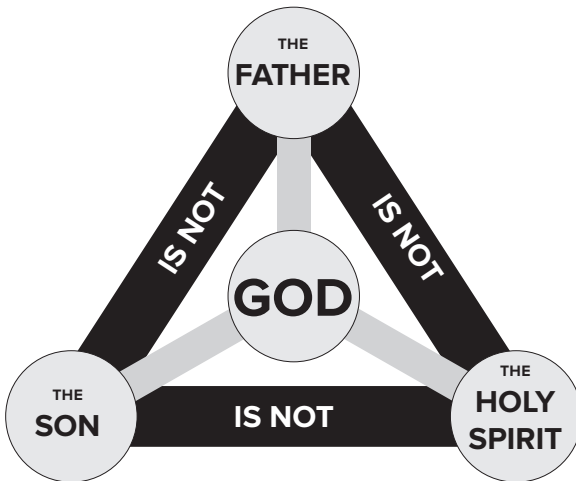
What should we know?

We believe that there is only one GOD eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and Man.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and possesses all the Divine attributes.

Right View of the Trinity



Some Bad Illustrations

- Water
- Sun
- Human Father
- Egg

Wrong views of the Trinity

- Modalism – God is one, but at various times reveals Himself in different modes
- Arianism – God is one, but Jesus as the Son of God was created by the Father and is not of the same substance
- Partialism – God is found in three parts which together constitute the Godhead.

Right view of the Trinity

Athanasian Creed:

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another.

But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

Biblical support for the Trinity

Verses that:

- Refer to the three persons of the Godhead together
- Directly teach that Jesus is God
- Show Jesus doing things that God does
- Directly teach that the Holy Spirit is God
- Show the Holy Spirit doing what God does

*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the **name** of the **Father** and the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*

Matthew 28:19-20

- “in the Name of”
- The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit do have one name: God.
- The concept of the Trinity is in the Bible.

*...who are chosen ²according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of **the Spirit**, to obey **Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood...*

1 Peter 1:1-2

- God the Father
- Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ

The Trinity all work together in order to accomplish our salvation.

*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

*Then God said, '**Let Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'*

Genesis 1:26

- All three of the Trinity was also part of creation

*but at the proper time manifested, even His word, in the proclamation with which I was entrusted according to the commandment of **God our Savior**,⁴ to Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and **Christ Jesus our Savior**.*

Titus 1:3-4

- God is our savior. And so is Jesus.
- They are both God
- They are just one and the same – God the Father and God the Son

The use of the word “Elohim” for God

אל = El, god or God
אלהים = El + ohim (plural form)

Discussion 2

What have you learned so far about the nature of the Trinity?

What strikes you as most important?

Biblical support for the Trinity

Verses that:

- Refer to the three persons of the Godhead together.
- Directly teach that Jesus is God
- Show Jesus doing things that God does
- **Directly teach that the Holy Spirit is God**
- Show the Holy Spirit doing what God does

The Holy Spirit is God

*But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie **to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back some of the price of the land? ⁴While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have **not lied to men but to God.**’*

Acts 5:3-4

- They lied to the Holy Spirit and to God, Who is one and the same.

*I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another** Helper, that He may be with you forever;*

John 14:16

*“I will ask the Father, and He will give you **“allos”** Helper, that He may be with you forever;”*

Allos = Another of the same kind, the same essence.

Heteros = Another of a different kind

*how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal** Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

Hebrews 9:14

- Only God is eternal.
- The Holy Spirit existed from eternity past.

*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters.*

Genesis 1:1-2

- The Holy Spirit was with God when He was creating the world
- The Holy Spirit existed before creation.

*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the **breath** of His mouth all their host.*

Psalms 33:6

- *Ruach* – breath = spirit in Hebrew

The **Spirit of God** has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

Job 33:4

- The Holy Spirit imparts life to us
- He gives us both spiritual and physical life

You **send forth Your Spirit**, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.

Psalms 104:30

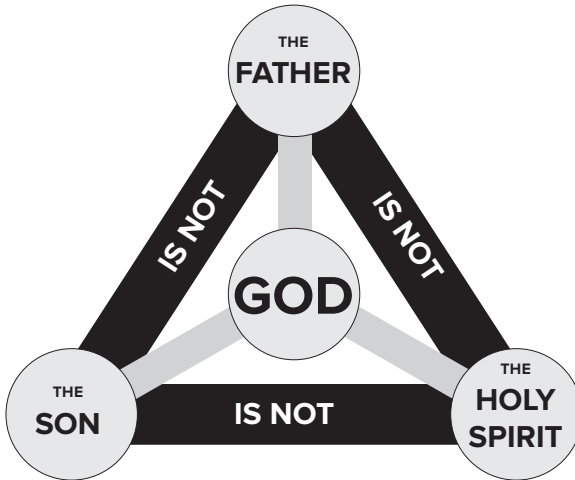
- The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation of the world.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ¹¹For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

- Nobody can really understand God.
- The only Person who can really fully understand God is God Himself, the Holy Spirit.

Implications of the Trinity



- Communication within the Godhead
- Jesus is interceding for us in front of the throne of God.
- God is not lacking anything. He is complete within Himself.

Discussion 3

What is the significance for us as believers that there are three persons of the Trinity?

How would you communicate the importance and reality of the Trinity to a new believer?

The Trinity is a mystery

- Mysteries are by nature mysterious.
- Finite humans cannot conceive of how God can be one essence in three persons.
- The mystery is not illogical or contradictory.
- It is beyond our experience.

The Trinity changes everything

- If God needed to create people to fulfill His relational nature, He would be incomplete.
- If God's nature did not include relationships, He could be as fickle and arbitrary as the gods of the nations.
- Love, mercy, justice, righteousness, etc. are part of His relational nature, and make it possible for us to be saved.

EXPERIENCE

How should we respond?

1. The Trinity is a tricky truth to understand. Further digest what you have learned by answering the table. Once you know what is clear, indicate who you will share this to.

	What is clear?	What is not clear?	Who will you share the clear things to?
Jesus			
God the Father			
Holy Spirit			
Trinity			

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will....

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

SESSION 6

MARRIAGE AND GENDER

MARRIAGE

EXPLORE

Find out how well you know these biblical couples and their circumstances by answering this fun trivia. Underline the letter of the correct answer.

1. What was the name of Abraham's wife?
a. Rachel **b. Sarah** **c. Rebekah** **d. Leah**
2. How was Isaac's wife chosen?
a. His father chose a local girl for him to marry
b. Isaac fell in love with his friend's daughter
c. His father sent a servant back to Mesopotamia to choose a wife from his own family
d. Isaac fell in love with his servant girl
3. Which of his wives did Jacob love the most?
a. Leah **b. Zilpah** **c. Rachel** **d. Bilhah**
4. What happened to Shechem, the prince who fell in love with Dinah, daughter of Jacob?
a. He married Dinah
b. He, his father, and the men of his city were slain by Dinah's brothers
c. He invited Dinah's family to live in his city
d. He eloped with Dinah, who never saw her family again
5. Where did Moses meet his future wife?
a. At a well in the land of Midian
b. In Pharaoh's palace in the land of Egypt
c. In the wilderness on the journey to the promised land
d. At the house of one of the Israelites

-
6. What were the restrictions on marriage for the daughters of Zelophehad?
- a. They must only have one husband each
 - b. They must marry within their tribe
 - c. They must marry before the age of thirty
 - d. They must marry whoever is chosen by the priest for them
7. What was the name of Ruth's second husband?
- a. Elimelech
 - b. Mahlon
 - c. Chilion
 - d. Boaz
8. Samson loved Delilah so much that she persuaded him to tell her what?
- a. The secret of his strength
 - b. Where the Ark of God was
 - c. How to defeat the Israelites
 - d. How many Philistines he had killed
9. What was the name of Abigail's first husband?
- a. Goliath
 - b. Uzzah
 - c. Joash
 - d. Nabal
10. What convinced David he was in love with Bathsheba, to the extent that he was prepared to commit adultery?
- a. He saw her take a bath, and saw she was beautiful
 - b. He had dinner with her, and saw she was beautiful
 - c. He saw her with her husband, and saw she was beautiful
 - d. She was his servant, and he saw she was beautiful

-
11. Who did Amnon love, and then hate even more than he had loved her?
a. Dinah **b.** Tamar **c.** Leah **d.** Abigail
12. Who told his wife not to worry that she was barren and said, “am not I better to thee than ten sons”?
a. Abraham **b.** Jacob **c.** Elkanah **d.** Manoah
13. What was the occupation of Hosea’s wife?
a. Housekeeper
b. Dyer of cloth
c. Harlot
d. Money lender
14. Which married couple did Paul become friends with at Corinth?
a. Ananias & Sapphira
b. Aquila & Priscilla
c. Jason & Lydia
d. Peter & Mary
15. Of what is the husband’s love for the wife a symbol?
a. God’s love for us
b. Christ’s love for the church
c. Man’s love for woman
d. Adam’s love for Eve

See Appendix D for the answer key

Why is this important?

- Family is one of our core values
- Family breakdown is rampant
- Our culture assumes, if two people love each other, sexual intimacy is normal
- The LGBT movement is influencing global media and society
- Many reject Christ because they see believers as judgmental and hypocritical

Even among Christians...

- Questions about divorce and remarriage, especially for new believers
- Christians also struggle with sexual identity
- Lack of openness about gender issues causes people to hide struggles
- Tendency to judge and condemn

Discussion 1

Do you know people who have experienced broken marriages or families? What are their questions and struggles?

Have you known people who struggle with sexual identity? How does that affect their faith in Christ?

What should we know?

CCF Statement of Faith about Marriage

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4)

I. God's Design

Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' ²⁷*God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Genesis 1:26-27

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7

*Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper **suitable for him.**’*

Genesis 2:18

- The original Hebrew word is, **עֵזֶר כְּנֶגְדּוֹ** “ezer kenegdo”, meaning, “a helper suitable”.
- God has designed the wife to be a strong support that will help the man because it is not good for him to be alone.

*The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper **suitable for him.** ²¹So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The Lord God **fashioned** into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.*

Genesis 2:20-22

- Woman was “God fashioned,” or molded exactly the way that He wanted her to be.

*“The man said, ‘This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.’”*

Genesis 2:23

- In Hebrew, this is an exclamation!
- God created Woman, exactly to be the right person for Adam.
- From the very beginning, the intention of God was to create a couple, a Man and a Wife that would perfectly complement each other.
- This reflects the relational image of God as seen in the Trinity.

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become **one flesh**.*

Genesis 2:24

- Being created in the image of God, they are one being - a reflection of how God is one with three persons.
- God never intended that the husband and wife would be separated. Later on, the Israelites were allowed to divorce but that was not the original intention!
- From the very beginning, the intention of the marriage relationship was to reflect what God is like, a perfect unity, that is never broken. This has implications for how we view divorce and re-marriage.

*“Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, ‘Is it lawful for a man **to divorce** his wife **for any reason at all?**’⁴ And He answered and said, ‘Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female,⁵ and said, “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh”?’⁶ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.⁷ They said to Him, ‘Why then did Moses **command** to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?’⁸ He said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart Moses **permitted** you to divorce your wives; but **from the beginning it has not been this way.**’⁹ And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, **except for immorality**, and marries another woman commits adultery.’¹⁰ The disciples said to Him, ‘If the relationship of the man with his wife is like this, it is better not to marry.’”*

Matthew 19:3-10

- During that time, it was acceptable in that culture to divorce.
- In His answer, Jesus was saying that from the very beginning, the intention of marriage is for a permanent union. Divorce was never intended to be acceptable.
- Moses gave the certificate of divorce to protect the woman so that she could not be wrongly accused of adultery, and that she would have a legal document to support it.

Parallel passages:

Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife. ³And He answered and said to them, ‘What did Moses command you?’ ⁴They said, ‘Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.’ ⁵But Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. ⁷For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and the two shall become one flesh; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate.’

Mark 10:2-9

*In the house the disciples began questioning Him about this again. ¹¹And He said to them, ‘**Whoever** divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she herself divorces her husband and marries another man, she is committing adultery.’”*

Mark 10:10-12

***Everyone** who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he who marries one who is divorced from a husband commits adultery.*

Luke 16:18

-
- There is no escape clause here; the passage is clear, that marrying after getting divorced is adultery. This is for everyone with no exceptions.
 - What is expected from God's side is marriage relationships should stay together permanently.
 - God desires forgiveness and restoration for every marriage relationship facing challenges and difficulties.

*But to the married I give instructions, not I, but the Lord, that the wife should not leave her husband ¹¹(but if she does leave, she must **remain unmarried**, or else **be reconciled** to her husband), and that the husband should **not divorce his wife**.*

1 Corinthians 7:10-11

- Context: Paul was speaking to the Corinthians who came from a very pagan environment
- Paul's advice:

*But to the rest I say, not the Lord, that if any brother has a wife who is an unbeliever, and she consents to live with him, he **must not** divorce her. ¹³And a woman who has an unbelieving husband, and he consents to live with her, she **must not** send her husband away.”*

1 Corinthians 7:12-13

- Paul’s opinion: don’t divorce your unbelieving spouse if they are willing to stay together

Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

1 Corinthians 7:15

- If the unbelieving party wants to divorce, you cannot do anything about it.

*Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches... ²⁰Each man must **remain in that condition in which he was called.***

1 Corinthians 7:17,20

- Don’t try to unscramble scrambled eggs.
- Strive to have a Christ-centered relationship from this point forward.

-
- The basic tenor of Scripture is marriage is a permanent union between a man and a wife.
 - Don't look for a way out of the marriage

“Irreconcilable Differences?”

I have known many happy marriages, but never a compatible one. The whole aim of marriage is to fight through and survive the instant when incompatibility becomes unquestionable. For a man and a woman, as such, are incompatible.

G. K. CHESTERTON

- Jesus' intent is for us to be more like Christ. And often it is conflict and friction that makes Christlikeness happen. God's intent is for marriage to be a permanent union until death.

II. Marriage – A Permanent Covenant

A. Marriage was God's idea; it is integral to who we were created to be.

- Being single does not mean that one is incomplete.

1. It is a reflection of His Triune nature

- The unity of the Trinity can never be broken. This is why marriages should not end in divorce.

2. It is at the center of spiritual warfare – the focus of the rebellion of Satan

- Satan attacks the husband and wife.
- It is always spiritual warfare.

III. CCF Policy on Remarriage

A. CCF encourages couples whenever possible to seek forgiveness and reconciliation

1. For those who cannot reconcile, in general we recommend separation, not divorce/annulment
2. For those in a second relationship, we generally do not perform re-marriages
3. Exceptions are considered by the elders on a case-to-case basis.

B. Some common questions

1. “If we are in love, then what is wrong with being physically intimate?”
 - Sex is part of God’s design. He made this for procreation, for unification as a couple, but is specific for the marriage relationship.
 - We need to follow God’s plan.
 - Pre-marital sex actually damages relationships later on.
 - People who engage in pre-marital sex have less sexual satisfaction than those who have been married for many years.
 - Pre-marital sex is not honoring to God.

2. “How will we know if we are compatible?”

- Josh McDowell says, “The plumbing almost always works”. The physical attributes of sex will almost always work.

3. “What if we are no longer in love?”

- Love is not a feeling. Love is essentially a commitment that we make to love another person.
- Feelings are not the determinant of whether you will stay committed in a relationship.

4. “What about abusive relationships?”

- One needs to be protected and leave the situation for a period of time to be able to get help.
- But this is not grounds for divorce. This is just a chance to step back from the relationship to be able to reboot.
- For physical abuse, get out of the situation and seek to address the issues that caused this abuse. For verbal abuse, seek counseling and get disciplers involved.

Discussion 2

How would you counsel an unmarried couple who feels there is nothing wrong with being intimate?

Under what circumstances would you say that divorce is acceptable biblically? What about separation? What about remarriage?

EXPERIENCE

How should we respond?

1. The world has many lies that make our minds not believe in God's truth. Name the lies of the world about marriage, divorce and remarriage. For each lie, give the biblical truth. Then write down names of who you will share this to.

	Worldly Lies	Biblical Truths	Who you will share this to
Marriage			
Divorce			
Remarriage			

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will...

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

GENDER

EXPLORE

Take turns in sharing to the group your thoughts or opinion on the following:

1. What will be your reaction if your child or someone you care about admits that he is a gay/lesbian? Why?
2. How will you respond to this situation?

EXAMINE

What should we know?

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, CCF will only recognize and solemnize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman who are committed to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as biologically male or biologically female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

I. God's Design

*Then God said, 'Let Us make man **in Our image**, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' ²⁷God created man **in His own image**, in the image of God He created him; **male and female** He created them.*

Genesis 1:26-27

A. What is God's Image?

1. Moral
2. Intellectual
3. Creative
4. Spiritual
5. Relational

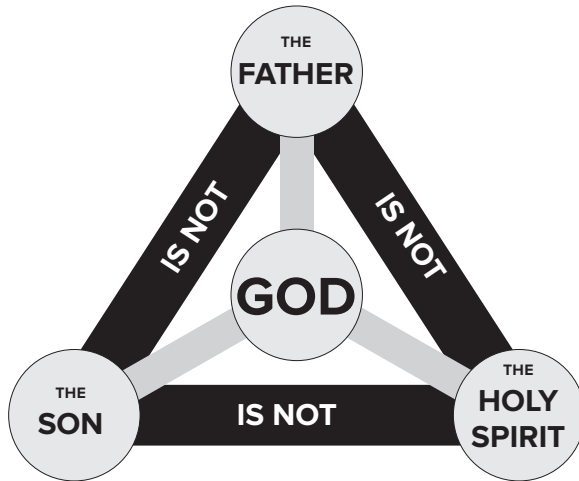
*The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper **suitable for him**.*

Genesis 2:20

*So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. ²²The Lord God **fashioned** into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. “*

Genesis 2:21-22

B. God's Nature: Trinity



- Man and woman are different from one another and complement each other.
- These differences reflect the image of God, just like the Godhead is one but different from each other.

God's nature is Triune – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Each person of the Godhead **is different**, but each is in perfect relationship with each other.

Man in the image of God is also relational – but his most intimate relationship cannot be with someone that is **the same as himself**.

- Man and man or woman and woman cannot reflect the image of God.

But since sexual immorality is occurring, each man should have sexual relations with his own wife, and each woman with her own husband.”

1 Corinthians 7:2 (NIV)

- God’s intention for sex has always been man and woman, a husband and wife, within the confines of marriage.

C. Is homosexual sex sin?

1. Scripture says repeatedly that it is.

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, ²⁷and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

Romans 1:26-27

-
- Man disobeyed God; sin (lawlessness and rebellion) was never God's intent for man.

realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are lawless and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers ¹⁰and immoral men and homosexuals and kidnappers and liars and perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound teaching...

1 Timothy 1:9-10

If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

Leviticus 20:13

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

Leviticus 18:22

- The sin of homosexuality is not worse than any other sin. The penalty for homosexuality is the same penalty for children who disrespect their parents.

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, ¹⁰nor thieves, nor the covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

- In all these passages, homosexuality is not singled out as a unique sin. This is in the same category as disobedience and drunkenness.

2. What is worse than homosexuality?

In addition to homosexuality, there are numerous sinful behaviors that are condemned. These include: murder, swindling, adultery, immorality, fornication, perjury, stealing, kidnapping, idolatry, lying, being covetous, drunkenness, or reviling.

- There is no hierarchy of how bad a sin is. They are all in the same category as disobedience to God.
- There is a wrong perception on homosexuality that it is the worst kind of sin. They are all at the same level.

3. Who is a worse sinner?

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, ²¹envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:19-21

- In this passage, homosexuality is not mentioned but it is listed under the general sin of immorality.
- As Christians we have been guilty of making homosexuality far worse than any other sin.
- This is unfortunately reflected in our judgment of people.
- We are also guilty of thinking that homosexuality is worse than the sin we commit. This is why homosexuals feel judged and condemned by Christians.

Straightening up, Jesus said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?' 'She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.'

John 8:10-11

- Jesus doesn't excuse the sin of the woman.
- Jesus doesn't condemn her.
- When we see people sin, we have to be able to call out the sin and hold off on the condemnation.
- Love the person because this is what Jesus would have done.

In summary

- Homosexual sex is sin.
- Clearly representing oneself as the opposite sex, when they are not such is sin.
- We should not reject the humanity of other people and condemn them.
- Jesus is our prime example, in Romans 5:8, it states that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

D. Some Common Questions

1. Is attraction to the same sex sin?

- No. Attraction to a person of the same sex is not sin. Sin is acting on the attraction and having sexual relations with the person of the same sex.
- Temptation is not sin. Giving in to the temptation and acting out on the temptation is sin.

2. What is wrong with having a committed same sex relationship?

- God's intention for a marriage is for man and woman.
- Even if we insist that there is no difference with homosexual relationships, one will see that the biology clearly states differently.

3. What if I have tried to change but I just can't?

- One's goal is to act purely before God.
- It is possible to be attracted to the opposite sex and to the same sex. The goal is not to eliminate the attraction. The goal is to live according to the design of God.

-
- If you are struggling with trying to change but not changing, you have two options:
 1. Live a celibate life. Honor God by keeping yourself pure by not having sexual relations with anyone for life.
 2. Wait for God to change you. This may not happen instantly but in the meantime, commit to being pure.

 - 4. If I don't speak out against homosexuality, am I not condoning it?
 - Check yourself, are you speaking out the same way against other sins such as lying?

 - Loving people, lovingly confronting their sinful behavior, but not condemning them and bringing them to faith in Christ, is a much more productive way to address things.

 - God will deal with the sin, our job is bridge people to Christ.

 - We need to extend more grace than usual to the LGBTQ community.

Discussion 3

How would you respond to a gay person who says they don't want to believe in Christ because they feel judged by Christians?

How should we respond?

1. What are your perspectives about same-sex relationships before? What are your attitudes towards the LGBTQ community before? And now after this session, what changes occurred in your perspectives or attitudes towards them? Use the chart below to indicate those.

Before		After	
Perspective	Attitudes	Perspective	Attitudes
Ex. It is fine as long as they are happy	Condoning the homosexual act		

2. As a result of what I have learned today, before next week I will....

Share with your group your personal application of this session. Pray together that God would allow you to follow through on your commitment.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Source: Dr. Jim Welchel
Building Foundations for Life
Foundations for Christian Leadership

GOD: HIS CREATION AND SOVEREIGNTY

God is not the product of someone's imagination, nor is He the result of some philosopher's great insight. The God of the Bible, the God who has revealed Himself to us, is a God who is known by His great works among us on earth. Most theologians speak of two major categories of the works of God: His creation and His sovereignty. Although we will see that God is personally involved in all of our lives at all times, we will see that these two areas cover His works as well.

God's Creation

The opening verses of the Bible give us a record of God's most remarkable act prior to Christ: His creation of the world. When an artist "creates" a masterpiece, he takes things that already exist (paint and canvas) and forms them into a painting. God's creation was entirely different. The Hebrew word used, **bara**, is used in this form only about God. We as people can make something out of existing material; only God can create something out of nothing. God created the entire universe by simply speaking it into existence (Gen. 1:1). Where nothing existed before, God spoke and the universe was called into being.

What did God create? Scripture lists many things that were part of the creation: the physical universe, including the sun, moon, stars and the earth; plant and animal life (Gen. 1,2); the spiritual world, including angels and Satan, who was later to lead a rebellion against his Creator (Col. 1:16 cf. Eph. 6:12; Ps. 148:2-5); and ultimately man, the crown of His creation (Gen. 2:7). John 1:1-3 tells us that nothing that now exists has come into being except through the creative work of the Word who became flesh.

Why did God create the world? The ultimate purpose of God in creation, as in all things, is to reveal His own glory. It is through the creation that He displays His great power and majesty, so that we may see the greatness of God (Ps. 8:1-9; 19:1). Our response should be as the Psalmist says,

*Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvelous deeds among all peoples.
For Great is the Lord and most worthy
of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.
For all of the gods of the nations are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens. Splendor
and majesty are before Him; strength
and glory are in his sanctuary.*

Psalm 96:3-6

God's Sovereignty

All around us our world appears to be in chaos. Wars rage around the world. Famines, storms and earthquakes strike millions every year. Poverty increases, while the continuing struggle for prosperity has put great stress on the resources of the world. Pollution, global warming and overpopulation promise to be difficult problems in the decades ahead. Is the world spinning out of control?

If we understand who God is, we can answer a resounding “No!” The world is, and always has been, within the loving and sovereign grasp of our great God. All of these events are actually evidence that the completion of His plan is coming soon. He will reign victorious!

The question of whether God is in control is actually related to God's sovereignty. As mentioned under God's attributes, God's sovereignty means that He rules over all. He is the King over all His creation, and ultimately all of the creation answers to Him. How does He rule?

The Decree of God -- God's Plan for Creation

God's rule is governed by what theologians call, "God's decree." A decree is an order given by a ruler. Since God is sovereign, and since He is omnipotent as well, whatever God orders to take place will take place. The decree of God is His plan in which He foretold from eternity past (Eph. 1:4) everything that would take place (Eph. 1:11).

The Bible records many of the specifics that are governed by His decree. These include: The physical world (Ps. 33:6-11); the boundaries of the nations (Deut. 32:8; Acts 17:26); governments (Rom. 13:1-7); the rulers of nations (Dan. 2:21; 4:35); Israel's elect role (Gen. 12:1-3); the rule of the Messiah over Israel (Ps. 2; Zech. 14:12-21); the length of one's life (Job 14:5); how we are to die (John 21:19); how the family should work (Gen. 2:18); that marriage should be permanent (Matt. 19:1-9); that families should have children (Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7); and many other aspects of life.

Few believers would ever consciously doubt that God is sovereign. But His decrees raise two critical questions:

If God is sovereign, can man actually choose his own destiny? While Scripture shows us clearly that God is sovereign, it shows equally that man is responsible for his choices. In Josh. 24:15 Joshua tells the people, "...choose for yourselves this day who you will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." From Joshua's perspective, the choice was in the hands of the people. This is clear

in many other passages of Scripture, particularly those passages related to our salvation.

Yet, whatever the decision of the Israelites, or our decisions concerning salvation or ordering our lives, God remains in control. Many decisions are intended by man for evil, which is certainly against God's will. Yet God can and does cause them to result in good (Gen. 45:4-7). While God considers the response of man in exercising His sovereignty (Jer. 8:7-10), He never relinquishes his sovereignty because of man's choices. While it remains a mystery how God retains sovereign control and yet allows for meaningful choices by His creation, the Bible affirms that both are true.

If God is sovereign, why is their evil and suffering in the world? This is actually just another way of asking the question above. If God did not allow man to make any choices, certainly there would be no evil or suffering. Yet God sovereignly has chosen to allow man some degree of freedom to choose, which resulted in the fall of Adam and all of the consequences of that fall.

Habakkuk once asked God this very question. Alarmed at the evil he saw in Israel, Habakkuk asked God to intervene (1:2-4). But he was shocked when God's instrument to rebuke Israel was Babylon, a country far more evil than Israel, and again he complained to God (1:12-2:1). God's answer (2:2ff) was that, though the Babylonians were evil, even their evil was within the limits He had set, and ultimately they would be judged by God themselves for their sin.

This dialogue between God and Habakkuk helps us to understand more fully when evil and suffering happen to us. All of us are tempted to question God when adversity comes. What would you think if a typhoon destroys your home, or if a member of your congregation gets AIDS from a blood transfusion during an emergency operation at the hospital? We all feel that somehow God should do something about it, so that the righteous do not suffer with the unrighteous.

God's answer is basically this: wait. God is just, He is loving, and He knows what you are going through. While it may seem that He is not acting, in the proper time and in the proper way He will make things right. We are assured that in the future He will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and all will be as it should have been all along.

SOME BASIC PRINCIPLES ON SUFFERING

Most of the time we are only aware of the problem of pain and suffering when we are experiencing it. Our first response is usually, “Why is this happening to me? Is it because of something I did wrong? Doesn’t God love me?” Here are several biblical principles to help you through those tough times:

Accept God’s Work in Your Life.

- **Accept trials as from God.** Trials are part of God’s purifying process in my life. Accepting that this trial or difficulty is part of God’s purpose for my life opens me to learn what He intends to teach me. Trials and tribulations are normal in the Christian life (1 Pet. 2:20-24; John 12:24-26). God does not promise a life free from trials, but the strength to face the trials and come through them victoriously (Phil. 4:13).
- **Accept the lessons God gives you.** Trials teach us perseverance (James 1:3-5); anticipation of heaven (Heb. 2:9-18; 1 Pet. 5:10); how to minister to others in need (2 Cor. 1:5-7); and how to live in obedience to Christ (Heb. 12:11). More than anything, trials teach us to appreciate the pain Jesus went through on our behalf (Phil. 3:10, 11). If anyone has experienced suffering, Jesus has.
- **Accept yourself as you go through trials.** There are times we condemn ourselves because we feel that we are not “spiritual” enough. But being spiritual does not mean not being sad when a loved one dies, or not being lonely when we are struggling with a crisis in our lives. We may be depressed or grieve like anyone else, but still learn more about trusting the Lord in the process.

-
- **Accept others as well.** Like Job found, trials often bring out the best, and worst, in those you love. When Job’s wife said, “Curse God and die,” I doubt that Job was encouraged by her thoughtfulness and concern. But friends and loved ones around you are human too. Some may minister to you; others may offend you. Be willing to learn from their mistakes in the future when you minister to someone else in pain. And enjoy the blessing of those who truly do minister to you in times of trial.

Practice the Presence of Christ

- **Through His Word.** It is often when we are struggling that God speaks to us most clearly through His Word. Even when it seems most difficult, find comfort and direction in His Word.
- **In prayer.** David cried out to the Lord when he was down, and poured out his tears to the Lord. He was called a man after God’s own heart because he shared his deepest thoughts with the Lord. Spend time talking to God when trials come. He is eager to respond to your cry. God may not answer your request to know why something happens. But He will surely give you strength to endure.

GOD: HIS PERSON AND NATURE

We have seen in the last sessions that God has chosen to reveal Himself because He wants to be known, and to restore the relationship with us that He originally intended. The message of His revelation in Scripture is aimed at bringing a lost world back into a proper relationship with Himself. This being the case, the first question usually asked in theology is, “What is God like?” If He has chosen to make Himself known, what has He revealed about Himself? This, in theological terms, is what is known as “Theology Proper,” or the study of God the Father.

Who is God?

In Exodus 2 the Bible records a very important conversation between Moses and God at the burning bush. Before Moses agreed to ask Pharaoh that the children of Israel be set free, he needed to know the name of the One who had sent him. In the Bible, we find that often a name was much more important than just what someone is called -- it often defined the nature of the person. The answer that God gave to Moses, the name He chose to reveal Himself by, was very significant: He is YHWH, which in Hebrew means, “I AM,” or “I Am That I Am.”

While this name has many implications, certainly one of them is that God’s existence is certain -- He is in a way that none of us are. He is, was and always will be, not because of anything or anyone, but because He simply is. God’s existence is the basic fact of the universe. God’s existence is a certainty which makes sense of everything else in our lives and in the world around us -- if God did not exist, there would be no purpose or meaning in life.

Scripture tells us some other important things about God which help us to understand what He is really like.

God's Nature

God is Spirit. John 4:24

The Bible tells us that God is Spirit. That means that God is not material (He has no material body), He is invisible (we cannot see Him with our eyes), and He is not limited by time or space. He is not like us with a physical body or physical limitations.

God is Infinite. 2 Chronicles 2:5 6

God has no bounds or limits. He is separate and different from all else (Is. 46:9 10). God is not like anyone else in His creation, because everyone else is limited in some way.

God is Personal. Genesis 1:26 27

Even though He is far greater than us, or than anything or anyone we know, He is also very personal. He wants to be known, and desires fellowship with the people He created. God is not an "it." The words used to refer to Him are always personal...

"Let us make man in our image" Gen. 1:26 27
"I am the Lord...He is my maker"

Food for Thought

Many people worship gods who are far away, distant and unconcerned. But the God of the Bible, the God of History, the true and living God, our God, is personal and deeply concerned for His creation.

How is your view of God? Do you sometimes feel that He is far from you, or not aware of how you are or what you are going through? God has taken great pains to allow us to know Him, because He deeply cares for each of the people He has made.

On the other hand, perhaps you sometimes feel that God just cannot take care of all the problems you face. Somehow you feel He is in some way limited. He might want to help, but He can't. This is also not true of the God we serve. Some years ago a Christian leader in England wrote a book entitled, "Your God is Too Small." How big is your God?

These descriptions of who God is lead to another way of describing God -- by seeing God's attributes in the Bible.

God's Attributes

The attributes of God are those characteristics of God which identify or distinguish Him as God. They tell us what God is like. Just as you have certain characteristics by which you are known—your height, your way of talking, your personality, etc.—so God has attributes by which He is known. Just what are these attributes? In this section we will discuss 10 attributes. Some theologians list more, some subdivide these further, but these give an idea of the main attributes of the personal, infinite God we love and worship.

God is Sovereign. 1 Chronicles 29:11-12

Sovereign means that God has the authority to rule over all. God makes decisions and sets up principles. He doesn't ask permission, but rules as He pleases. Eventually all of history will turn out the way that God had intended it from the beginning. God never loses control.

There are times that we may not yet see the purpose that He is accomplishing through His deeds. But we can be certain that in the end everything will work out according to His plan.

God is omniscient. 1 John 3:20

God knows all things. He never learns something new—He already knows everything. Before there is a word on our tongue, God knows what we are about to say (Ps. 139:4). He always has and always will know everything that has happened, that is happening or that ever will happen.

Nothing ever takes God by surprise, including those things which surprise you. You may be surprised that you are capable of a certain sin, or that someone in your church could hurt you or say things about you as they do. But God is not surprised. He died for both of you knowing full well how sinful all of us are.

God is omnipresent. Psalm 139:7-10

God is everywhere all the time. There is nowhere you will go that He is not there. The directions seen in this passage are very interesting. Heaven is up, Sheol is down, the dawn is in the East and the great sea, for David, is in the West. The picture David shows is that anywhere you try to go to flee God, He is already there. God has the whole map covered.

While we know that God is everywhere, for the believer this has a special significance. No matter what the circumstances, God promises His personal presence is always there (Heb. 13:5). God is not like the super-heroes in the comics—we are not quite sure if they can make it back in time to save the heroine. Our God is already there.

God is omnipotent. Job 42:2

God is all powerful. There is nothing impossible for Him. Nothing you face is too hard for Him. God's rebuke to Job was simple: Who are you to talk back to me—can you do the things I can? Of course, we cannot. But God can do anything that is consistent with His nature.

Sometimes we are afraid to pray for miracles because God might look bad if He doesn't answer. What will our children think if they pray for something really difficult and God does not answer? Perhaps the problem is that we do not believe He can answer. God can do whatever He chooses, and prayer often moves Him to act in clearly supernatural ways.

God is immutable. Hebrews 13:8

God never changes His nature or His attributes. When God says He will do something you can count on it.

We are often disappointed in relationships with friends or family members because they change. They promise something, and do not keep their promise. They might normally do something for us, but when we really need them, they let us down. But God does not. He doesn't have "bad days," doesn't suddenly become unreasonable, or get angry without reason. He remains consistent with what He promises to do.

God is eternal. Revelation 1:8

God is self-existent. His existence has no beginning or no end. There has never been a time when God did not exist and there will never be a time when He ceases to exist. Even before time began, He was there.

Our assurance of heaven is based on the sure fact that God is eternal. God is not dooming us to never-ending reincarnation until our karma is overcome, but promises eternal communion with our Creator in perfect enjoyment and peace. Though we do not deserve it, we share in the eternal inheritance of His own Son.

God is righteous. Psalm 145:17

God is morally perfect. It is impossible for Him to do anything wrong, and even if it was He wouldn't! Both His motives and His actions are always right.

Before we accuse God of doing something bad to us when we experience difficulties and trials, remember that He always does what is right. While we may feel bad, or struggle in times of sorrow or pain, we can have the assurance that God's choices for us and for our lives are good. They may be hard, or they may even be painful—but they are always right.

God is just. Deuteronomy 32:4

He is absolutely fair. It is impossible for Him to be unfair. He does not discriminate due to race, gender, status, position or power. He will never give someone else special treatment. He executes justice in accordance with His righteousness. Though we may not see His justice executed immediately, He will always act justly in the end.

We should be careful when we pray for justice. If you pray for justice to be done to another (perhaps vengeance is a better term), ask yourself if you are prepared to receive God's judgment for every time you have done harm to another. It is very likely that, if God gave us what we really deserve, we would not like it. It is better to pray—in humility—for grace and mercy.

God is love. 1 John 4:16

God's love is perfect. Because He is eternal, His love has no beginning or end. Because He is infinite, His love has no limit. Because He is righteous, His love is perfect and right. He freely gives His perfect love to all who will accept it.

You and I can do nothing to cause God to love us more. No amount of service, sacrifice or sentiment can make Him love you more than He already does. Do not try to make Him love you by working harder—take time to experience the love that He already has for you.

God is truth. 2 Samuel 7:28

God's words are absolutely true. Anything that is in conflict to His word is not truth.

Often our circumstances are used by Satan to cause us to doubt what we know from God's Word is true. But God's Word is truer than our circumstances, our feelings and Satan's promises. We must cling to God's truth without doubting (James 1:5-7).

God is Three Persons in One God

All God's attributes work together in harmony, and all are true of each of the members of the Trinity.

The Attributes of God

Incommunicable Not shared by His Creatures	Communicable Shared by His Creatures
Sovereign	Eternal
Omniscient	Righteous
Omnipresent	Just
Omnipotent	Love
Immutable	Truth

FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
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All members of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) possess all the attributes of God. If you study the Scriptures you can find these attributes for each member of Godhead that is one of the best proofs of the deity of Jesus and the deity of the Holy Spirit. The only distinction is in personality and function.

For instance, consider our salvation. God the Father planned it, and sent His Son be sacrificed for us. Jesus obediently gave Himself as a sacrifice to make salvation possible. The Holy Spirit completes the work of salvation in the individual believer by convicting him of sin and causing him to be born again. It is all one salvation supplied entirely by our great God, but each member of the Trinity has an important role in bringing it about. We will be seeing in later sessions that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are equal with the Father in the Godhead according to Scripture.

THE TRINITY

Throughout Christian history one of the most critical issues of theology has been to understand and properly represent the nature of the Godhead through the doctrine of the Trinity. In the early church, great discussions were held in order to properly define the relationship between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Throughout history as well, error concerning the Trinity has been one of the key dividing issues identifying heresies and cults. The Apostle John made it clear that a wrong view of the relationship of Jesus with the Father was the critical issue in determining which teachers were from God and which were not (1 John 4:1-6). That issue remains critical for us today.

Many cultic groups claim to be Christian, but on closer examination are found to be heresies. The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is the Son of God, but not God. Likewise the United Pentecostals (Oneness) do not believe that Jesus is equal with the Father. Quiboloy teaches a similar doctrine to Oneness (Jesus is not God), but goes further in claiming that his

status is equal to that of Jesus Christ. The Mormons believe that Jesus became a god, and each of us can become gods as well. This is a very cleverly disguised form of polytheism—the belief that there are many gods. The Unification Church of Son Yung Moon (known also as “Moonies” or the Holy Spirit Association) believes that Moon is another incarnation of Jesus because Jesus failed in his first mission. In the Philippines, the Iglesia ni Kristo denies the Deity of Christ as well.

How do we discern what groups are teaching the truth and which are not?

What is the Trinity?

One of the greatest challenges for theology is to try to put into simple words concepts that are unlike anything else in our experience. Since there is nothing in our experience exactly like God, and since He is beyond our comprehension, our explanations of His nature are of limited help. This is particularly true of an understanding of the Trinity. The Bible makes a number of clear statements about God, and the relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can assert that it is true because God has so revealed it. But we have never met a person who is a perfect unity, yet subsists in three persons. To try to explain such a being is very difficult.

Actually, the word “Trinity” is not in the Bible, as most cultic groups will be quick to point out. The word “Trinity” may not even be the best description of what God is like. But the Bible strongly supports two important aspects to the nature of God, and we must uphold these if we are to remain faithful to what Scripture says:

1. God is One in regard to His essence. Essence means His basic being—what He is made of. In Deuteronomy 6:4, the Jews were instructed that the most basic thing to know about God was that He is a unity. While all the nations around them had lots of gods, and each god has a small territory he or she controlled, the God of the Israelites was very different. He was the only God, and no other god could claim to be God compared to Him. The word for “one” used, “Echad” in Hebrew, denotes unity, just as Adam and Eve were called “one” (echad) in Gen. 2:24. The word “God” in Deut. 6:4 is “Elohim,” a plural form. This appears to leave room for the three persons of the Godhead, while making it absolutely clear that there are not many gods, but only One.

2. God is Three in regard to His Persons. The word “persons” is again not the best term to use, but is helpful in a limited sense. God’s essence is both One and composed of three “persons”—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are equal in all ways regarding their essence. They are all three God, and all one. They each bear the fullness of God (Col. 1:19). There is none which is of higher position or importance. There are two important aspects to further understand the nature of the three persons:

- The three persons have distinct relationships within the Godhead. The Father sent Jesus to earth. Jesus is called the only “begotten of the Father,” a term that theologians describe as “eternal generation of the Father.” Likewise, Jesus and the Father sent the Holy Spirit after His ascension, and thus the Holy Spirit is said to “proceed” from the Father and the Son. These relationships are eternal within the Godhead. They do not imply that one is less than the other, but that there is an inner harmony within the unity of the Godhead allowing for the proper relating of each member.

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- The three persons are equal in authority within the Godhead. While the interrelationships of generation and procession indicate a relationship within the members, scripture makes it clear that each carries the full authority of God. The Father is seen as authoritative and sovereign (1 Cor. 8:6), and so are the Son (John 5:21-23) and the Spirit (Matt. 12:31).

How do we determine if a person is a true believer? There are many popular heresies around, most of which have existed for centuries. Here are some of them:

Arianism/
INK, JW Jesus is less than God (the Son of God, a Prophet, etc.) Moonies

Moonies The Holy Spirit is less than God (an impersonal force, another spiritual being, etc.)

Polytheism/
Mormon There are several gods (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all gods; or there are many gods, not just these three)

Unitarian/
Muslim There is one God, but no persons

Modalism/
Jesus Only There is one God, but appearing in three modes, not unique persons in the Trinity.

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

The center of Christian faith is Jesus Christ. Understanding who He is and what He is like is critical in order to grow in our faith in Him. Not only that, but many cults and false doctrines have resulted from wrong teaching about Jesus. It is very important for us to see what the Bible teaches concerning the person, Jesus Christ.

The Importance of the SEED

The story of God's work to redeem man did not begin in the New Testament, but in the first chapters of Genesis. Even as God sent man out of the garden of Eden after the fall, He also promised that there would be a provision made to restore right relationship with God. This was the "seed" in Genesis 3:15. The seed meant that there would be a special person physically related to Eve who would return us to fellowship with the Father. This idea of a special seed repeated periodically through the Old Testament, and its fulfillment is seen in Jesus Christ. Some of the key passages:

Gen. 3:15—The first mention of the Seed is when God lists the consequences of the Fall. There would be enmity between the woman's seed (one of her descendants) and Satan. And while Satan would bruise the Seed of the woman, the fatal blow would be to Satan.

Gen 12:3—The Seed was further identified as coming from the offspring of Abraham. This descendent of Abraham would be a blessing to all nations.

Gen. 49:10—The future ruler of the whole world that would come is from the tribe of Judah. This future King will rule over the whole earth forever.

Deut. 18:15—God would send a Prophet like Abraham from the midst of Israel. This Prophet would be from among the brethren—a flesh and blood descendant of Israel.

Ps. 110:4-6—The descendent of David would not only be a king (v. 1-3), but also a priest of the order of Melchizedek (see also Heb. 7). As High Priest he would intercede on behalf of all men, not only the house of Israel.

Is. 53—God would send one who would redeem His people through personally suffering and dying for the iniquities of others.

Without a real person to fulfill these promises, God could not have redeemed us.

The Seed: Jesus the Man

Although it may seem obvious to us today, one fact has at times been overlooked: Jesus was a human being just as we are. Many passages of Scripture support this fact:

- He is called a man—John 8:40; Acts 2:22; Rom. 5:15; 1 Cor. 15:21
- His lineage is defined clearly—Matt. 1:1ff; Luke 3:23ff
- He is said to be revealed in the flesh—John 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 John 4:2

EVIDENCE OUTSIDE THE BIBLE

The Bible is not the only record of Jesus' life. There are several other ancient sources that record information concerning Jesus which support the claims of Scripture. Some of these are:

Non-Jewish--Pliny (Epistles X.96); Tacitus (Annals XV.44); and Suetonius (Lives XXV.4). These were each written within one century of the life of Jesus.

Jewish--Josephus (Antiquities XVIII.3.3; XX.9.1) and the Talmud. Josephus was writing during the same time the epistles were being composed, and it is likely Jesus was still alive while Josephus was growing up in Palestine.

While the evidence for his existence is clear, these sources from outside the Bible give us little data concerning his actual life and ministry. The Bible still gives us the clearest picture of His life and ministry.

What was Jesus like as a man?

- **He was a normal person**

We may sometimes wonder if Jesus was normal—was he just like us? The Bible shows that He possessed a real human nature. He had:

- **A Material body**

He ate, he drank, he slept, and he was thirsty. He experienced human growth (Luke 2:40). He suffered and died as a normal human (John 19:34). As a carpenter, He probably occasionally smashed His fingers when He missed a nail with the hammer. Jesus, like all of us, was subject to the frailty of a human body.

- **A Human Soul**

This is stated directly in Scripture (Matt. 26:38; John 11:33). Jesus demonstrated these human “soulish” characteristics:

Intellect. (Luke 2:52) Note that in Luke 2:40 it literally says that He grew full of wisdom. It was not that He needed to be corrected in what He thought, but that He needed to gain more wisdom as he grew.

Will. (Luke 9:51-53; Luke 22:42) When He faced the decision of going to the cross, it was a struggle. He had to choose not to obey the human will, but to do the Father’s will.

Emotions. Jesus experienced the full range of human emotions. He was angry (Matt. 21:12ff, Matt. 23:13ff); sad (John 11:35-38); and felt love (Matt. 23:37ff).

- **He was a Perfect Person**

We can be certain that Jesus was a normal human being just as we are. But being the Son of God also meant that He was different from us in certain ways as well. Some ways that He was different include:

His Virgin Birth

Teaching of Scripture. Scripture predicted that Jesus would be born of a virgin. The prophecy is found in Isa. 7:14, which says that a sign would be given, and the sign was that a young woman would bear a child. The Hebrew word used was “Almah,” which could mean either a young woman or a virgin. Many scholars believe this was because the prophecy was fulfilled in two senses. It was fulfilled first during the time that Isaiah made the prediction (which was a sign specifically given to King Ahaz). And the fulfillment was completed at the birth of Christ (Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26ff).

Significance. Some people have sought to prove that Jesus' sinlessness was because He was born only of the seed of the woman. But this actually has no biblical basis. Jesus was sinless because He was the product of the Holy Spirit from inception (Luke 1:35). Yet the Virgin Birth does prove that Jesus was not like any other person who has ever lived. It also points out two important things about our salvation: (See Erickson, **Christian Theology**, p. 757)

- Our salvation is supernatural, not natural. Jesus came to save us. But He was not like an ordinary man. Even His life began as the direct result of the Holy Spirit's power.

Jesus was not a normal man who, through His great self discipline or personal striving, became good enough to be our savior. He became our Savior through the supernatural work of God Himself.

- Our salvation is a gift of God's grace. Mary was chosen by God. But there is nothing in the Bible that gives us the idea that only Mary was worthy of carrying Jesus in her womb. She was chosen by God, that is why she is called blessed more than any woman who has lived.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE VIRGIN BIRTH

Some people today deny the virgin birth of Christ. There have been many arguments against this doctrine. One common argument is that the people were just uneducated. They did not know the medical facts about birth so they believed Mary's incredible story. Yet the Jews clearly understood the way that babies were made. Joseph offered to have Mary sent away to avoid the shame she would surely face. But she refused, maintaining her innocence.

Perhaps the most common objection today is the contention that it is just a myth. Some liberal scholars say it is part of the "folk-lore" that arose about Jesus after His death to prove what His disciples claimed was true. Some say the Virgin Birth is actually syncretism (a mixture of Christianity and another religion). They say this because in Greek mythology there are stories of "supernatural conceptions." They say the early Christians borrowed from mythology to make Jesus appear as important as the Greek gods.

However, there is no evidence that this could have been true. If one reads the strange stories about the Greek gods, it is clear that they were mythical. The Greeks never claimed to have historical evidence that any of their "superhero" gods really lived.

In addition, the source of the records of the virgin birth are primarily Jewish, not Greek. There is no record of any such Jewish myth. The only similarity is in the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, where the characters involved are clearly historical people. The words used to describe the virgin birth were common descriptions of ordinary life, not science fiction or myth. Although it was miraculous, it was historically verifiable -- one could check the story out by interviewing people who were there and see if it really happened.

This is not "mythical" language. C.S. Lewis, a great scholar of medieval literature at Cambridge University in England, was asked what he thought about the theory that Jesus' birth was only a myth. His response was that the idea was backwards. Rather than trying to see Jesus birth as a reflection of the ideas of mythology, actually all mythology of offspring born from the seed of gods could be traced to the truth of the birth of Christ. The virgin birth of Christ was the real thing, and all the myths about gods being born in miraculous ways were only poor copies of the original.

His Sinless Life

In His Conception. As mentioned above, this is not because there was no transmission of the sin nature. The sin nature is not passed on physically. Scripture chooses not to fully reveal how the sin nature is passed on, but it does make clear that in Jesus' case, He was not imputed the sin of Adam.

Jesus was sanctified by the Holy Spirit from the moment of conception. He was not like John the Baptist in this respect. Luke records that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb (Luke 1:15, 41). But Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was part of the process, and Jesus was fully sanctified from conception. Luke 1:35

In His nature. Scripture teaches that He did not have a sin nature like ours. He was completely free from the corruption of sin—the second Adam, able to reflect perfectly what man was intended to be. 1 Cor. 15:45-49 also gives us hope that, in the future, we too will be released fully from the corruption of sin. At that time we will be given a chance to experience life in a spiritual, resurrected body, without the effects of the fall. has lived.

In His Experience. Scripture teaches us that Jesus was totally without sin (Heb. 4:15; 7:26; 1 John. 3:5, 7). Although He faced temptations like we did, and even more severe than ours, He never gave in to those temptations. He was experientially without sin.

The Perfect Result

Because Jesus was completely sinless from conception to His death, Jesus was not condemned, like the rest of mankind, to die. You and I are under a death sentence: the Bible says, “the soul that sins will surely die...the wages of sin is death.” Only Jesus had no sins of His own to die for. Therefore, only Jesus was qualified to die in our place (Rom. 5:14-19).

As we saw from the beginning, had Christ not been a real man, we would still be in our sins. Only a real man, without the staining influence of sin, could possibly buy us out of the slave market of sin.

The SEED: God Incarnate

Throughout history many people have struggled to understand how Jesus could be both God and man. Scripture does not answer all of our questions concerning how it is possible, but it consistently tells us it is true.

Because many groups today do not believe that Jesus is God incarnate, the following is a summary of several arguments from Scripture to prove that He truly is God.

Proof 1: Names and Titles Used Describe Jesus as God

The Bible uses a number of terms to describe Jesus. Many of them can only be used if Jesus is God. Some of these are:

- **Lord (kurios)**

This term can mean a wide variety of things, from the master of a slave to a person deserving respect, to a religious leader or teacher. But it is also the word the Septuagint uses to translate **Yahweh** and **Adonai**, the most common terms for God in the Old Testament.

Jesus is referred to as the Lord when New Testament authors cited Old Testament passages originally clearly dealing with Yahweh. (Acts 2:20, 21; Rom. 10:13; 1 Pet. 3:15)

Kurios is used interchangeably between Jesus and the Father in the N.T. There are times you do not even know for sure who is being spoken of. (Acts 1:24; 2:47; Rom. 14:11 and John 3:3)

- **Isa. 9:6 Emmanuel.** *Emmanuel* in Hebrew means “God with us.” When the Bible says that Jesus is the fulfillment of this prophecy, it means that truly God is with us.
- **Logos, John 1:1, 14.** The grammar in John 1:1 makes it clear that the Logos is God (this is called “Caldwell’s rule,” which defines whether John was identifying the Word as God or as a god). When connected to John 1:14, it is clear that Jesus is the Logos. Therefore, Jesus is God.
- **Son of God.** According to the *International Dictionary of the Bible* this title of Jesus “is to be understood both as a synonym for Messiah (Ps. 27; Matt. 16:16; 26:63; 27:40) and as implying deity through a unique relation with the Father (John 5:8).” The description of Jesus as the “only begotten” of the Father means not only that He was God’s only direct offspring, but also that He was unique, one of a kind.

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- **Messiah, Anointed one.** The Messiah was God’s chosen instrument to deliver His people (Ps. 2:2 cf. 7; Heb. 1:3). At the time, the Jews were expecting the Eternal King of David’s lineage who would restore the kingdom. For Him to be called Messiah, the Christ, implied they wanted Him to establish that kingdom. Therefore he avoided it, yet eventually that became the most commonly given title, because that was truly who He was.
 - **Son of Man.** The term “Son of Man” was used in Daniel to refer to the One who would be given the dominion over all the earth for all eternity (Dan. 7:13, 14). This Son of Man was historically linked to the time when the promised Messiah would rule. Yet it is also the term Jesus used most often to describe Himself. He saw Himself as the fulfillment of Daniel’s vision. He was the King to whom all authority would be given (Matt. 25:31-33).

Proof 2: The Bible Makes Direct and Indirect Claims to His Deity

- John 8:58—I Am. Jesus used a term that was familiar to the Jews, because it was the name God gave Himself in Exo. 2 at the burning bush: I AM (YAHWEH). He even claimed to have existed before Abraham. The Jews immediately took up stones to stone Him because they knew He was claiming to be God.
- John 1:1, 14—John said that the Word was God, Jesus was the Word, and therefore Jesus was God.
- John 10:30—“I and the Father are one.” Again, the Jews understood that He was claiming equality with God, not just that they were of one heart. They tried to stone Him “because you, being a man, make yourself out to be God.”

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- Col. 2:9—“In Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.” Here Paul seeks, in limited human language, to describe how God can also be man. This is a clear picture of the union of the two natures in Jesus. He is both God and man.
 - Phil. 2:6—“Who, being in very nature God...” The term used for nature is the Greek word *morphe*—the “essential form.” This means that Jesus had the essential attributes of God, and those attributes were the same before and after the incarnation. What change was the voluntary exercise of His divine nature, which He chose to limit in order to become a man (v. 7).
 - Tit. 2:13—“The appearing of our great God and Savior.” Jesus is both our great God and Savior.
 - 2 Pet. 1:1—“...the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.” Another clear identification of Jesus as both God and Savior.
 - John 10:33 The Jews answered Him, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You, being a man, make Yourself out to be God.”

The religious leaders wanted to stone Him because He made Himself out to be God. The main accusation of the religious leaders at Jesus’ trial was blasphemy. Jesus’ enemies were clear about the message that Jesus was presenting: He was God.

Proof 3: Jesus Does Divine Works

Jesus demonstrated that He was God by the works that He did. Only God is capable of the following:

- Total Authority—Matt. 8:26; Matt. 7:29; 7 miracles of John
- Forgives sins—Mark 2:5
- Created the World—Col 1:16
- Has power to raise people from the dead—John 11:23-27. Jesus did not just raise Lazarus, but claimed to be the resurrection and life!
- Gives eternal life—John 10:27ff
- Will Judge all things—Matt. 25:31-32

Proof 4: Jesus Receives Divine Worship

The Ten Commandments made it clear that no one should be worshipped except for God alone (Ex. 20:1-4). If a Jew was to offer worship to anyone else, he was to be stoned. The Jews would rather be arrested than bow down before the Roman rulers. Yet Jesus, the great Jewish teacher, accepted the worship of those who followed Him.

- Jesus taught that honor should go to him
— John 5:22,23; 14:1
- Various people worshipped Him, and Jesus accepted their worship

John 9:38: “He said, ‘Lord, I believe,’ and he worshipped him.”

Matthew 14:33: “Those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’”

Matt. 28:17: “...when they saw him they worshipped him.”

John 20:28: “Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

- Prayers in New Testament are addressed to Him—Acts 7:59-60; 1 Cor. 16:22
- Ultimately all will worship Jesus—Rev. 5:13; 7:10; Phil. 2:10-11

Proof 5: Jesus Shares Divine Attributes

Another proof that Jesus truly was God is that He shares the same attributes that God has. Some of those attributes include:

- Eternal—Rev. 1:8; John 1:1,2
- Immutable—Heb. 1:10-12; 13:8
- Omnipotent—Phil. 3:21
- Omniscient—John 21:17; Col. 2:3
- Omnipresent—Matt. 18:20; 28:20

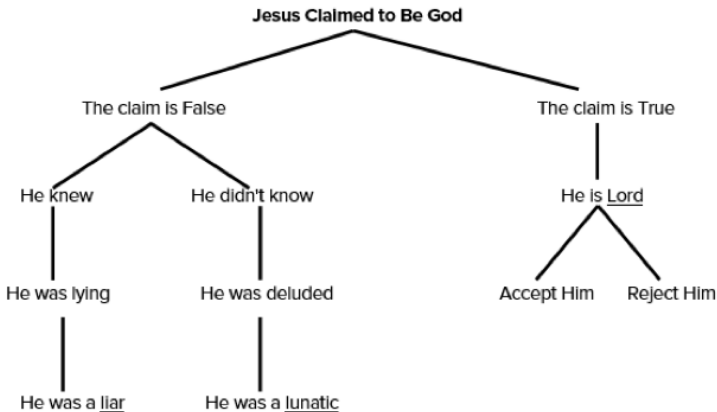
A CAUTION ABOUT DEBATES

No one ever is argued into the kingdom of God. As you are witnessing to those who do not believe that Jesus could be God, maintain a loving, gentle spirit (1 Pet. 3:15). Some principles of sharing Christ with others:

- Don't overwhelm people with your knowledge
- Keep the issue focused on Christ
- Don't be sidetracked from the Gospel
- Rely on the Holy Spirit
- Make the Bible your basis
- Beware of spiritual pride

The Trilemma

(From Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis, adapted by Josh McDowell in various writings.)



THE RESURRECTION: THE FINAL PROOF

As the “Trilemma” points out, Jesus claimed to be God. That is an amazing claim. The people who heard Jesus speak and saw the miracles He performed still sought more complete proof that He really was God the Son. What proof did Jesus offer?

John 2 relates the incident of the cleansing of the temple. At that time, Jesus was asked what gave Him the authority to condemn the sin of the merchants in the temple. Actually, they were questioning His right to call the temple “His Father’s house.” John records this in John 2:19, 21, 22:

Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days”...But the temple he had spoken of was his body. After He was raised from the dead, His disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

In Matt. 12:39-40, Jesus said:

A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be in the heart of the earth.

While many people have claimed to do great deeds, no one has ever successfully predicted His own death and resurrection. Only Jesus.

How do we know the resurrection actually took place?
There are several clear evidences from Scripture:

- **The lives of the disciples.** Prior to the resurrection, they were so scared they were hiding in upper room of a house, hoping not to be discovered by the Jews. After Pentecost, they were transformed into bold witnesses. Ten out of the remaining eleven disciples were martyred for their faith, and John, the lone survivor, died in exile after being boiled in oil. Why would they die for a lie if Jesus had not risen?
- **The testimony of eyewitnesses.** 1 Cor. 15:3-6 says that over five hundred people personally witnessed the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus. Since most of those were still alive at the time the church was growing, why did the Jews not call on those witnesses to reveal what really happened, if Jesus did not actually rise from the grave?
- **The Roman seal and guard.** A Roman seal was placed over the entrance to the tomb. This meant that anyone who broke the seal could be sentenced to death. In addition, a 24-hour guard was on duty to ensure that no one tried to steal the body. If they failed to protect the tomb, the members of the guard could be imprisoned or killed themselves. It is doubtful that the disciples were capable, or willing, to overpower trained Roman guards. This is why the guards were bribed to keep quiet—they knew the disciples didn't steal the body.

THE WORK OF CHRIST

At the end of Jesus' life He told His Father, "I completed the work that you gave me to do." What did Jesus do? What is His role and responsibility in the Godhead? There are two main areas which we should discuss to understand Jesus' work—His "Offices" and His Atonement.

The Offices of Christ

What are the "Offices of Christ?" Many people think of going to an office when they go to work. But we also speak of "the office of the president," or "aspiring for an office." These are not places at all. This is what is meant by the "Offices of Christ." They are the major positions which He holds to govern His creation. These offices were actually first seen in the major responsibilities God gave within the nation of Israel: ***Prophet, Priest and King.***

When we speak of Jesus' offices, there are certain things to keep in mind:

- The one who holds the office does not act on His own initiative, but fulfills a God-given commission. Isa. 45:1-4 cf. John 17:3.
- God's selection is shown by anointing. Lev. 4 (priests); 1 Kings 19:16 (prophet); 1 Sam. 16:1-3, 13; 24:7 (king)
- The Messiah is the ultimate fulfillment of the offices of the Old Testament
 1. The Messiah literally means, "the Anointed One." Isa. 61:1
 2. Jesus was perfect in the exercise of His offices
 3. He is the final fulfillment of the offices of the Old Testament

Actually, God intended to provide all that the nation of Israel needed Himself. But remember when the Israelites prayed for a king like the rest of the nations? God gave them what they wanted, and then they didn't want what they got. God intended that He would be sufficient to meet all of their needs, because He alone could fulfill all of the offices perfectly.

Prophet

The Old Testament term is **Nabi** (which is different from **roeh**, a seer—someone only concerned with the future). **Nabi** is a spokesman, speaker or prophet. The idea is that the prophet is the person who reveals what God has to say to His people.

Fulfillment:

Jesus completely fulfilled this role by revealing God to man during His earthly ministry. (John 14:7-10; Heb. 1:1; Deut. 18:15-19 cf. Acts 3:22f). Jesus revealed God to man by speaking God's Word, by physically living among us, and by foretelling the future on God's behalf. Jesus was known as a teacher.

But unlike other teachers with limited knowledge, Jesus was the Truth incarnate.

Present ministry: Sends the Holy Spirit to bring to remembrance all that He said. He continues to be the human picture of the nature of God for us. He is also in a real way "truth," the Logos. The Bible is the word of God, but Jesus is the Word of God.

Priest

The Old Testament term is Cohen: A priest or priest-ruler. Being a priest included serving in the tabernacle (Deut. 18:5); praying on behalf of people (Joel 2:17); setting an example of perfect holiness (Deut 33:19); and teaching the Law (Lev. 10:11, Mic. 3:11).

Fulfillment: : During his earthly ministry Jesus prayed for disciples and those who would come to faith in Him; He lived a sinless life; He opened the Scriptures. But most importantly, He offered Himself as an atonement (Heb. 9, 10).

Present ministry: Continues to act as our advocate when we are accused by Satan (1 John 2:1,2). Brings us into direct fellowship with God (Heb. 4:15). Intercedes on our behalf (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25).

King

The Old Testament term is **Melek**: a king; chief ruler or magistrate; those who rule. In the Old Testament kings rule because they have been given authority by God to do so. Pro. 8:15-16, shows that **Melek** includes the idea of being able to give judgment, unshakable, one of recognized authority, noble in character, one who stands in front. It also carries with it not only the present rule but the idea of a dynasty—something that will outlive the king himself.

Fulfillment: Jesus accepted the title of king on several occasions (John 1:49; Mark 15:2; 16-20 cf. Luke 24:42-43). Those around Him sought to make Him king by force, recognizing that He had authority to overcome the Roman government. Jesus consistently proclaimed His message as “the kingdom of God is at hand”—since He was at hand, the kingdom truly was at hand!

Present Ministry: He is seated at the right hand of the Father—the place of highest authority (Matt. 28:18) He is the Head of the Church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23ff). Since the kingdom today is primarily in the hearts of people who acknowledge Jesus as King, He continues to rule through us.

Future Ministry: He will come to reign with glory in the Millennial kingdom; and ultimately He will rule for eternity in heaven. He will also act as the Sovereign judge of all men and nations.

The Atonement

The most crucial work that Jesus did is the Atonement. Jesus' death on the cross is the basis for our salvation. Since it is so central in our faith, we should understand exactly what He did when He went to the cross for us.

Why is the Atonement so Important?

- ***It was foretold in the Old Testament***

The Old Testament often points to the “Scarlet Thread,” the story of how God would one day send a sacrifice to make atonement for our sin. From the sacrifice of Abel in Gen. 4:4, to the ram He provided in the place of Isaac on Mt. Moriah (Gen. 22:13); from the story of the Passover (Exo. 12) to the Levitical sacrifices (Lev. 1-7) all the way to Nehemiah (Neh. 10:32ff), the Old Testament prepares us to look forward to a final, perfect sacrifice in Christ. It was also foretold through numerous prophecies (Ps. 22:1, 7ff Isa. 53:5; Dan. 9:26).

- ***It was central in the New Testament***

20% of the Gospels are devoted to recording the events of Jesus' trial, crucifixion and resurrection. Through the rest of the New Testament, Jesus death and resurrection are referred to as the heart of the gospel.

- ***It was the chief purpose of the incarnation***

Jesus did not come primarily to give us an example, but to give Himself a ransom for many. This was the purpose of His life (Mark 10:45).

- ***It is essential to the Gospel***

Paul makes it clear in this brief summary of the gospel that what was most important was that Jesus died for our sins, He was buried and rose again. That is the message of the gospel (1 Cor. 15:3-6).

- ***It is essential for our salvation***

Salvation depends on the fact that Jesus was raised up as a sacrifice. Had He not died, we could not be saved (John 3:14ff; 12:24; Luke 24:7).

- ***It is central to heavenly worship***

When we join the heavenly chorus around the throne, it will be because of “the Lamb that was slain” is worthy to receive our praise and worship. It is His sacrifice which makes Him worthy of eternal worship (Rev. 5:8-10).

Some Inadequate Views of the Atonement

Many explanations have been proposed to explain the atonement. Many of them do not fit what the Bible says. Some of them, while not completely correct, do point out some interesting aspects of Jesus’ death. Others miss the mark completely. The following are some of those theories of the atonement.

Accident theory—there was no real benefit from Christ’s death. Jesus was not able to accomplish what God intended for Him to do because evil men took His life. His death was a mistake which God will someday correct. (Moonies, liberation theology)

Martyr (Example) Theory—He followed His principles to death, and gave the perfect example of selfless dedication to that which is right. However, His death did not accomplish anything more than giving us an example to try to follow. This implies that man needs reformation, not rebirth.

Moral Influence Theory—Jesus died a pitiable and unfortunate death which softens the heart of man as they see the pain and suffering He endured. He suffered with the sinner, not for the sinner. People who see how much He suffered will try not to hurt and brutalize their fellow men, and have softer hearts toward God.

The Ransom Theory—Satan was holding the world hostage, and Jesus offered Himself as a payment to buy the world back from Satan. Unfortunately, Satan could not hold Jesus in the tomb, and through the resurrection Jesus escaped and the hostage taker, Satan, was left empty-handed.

Governmental Theory—Jesus was our representative, not our substitute, on the cross. Jesus became the token payment for sin, but did not actually pay for the full amount of sin. He showed that God must punish sin harshly and, if he does not repent, the sinner will be judged. This is the traditional Arminian view of the atonement.

Commercial (Satisfaction) Theory—Sin violates the honor of God, and therefore must be punished. Since sin violates an infinite God, it must be punished by infinite punishment. While God's honor requires Him to punish sin, His love pleads for the sinner. Jesus suffered exactly enough to cover the punishment of the elect, not for all people. His honor is satisfied by the voluntary offering of His Son as an infinite sacrifice.

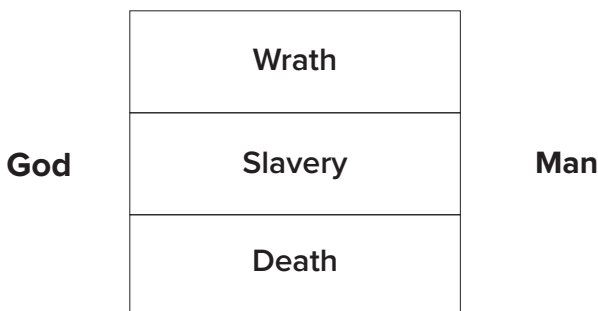
An Adequate Explanation of the Atonement

A correct explanation of the atonement must explain all of the biblical issues regarding the atonement. These can basically be categorized under one simple question: What was really necessary for God to do to save man?

What did God have to do to save man?

The best way to understand the atonement is to understand that there is a three-fold barrier which separates us from Him. While each of these areas will be developed in a later session, it is good to know by way of introduction what Christ's death had to accomplish.

Three-fold Barrier Between God and Man



Barrier 1: Wrath of God.

John 3:36 Wrath abides on unbelievers

Rom. 1:18 Wrath against ungodliness

Eph. 2:3 Children of wrath by nature

Barrier 2: Slavery to sin and Satan

- Sin John 8:34 - Everyone who sins is a slave to sin
 Romans 7:14 - All men are sold under bondage to sin
- Satan 1 John 5:19 - Whole world is in Satan's power
 Ephesians 2:1-2 - Satan is the master of slaves
 Colossians 1:13 - Lived in domain of darkness

Barrier 3: Spiritual Death

- Ephesians 2:1, 5 - We were dead in our trespasses
Colossians 2:13 - We were under a death sentence

Because of God's Holy and just nature, He could not simply say we could go free. Justice demands payment for our sin. But because He loves us, His love caused Him to pay the penalty for our sins. That is the true meaning of the atonement: Jesus dying as a substitute to free us from the penalty of our sin. Because of His love, He provided a solution to each of these barriers to salvation.

Solution to wrath: satisfaction or propitiation

Atonement is Hebrew term *kaphar*, which generally means to cover or remove. Yet the atonement also includes the idea of a turning away of God's wrath. This is represented in the Greek term *exilaskomai* "to propitiate, appease," which is one of the terms the LXX uses for atonement. Propitiation is the same Greek word used as that of the mercy seat in Heb 9:5. Jesus is spoken of as a propitiation (1 John 2:2; 4:10, Rom. 3:25). The idea is that the sin which was the object of God's wrath has been done away—the whole wrath of God against sin has been shunted to the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:21 cf. Gal. 3:13

Objection: how could a loving God be wrathful? Is Jesus the loving one and the Father the wrathful one? No. They are one. Second objection: it is not fair that someone without sin is punished for something He did not do. But Jesus willingly laid down His life (John 10:17, 18).

Solution to slavery: redemption

The problem of slavery was one the whole Roman empire must have understood well—over 50% of those in the Roman empire were slaves. Jesus redeemed us by paying the price of the redemption (Eph. 1:7 through His blood; Tit. 2:14 from sin; Col. 1:14 from Satan’s domain).

Redemption in a sense could be also a ransom—payment to free a person in bondage. But this ransom is paid not to Satan, but to God for the release of sinners who could not secure their own release from the sentence of death.

Solution to spiritual death: substitution

We deserve the death penalty, for “the wages of sin is death.” The penalty must be paid for the justice of God to be upheld. Jesus therefore died in our place, to pay the penalty for our sins (Isa. 53:5f; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18 et al.).

CONCLUSION

The central message of the gospel is the good news that Jesus has made a way to reconcile men to God. His death was sufficient for all who turn to Him in faith to receive salvation from the eternal penalty of sin. Paul points out an amazing thing in Romans 5. While we might even die for a good man, if we knew one, we probably would not die on behalf of a righteous man. How much more we, as normal people, would never consider dying for people who had intentionally hurled insults at us, mocked us, spat upon us and put us to public shame. How much love would we have for such people?

Yet we ourselves could have been part of the unruly crowd which did all of those things to Him while He was on His way to the cross! Before we came to know Him, many of us would have gladly joined in mocking Him. Yet, because of His great love, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us— the godly for the ungodly, the lover of man for the haters of God. Is there any other response we can give but to humbly bow and worship our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ?

HOW MANY DID JESUS DIE FOR?

One of the great theological debates over the centuries has been for whom did Christ die -- for the elect (those God has already chosen for salvation) or the whole world, everyone He has created?

Calvinists (Reformed theologians) believe that the atonement is only for the elect. They cite such verses as Matt. 20:28; John 17:9; and Eph. 5:25 to support their position. They reason that, if the atonement is for the sins of every individual, then every individual will be saved. If God is sovereign, and Jesus died to pay the penalty for the sins of a particular person, how could God allow that person not be saved? Such a God, they reason, is not sovereign at all.

Arminians on the other hand believe that Jesus died for the sins of the whole world, not just for the sins of the elect. They cite verses such as John 1:29; 1 Tim. 2:6; Tit. 2:11; and 1 John 2:2 to support this position. They believe that, while not all people are saved, the sins of the whole world have been paid for. It is up to the individual to choose whether to accept the gift of forgiveness offered through the atonement.

Is it possible to resolve this conflict? God has removed the barrier between Himself and man, but man remains to be reconciled (2 Cor. 5:18-20). Until a person accepts the gift, it is only potential, not actual. So Jesus' death was sufficient for all, but only "efficacious" (effective) for those who put their faith in Christ. In one sense, Jesus died for the sins of all men, for all men can be saved if they place their faith in Christ. Yet in another sense it can be said that He only died for the sins of the elect, because only they actually experience the result of forgiveness offered in Christ.

WHAT'S NEXT?

BOOK 7: FAMILY LIFE

Now that you know the basic Bible doctrines on which our Christian faith and conduct is based on as a local body of believers in CCF, what's next? Your discipleship journey will now take you to a study of God's plan and purpose for your family.

It is said that healthy families result in healthy churches and nations. Thus, our next module in the GLC Essentials Series is "Family Life". In this module, you will discover God's design for the family, its importance and the role of its members. You will also learn how to have good communication and restore strained or broken relationships within the family. And in order to have a next generation of Christ-committed followers, it is important that each one of us will leave a Godly legacy through our biological and spiritual children.

So be ready to receive the blessings that God has in store for you and your family, as you go through your next set of lessons in Book 7: Family Life. Enjoy your time together and may our families become what God has intended them to be for His glory!

APPENDIX A

**ANSWER KEY
TO SESSION 1**
EXPLORE Activity

HIDDEN BIBLE BOOK NAMES: 56 Books of the Bible underlined

The following article contains the names of all the books of the Bible hidden within the words. See if you can find them all! I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a **lulu**, **kept** some people **looking so** hard for **facts**. And for others it was **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**. Especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of readers. To others, it was a real **job**. We want it to be **a most** fascinating few moments to you. Do these while you're watching TV, sitting on the **john**, eating **tuna**, **humming** your favorite reggae tune--- a **song of Sol**, "**O Mon**, I believe you!"

Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. There are **those** among us who might need music – a **banjo**, **electric** guitar, or drums! See how well you can **compete**. Relax now, listen to **Genesis** on the radio, or play your **banjo! Nah**, just concentrate on the task at hand. Find them all and be a **pro! Verbs** and subjects don't always agree in this article, but don't let that stand in your way!

I even asked for help from my **ex**. "**O, Du!**" she said. I replied, "**Corinth, I answer** your questions," but she said, "Come back at **Ramadan**." I **eloquently** thanked her. Frustrated, she said, "The puzzle **is a ... I ... ah..** I don't find these **EZ. Ek!** I **elect** not to do them!" I thought about offering her a **juju** decoration or perhaps **ps alms**, but decided not to pursue it. This just about **chronicles** our relationship.

Some of the hardest books to hide were Leviticus, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Samuel, Nehemiah, Ecclesiastes, Jeremiah, Obadiah, Micah, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Timothy, and Philemon. Remember that ten of the names are duplicated like First and Second Thessalonians, so you will only find fifty-six distinct names.

This puzzle is not **EZ** – rather, it is quite difficult. It would be simpler if the books were in a list that you could pick **from**. **Answer** can be anywhere in this article, so that makes this **format the worst**! Do your best and God bless!

APPENDIX B

**ANSWER KEY
TO SESSION 3**
EXPLORE Activity

-
1. The tallest building in the world is the Burj Khalifa Tower in Dubai. It is the tallest man-made structure in the world; however, without its “vanity height”, the building would be dwarfed by 11 other European skyscrapers.

Source: www.newsfeed.time.com/2013/09/05

2. The smallest dog living, in terms of height, is a female Chihuahua called Miracle Milly, who measured 9.65 cm (3.8 in) tall on 21 February 2013 and is owned by Vanesa Semler of Dorado, Puerto Rico.

Source: <http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/size/smallest-dog-living>

3. Tokyo, Japan: Tokyo tops the list and remains the world’s largest city with 38 million dwellers. Though the UN has predicted a decline in the city’s population, it will still remain the world’s most populous city in 2030 with 37 million inhabitants.

Source: <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/world-population-day-2014-top-10-most-populous-cities-revealed-1456214>

APPENDIX C

**ANSWER KEY
TO SESSION 5**
EXPLORE Activity

-
- T** 1. Jesus Christ is God.
 - T** 2. The Trinity means that there are three (3) Persons in one God, all of these Persons having equal rank and are of the same nature.
 - F** 3. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Force.
 - F** 4. Jesus Christ is half-God and half-man.
 - F** 5. The Trinity means that there is only one God who exists in three (3) forms: as Father, who became the Son when He became man, and who became the Holy Spirit after the resurrection.
 - T** 6. The Holy Spirit is God, equal with the Father and the Son.
 - F** 7. Jesus Christ was just a man, a created being who was sinless.
 - F** 8. The Trinity means that there are three (3) Gods of equal rank and of the same nature.
 - F** 9. The Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ in spirit form.
 - F** 10. Jesus Christ is God who became man and ceased to be God.
 - F** 11. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, but lesser in rank than the Father.

APPENDIX D

**ANSWER KEY
TO SESSION 6:
MARRIAGE
(PART 1)
EXPLORE Activity**

-
1. **b.** Sarah
 2. **c.** His father sent a servant back to Mesopotamia to choose a wife from his own family
 3. **c.** Rachel
 4. **b.** He, his father, and the men of his city were slain by Dinah's brothers
 5. **a.** At a well in the land of Midian
 6. **b.** They must marry within their tribe
 7. **d.** Boaz
 8. **a.** The secret of his strength
 9. **d.** Nabal
 10. **a.** He saw her take a bath, and saw she was beautiful
 11. **b.** Tamar
 12. **c.** Elkanah
 13. **c.** Harlot
 14. **b.** Aquila & Priscilla
 15. **b.** Christ's love for the church

