

# Is God one or three in one?



“ There is ... one Spirit, ... one Lord, ... one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all ” (Ephesians 4:4-6), not “was” one Spirit, Lord, and Father. A total of three different “ones”! Yet, how can “God” be “one” God (Deut 6:4) and at the same time Three different “ones,” meaning persons?

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# Conceptually, God Is One God, But in Three Persons, Always! YTF!

Consider the evidence for this thought or idea about the Lord

As a concept, God (the God revealed in the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament), **is one God**, has been one God, and will always be one God, **yet in three distinct, separate, and individual persons**. On the next page, I will give you overwhelming evidence from the Scriptures which proves it (for as you will learn, even the word "God" in the Old Testament is a plural word, not singular). But, first I want you to realize and accept the concept at hand.

In the Bible, or even in the world, the idea of being one, but more than one at the same time is nothing new. So, this should not be a difficult idea or concept for you to comprehend and accept, even in the sense of how it applies to God. For example, marriage illustrates it. Likewise, world governments exemplify it (as does a pregnant mother, a church, etc.).

## Marriage illustrates the concept of being 1, but remaining 2 persons

In one sense, marriage exemplifies the idea of being one (as a formally related couple), while at the same time clearly remaining two separate and distinct persons or personalities. For example, when God created marriage, he said, "A man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Ge 2:24). Yet, we readily know and admit that they are still two separate persons. They are only one in marriage, conceptually.



## Governments exemplify the idea of being one, but more than one

World governments illustrate being one government, but remaining two or more separate, independent, and interrelated groups or "branches" of government. The government of the United States of America is one government, but in three independent and separate branches (called the separation of powers). There is what is called the "executive" branch (the president), the branch of "congress" (containing the house of representatives and the senate), and the "judiciary" branch (the supreme court).

**In conclusion**, God exists in three separate persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit), but they are so unified or related to be considered one God. He has always been this way, even Jesus. For Jesus existed before the creation of the world, and he will exist as Jesus beyond the judgment day into eternity. For example:

# Yesterday!

**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever”** Hebrews 13:8

**In ancient times, even before the foundation of the world**

God said, “For I, the Lord, do not **change**” (Malachi 3:6). This is true about the Lord Jesus Christ as a person, even God. They do not change into different persons, for they remain “**the same**,” as persons. So, when it says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (**YTF**), it especially means that Jesus, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, has always existed as a person, “yesterday” (meaning in ancient times), and “today” (as we live in the Christian Age or Covenant), and “forever” (meaning into eternity, after the Judgment). Now, consider the evidence for Jesus “yesterday”.

**(Yesterday) He said he existed before the creation of the world.**

Jesus said to the Father, “**Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was**” (John 17:5).

**(Y) Jesus created the heavens and the earth, and was with God the Father then.**

“In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning **with God**. All things came into being

through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that

has come into being” (John 1:1-3). So, Jesus is also the Creator, not a creature! This is why his disciples worship him.

**(Y) He is one of the “Us” and “Our” in whose image we are made.**

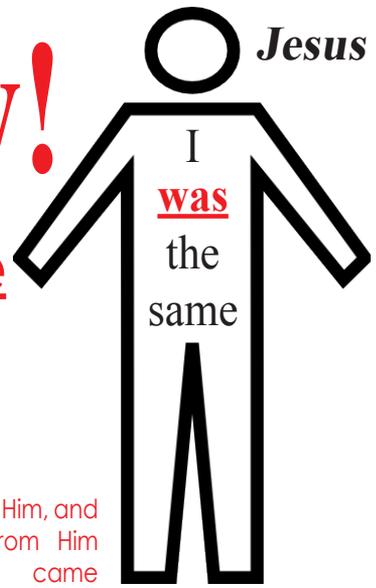
In the beginning, man was made in the image of an “Us” and “Our” (Ge 1:26), meaning a plural God (3 in 1, so to speak).

**(Y) The word “God” is a plural word.**

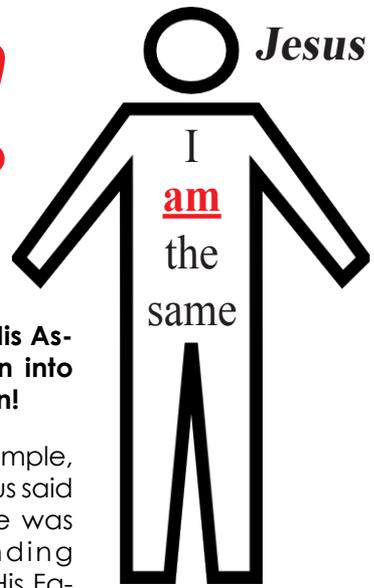
In the Hebrew, the word for God, such as “In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth” (Ge 1:1), and “The LORD is our **God**, the LORD is one!” (Deut 6:4; Mk 12:29) is in the Hebrew “Eloheem,” which is a plural word, not singular.

So, even in the verse which states that God is one, the word God [Eloheem] is plural. So, the Lord our God (plural) is one. Now are you beginning to see the details about who is God? Are you comprehending the concept of Him being one, yet at the same time three? **But, today, is Jesus the same person, right now?**

Note: Even more, “yesterday,” Jesus Christ is the one who truly led the Jews out of Egypt (READ Ex 13:21; 1 Cor 10:4).



# Today!



## During the Christian Covenant on Earth

Today, meaning right now (during the Christian Age or covenant), Jesus exists as the same person of God, as do the other two persons of God, the Father and the Holy Spirit. Below, consider the evidence for this.

### (Today) At His Birth!

For example, when **(1)** The Son of God was conceived in the flesh (in the womb of Mary), **(2)** the Holy Spirit caused this to happen (Mt 1:18). For this was **(3)** the Father's plan (Isa 7:14). So, in some way, all three persons of God were involved in this.

### (T) At His Baptism!

When **(1)** the Son of God was baptized by John, **(2)** the Holy Spirit (in the form of a dove), and **(3)** the Father (verbally from heaven) were all there or present, in different forms, but not in the same form or person (Mt 3:13-17).

### (T) During One of His Teachings!

When Jesus taught his apostles, he mentioned all three different persons of God. He said, "**But the Helper, (1) the Holy Spirit, whom (2) the Father will send in (3) My name [Jesus, the Son]. He [capitalized, to represent the masculine person of the Holy Spirit] will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you**" (Jn 14:26).

### (T) At His Ascension into Heaven!

For example, **(1)** Jesus said that He was ascending to **(2)** His Father (Jn 20:17), not going back to "be" the Father. **(1)** The Son ascended to **(2)** the Father's right hand (1 Pe 3:22; He 10:12). Indeed, Jesus is not sitting at his own right hand! After **(1)** Jesus ascended, **(2)** His Father sent the person of **(3)** the Holy Spirit to disciples (Jn 7:39; 14:26).

When Stephen was being murdered by the Jews, he saw both **(1)** the Father and **(2)** the Son standing beside each other in heaven (Ac 7:55, 56). So, Jesus was not standing next to himself! Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (He 13:8). Believe it!

**So, when Jesus first went back into heaven,** he went to be with the Father, not become the Father, as some hypocritically believe and teach. For as you should see in the next point, both Jesus and the Father exist even after the judgment, into eternity.

**Note:** Indeed, the very purpose of the third person of God, **(1)** the Holy Spirit, is his testimony to the world about **(2)** the Son, Jesus Christ, starting when the Son went back to **(3)** the Father (**READ John 16:7-10**). Do you see how they all work together, but independently?

# Forever! Jesus

## Into heaven and eternity

There are several passages in the New Testament which clearly indicate that Jesus will be the same person forever, into eternity, even after the judgment! He will not be the Father or the Holy Spirit. For example:

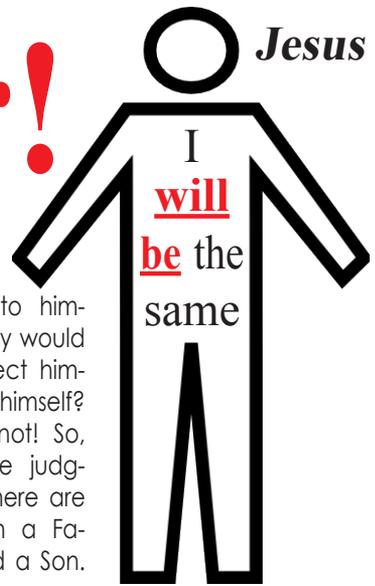
**(Forever) After the judgment, we see the Son handing the kingdom back to the Father!**

After the judgment there still is a Father and a Son, two persons! For example, In speaking about the subject of the resurrection of the dead (after the judgment), Paul said, "Then comes the end, when He [JESUS] hands over the kingdom to the God and Father" (1 Cor 15:24). Now, if Jesus is the Father, or went back into heaven to be the Father, as some of you say, then to whom is Jesus handing the kingdom back, himself? Are there two Fathers? Certainly not!

**(F) After the judgment, the Son will be subjected to (put under the authority of) the Father**

In the same context on Jesus handing back the kingdom to the Father, a few verses later, in speaking about the authority that the Father still has and retains over the Son, Paul said, "For He [God the Father] has put all things in subjection under His feet [the feet of Jesus]. But when He says, 'All things are put in subjection,' it is evident [clearly understood] that He [the Father] is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him [Jesus]. When all things are subjected to Him [Jesus], then (1) the Son Himself also will be subjected to (2) the One who subjected all things to Him [the Father], so that God may be all in all" (1 Cor 15:27, 28). Now, if Jesus is the Father, as some say, then will he subject

himself to himself? Why would he subject himself to himself? He cannot! So, after the judgment, there are still both a Father and a Son.



Note: This eternal "authority" of God the Father over the Son Jesus Christ is also stated and corroborated in a different way in 1 Corinthians 11:3 ("God is the head of [the authority over] Christ," meaning God the Father is Christ's authority).

**(F) Jesus said he will always be sitting at the right hand of the Father, forever!**

Jesus said, "But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God" (Luke 22:69). So, there are always two thrones in heaven, not one! Jesus is not sitting at his own right hand!

*Next, there are three verses about Jesus which some misunderstand, and this leads to their confusion about the wonderful and true concept of God being one, but still in three different persons, always, YTF.*

**For "There is... (1) one Spirit,... (2) one Lord,... (3) one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6), not "was" three different "ones"! With the one Spirit meaning the **person** of the Holy Spirit. One Lord, referring to the **person** of the Lord Jesus Christ. One God and Father over all, referring to the **person** of God the Father, not God the Son! For God the Father is "over all," meaning in authority over all, even over his Son (**SEE / READ** 1 Cor 11:3; 15:27, 28).**

# Warning! Do not misunderstand these verses about Jesus!



## Commonly misunderstood verses about the Messiah

There are three or more commonly misinterpreted verses concerning Jesus.

### 1. Jesus is (was sent as) the exact representation of the Father's Nature!

The key thing to remember about Jesus is this: he was "sent" by the Father to represent his exact holy nature. For example, Jesus never said that he "was" the Father. He did say, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (Jn 14:9). But, he meant that he was "sent" as **the representative (the Mirror Reflection)** of the Father, not actually the Father. For example, later in the same context, he said "The word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent Me" (Jn 14:24), even the words "seen Me... seen the Father"!

So, this phrase "seen Me... seen the Father," interpreted in its context, not taken out of context, means he was sent as the Father's representative or ambassador, but he is not the Father, the Sender (Similarly **READ He 1:1-3; Jn 3:16; Lk 20:13**). If you have seen Me you have seen the Father (Reflection).

### 2. In water baptism, we must honor all: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

For we know that, conceptually, God has always been one, but in three persons (even Jesus knows this, first hand!). Therefore, we baptizers have commandment from Christ to be "baptizing them in the name of (1) the Father and (2) the Son and (3) the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28:19).

**Yet, some baptizers are dishonoring the Father and the Holy Spirit** by baptizing disciples in Jesus' name only (for they do not baptize in the name of the Father or the Holy Spirit, for they somehow think that these three no longer exist; only Jesus!).

So, when they read verses like this: "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ" (Ac 2:38), because of their lack of essential knowledge about God, they incorrectly conclude that this must mean that Jesus is the only person of God who now exists. Hence, Jesus only. This is hypocrisy, since it is not in line with the eternal truths concerning our God.

**Yet, it is evident that when we do other things in Jesus name**, it is not to exclude or mean that there is Jesus only. For example, we are commanded to pray to the Father in Jesus' name (Mt 6:9; Jn 15:16). So, it is evident that when we pray we are still to acknowledge and confess, not forget, the Father, but honor his name in our prayer which is to be offered in Jesus' name. "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1 Tim 2:5). Yet, if there is Jesus only, how then can he mediate between himself, not two different parties, the Father and mankind? Again, this shows the plurality of our God, YTF! For as David said, and as Hebrews confirms (**READ Psalm 110:1; also Heb 1:13**), there are two Lords. One is the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 4:5), and the other is the Lord God our Father (Eph 4:6).

Notes: Finally, in light of everything we know about our God being three persons, but one, we must not conclude that this verse about Jesus means that he is the Father ("Eternal Father" Isa 9:6). It must mean something else, profoundly.

# Warning! To be saved, you must know who is God!

**“Those who do not know God... will pay the penalty” 2 Thess 1:8, 9**

Those who believe and teach that today (T) and into eternity (F) there is only one person, Jesus, do they truly “**know God**”? Indeed, from the evidence previously given in this study, they do not truly know the Lord. And they are misrepresenting him to others. This is offensive to God, insulting! For we know that God has never changed as a person (SEE Malachi 3:6; Heb 13:8), that conceptually he has always been one, yet in three individual persons. But, they are changing God, merging all three persons into one individual. Do they truly know the Son? Do they truly know the Father? Do they truly know the Holy Spirit? Do they know the unique purpose and role of all three? They do not!

**Be warned!** “Those who do not know God... will pay the penalty of everlasting destruction, away from the presence of the Lord” (2 Thess 1:8, 9). For how can God save a soul who refuses to believe the Scriptures which plainly declare and explain who he is, has been, and will always be? At the judgment, when they stand before the Lord to give an account of themselves, when they finally realize that there still is a Father and Son, in shock and surprise, will they say: “Who are you Lord? How could there be two of you? Ahhh, I did not know this!” This realization will be too late, for they have followed false teaching about our God!

## Are you being led into the ditch?

Consider this: Jesus said, “**Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch?**” (Luke 6:39). The ditch is hell! It is where your leaders, teachers, and church are leading you, if they are telling you that they believe in Jesus only. For they truly do not “know God,” and they are not representing him properly to you or others, especially in regards to water baptism. They refuse to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit (for they do not believe all three still exist). Consequently, they also make disciples who already have been baptized in those three holy names be rebaptized in Jesus name only. They force disciples to believe in Jesus only. This is sin! It is hypocrisy. So there are three things which you must do.

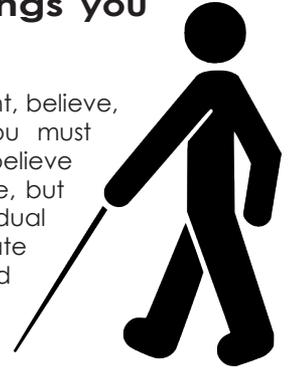
## Three things you must do!

You must repent, believe, and leave! You must repent and believe that God is one, but in three individual and separate persons, and has been and will be this way, always.

Christian, you must believe that the person of the Holy Spirit is inside you (READ Eph 1:13, 14), and also that both Jesus and the Father have come to make their home with you, as Jesus said they **both** would do (READ John 14:23 “**we will come to him and make our abode with him,**” both the Father and the Son). You must recognize these things and confess them. Try to convert your erring brethren to the true God! Get free copies of this pamphlet and ask them to read it carefully. Afterward, if they will not repent and believe and confess, then finally:

**“Let them alone:** they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit” (Mt 15:14). As Jesus said of religious hypocrites, you must leave your teachers, leaders, and churches who believe and teach that there is only Jesus. (For in this verse, Jesus indicated that both the leaders **and** their followers are blind). Refuse to worship and assemble with them. Find a church that truly believes in God, or organize one yourself!

**Additionally, if you have been baptized in Jesus name only,** then you have not yet honored the Father and the Son in your baptism. So, you must be rebaptized in the name of the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (as Jesus commanded baptizers to do Mt 28:18, 19), confessing your faith all three persons, acknowledging them all. “**For I, the Lord, do not change**” (Malachi 3:6).



**Y T F**

**1**

**Father**

**Son**

**Holy Spirit**



**“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (YTF)” (Hebrews 13:8).**

Indeed, Jesus has never changed into a different person. He has always been the Son of God. This is also true of the Father and the Holy Spirit. They do not change into each other, or into someone else. “For I, the Lord, **do not change**” (Mal 3:6).

# Test on the One God of the Bible (Eph 4:4, 5)

1. How can God be one God, yet at the same time more than one person?

2. "There is... one Spirit,... one Lord,... one God and Father" (Eph 4:4-6). Who exactly are each of these three different ones? Today, what is their unique and individual special purpose, role, function, or duty?

3. How do we know that God has never changed as a person, that he has always existed in three persons, and will always exist in three persons?

4. Why do some think that God has changed as a person, or changed into a different person, such as the Son of God turning into the Father in heaven?

5. Why do some baptize in Jesus' name only?

6. How important is it to know who is God, even in three persons?

7. What new things have you learned in this study?

In other words, in what ways have you grown in your knowledge of the one God of the Bible?

8. Do you have any questions or comments?

9. Would you like to share the "one Spirit... one Lord.... one God and Father" of the Bible with your family, friends, community, or church?

(1) How many copies of this study and test will you need? (2) How do you plan to use them? (3) Can you make a donation for postage costs? The studies are free, but we need God's help to mail them to you! Thank you.