

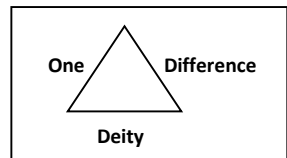
## 2. HOW ARE THERE NOT THREE GODS?

### WHILE WAITING TO BEGIN PLEASE DISCUSS...

1. Read John 10:27-29, John 6:38-40, Ephesians 1:13-14.
2. Ask of each of passage: (a) What is the situation of the Christian? (b) Who guarantees it?

### INTRODUCTION

- there is 1 God... in 3 persons... each person is fully God
- A quick **history** lesson: Arius vs. Athanasius and Nicaea, 325 AD



### Nicene Creed of 381 AD

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, **the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.** Who, for us men for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

- Our **method** in this session:
  - God's words and works in history... reveal who he is in himself
  - particular focus on God the Father and God the Son

## **1. IN HISTORY: GOD THE SON WORKS INSEPARABLY WITH HIS FATHER**

### **(a) Summary**

- God the Father and God the Son do the same works.
- The Trinity is inseparable. Therefore, any action God does is performed at the same time by the Father and by the Son and by the Holy Spirit. The Son does not do anything which the Father and the Holy Spirit do not also do.

### **(b) A key bible text – John 5:19-24 [also 10:37, 14:10]**

### **(c) Examples: every aspect of our salvation**

#### **a. Giving life**

F & S = John 5:21

#### **b. Raising Jesus**

F = Galatians 1:1

S = John 2:19-22 and 10:17-18

HS = Romans 1:4; 8:11

#### **c. Raising Christians**

F = Romans 6:4-5

S = John 5:25, 6:40 and 11:25

HS = Romans 8:19-25

#### **d. The death of Jesus**

F = Romans 3:25, “God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement.”

S = Galatians 1:3-4, Christ “gave himself for our sins.”

- If you get it wrong...
- NO! “unwilling Father is forced to forgive by the Son.”  
NO! “unwilling Son is forced to sacrifice himself.”
- YES! The Son is crucified. Not the Father or the Spirit. But the Son is not crucified without the Father and the Spirit

### **(d) Question: Why does the Bible often attribute a work to ONE divine person?**

### **(e) Question: How can MORE THAN ONE person do the same work?**

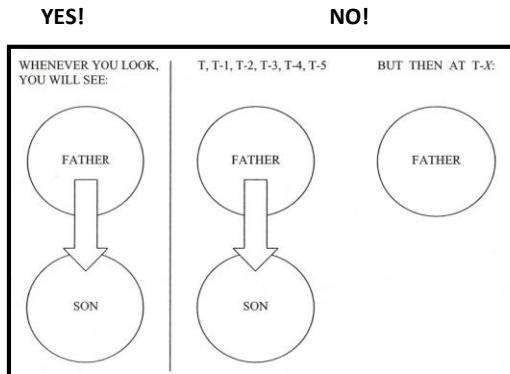
## 2. IN GOD: THE SON IS OF THE SAME NATURE AS HIS FATHER

### (a) Some Bible texts

- John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God."
- John 10:30, "I and the Father are one."
- Hebrews 1:3, "The Son is the radiance of God's glory & the exact representation of his being."

### (b) God the Son is eternally begotten not made

- "Father" and "Son"
- "Begotten" NOT created



### (c) God the Son is begotten of the essence of the Father

- Everything that makes God God is in the Son, as well as in the Father
- The Son is everything that the Father is – except Father.
- John 5:26, "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself."

**(d) God the Son is consubstantial with the Father**

- One substance = same substance = consubstantial = *homo-ousia*

**(e) God the Father and God the Son mutually indwell each other**

- John 10:38, “the Father is in me, and I in the Father”.  
(also John 14:10-11, 14:20, 15:10, 16:32, 17:21, 17:22, 17:26)

**3. SOME IMPLICATIONS...**

**(a) there are NOT three gods**

**(b) The Son really CAN reveal the Father to us (e.g. John 14:8-10, 1:18)**

**(c) Having the Holy Spirit IS to have Christ the Son dwelling in us (John 14:15-18)**

**(d) The believer is VERY secure**