

Basics of Christianity

Date

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Theology – How can God be three in One?

Memorize

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” (John 1:1-3, NIV)



Study

During Old Testament times, many of the nations around Israel believed that different gods were in charge of different parts of the world. Read Genesis 1:1. Does this verse support the idea of different gods? Why?

In 1 Kings 18, the prophet Elijah tells the people of Israel to decide if they wanted to worship the true God or the false god Baal. At Mt. Carmel, where Baal was supposed to be in charge, Elijah challenges the prophets of Baal to make an altar and pray to Baal to burn it up. Read 1 Kings 18 to see what happened. What did the prophets of Baal and the people of Israel learn that day? Was Baal in charge?

Complete Deuteronomy 6:4:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our _____, the LORD is _____.

Complete Jesus' words in John 17:3:

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the _____,
and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

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In _____ beginning _____ the _____, and _____ Word _____ with _____, and _____ Word _____ God. _____ was _____ the _____ with _____. Through _____ all _____ were _____; without _____ nothing _____ made _____ has _____ made.” (_____ 1: _____, NIV)



Study

- ❖ Read Matthew 28:19-20. In this verse, Jesus says to “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the _____ of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” Is the noun in the blank singular or plural? _____
- ❖ We know that there is only one God, but His name has three parts. List the three parts from the verse above.

- ❖ God is expressed in three persons (signified by the names above), and each shows us what God is like. Paul had this in mind when he wrote 2 Corinthians 13:14. Fill in the blanks from the NIV translation: “May the grace of the Lord _____, and the love of God and the fellowship of the _____ be with you all.” (“God” in this verse refers to God the Father.)
- ❖ Now let’s look at what Paul says in Ephesians 2:18 (NIV): “For through him we both have access to the _____ by one _____.” Who is the “him” referred to in this verse? (Read earlier in Ephesians 2.) _____
How many of the Persons of God are involved in us being able to have a relationship with God? _____
- ❖ Why do you think it shouldn’t be surprising if you cannot completely understand that God is three in one?

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_____ the _____ was _____ Word, _____ the _____ was _____ God, _____ the _____ was _____. He _____ in _____ beginning _____ God. _____ him _____ things _____ made; _____ him _____ was _____ that _____ been _____." (John ____:1-3, NIV)



Study

The one God is expressed as the three Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and each Person of God is responsible for a particular part of God's work in the world. Now let's think particularly about the work that God does as the Father.

- ❖ The Father plans and directs. He created the plan for salvation - sending the Son and the Holy Spirit.

➤ Read John 3:16-17 and answer the following questions:

- Which Person of God gave His Son? _____
- Why did He send his Son? _____

➤ Read Ephesians 1:11-12 and answer the following questions:

- We were chosen through which Person of God? _____
- So which Person of God do you think had the plan? _____

- ❖ Read Ephesians 1:3. What has God the Father blessed us with? _____

(If you continue reading Ephesians 1, you'll notice that God the Father blesses us, but every blessing comes through what God the Son has done through His life, death, and resurrection.)

- ❖ Read Matthew 6:9 (NIV) and fill in the blanks: "This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our _____ in heaven, _____ be your name...'" Why do you think that Jesus instructs us to pray to the Father instead of to Himself or the Holy Spirit?

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In the _____ was the _____, and the _____, was with _____, and the _____, was God. _____ was in _____ beginning with _____. Through him _____ things were _____; without him _____ was made _____, has been _____," (John ____:____, NIV)



Study

The one God is expressed as the three Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and each Person of God is responsible for a particular part of God's work in the world. Now let's think particularly about how the Bible teaches that Jesus is God.

- ❖ Read John 1:1. We know from previous study that "the Word" refers to Jesus. But John 1:1 also says that "the Word was _____."
- ❖ The Bible shows us that Jesus does work that only God can do. Read the following verses and find what they say that Jesus did that only God can do.
 - John 1:3 - _____
 - Colossians 1:16 - _____
 - Mark 2:1-12 - _____
- ❖ There are things about Jesus' life that are true only of God. Read the following verses and find something that is said about Jesus that is true only of God.
 - Hebrews 13:8 - _____
 - Hebrews 1:10-12 - _____
- ❖ Jesus is worshipped as God.
 - ❖ Read Exodus 20:3. Who are you to worship? _____
 - ❖ Read Hebrews 1:6. According to this verse:
 - Who are we to worship? _____
 - Who said that we are to worship him? _____
- ❖ Jesus Himself declared that he was God. Read John 8:58 and compare it with Exodus 3:14. What similarity do you see? _____

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In _____ was _____, and _____
_____ was _____, and _____ was _____.
_____ was _____ beginning _____. Through _____
_____ things _____; without _____ was
_____ has _____." (_____ 1:1-3, NIV)



Study

The one God is expressed as the three Persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and each Person of God is responsible for a particular part of God's work in the world. Now let's think particularly about how the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God.

- ❖ Fill in the blanks for John 4:24 (NIV): "_____ is _____, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."
- ❖ Fill in the blanks for Matthew 28:19 (NIV): "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the _____..."

So we see that God is spirit (unlimited, everywhere, without a body and not taking up space) and the third Person of God is called the Spirit.

The Bible teaches that:

- ❖ the Holy Spirit is a real person. How does each verse/passage talk about the Holy Spirit as a person?
 - Acts 5:3 - _____
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 - _____
- ❖ the Holy Spirit does things that only God can do. Tell how the following verses support this idea.
 - Titus 3:5 - _____
 - 2 Peter 1:21 - _____
- ❖ the Holy Spirit has qualities true only of God. Tell how the following verses support this idea.
 - Hebrews 9:14 - _____
 - Psalm 139:7-10 - _____
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10 - _____

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Write Your Memory Verse



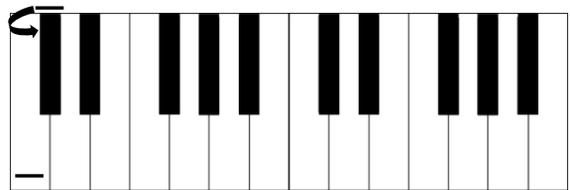
Study

Using dictionary.com, find the following definitions:

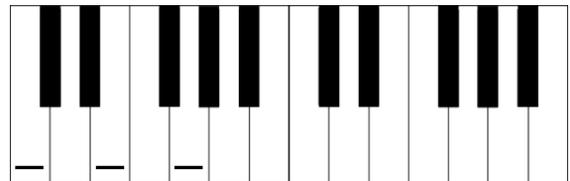
- The second definition of *harmony* under the heading "Music."

- The first definition of *dissonant*.

Write the note names to the right and play them on the piano one at a time. Then play them together. Does this chord sound harmonious or dissonant? _____



Write the note names to the right and play them on the piano one at a time. Then play them together. Does this chord sound harmonious or dissonant? _____



The One God works through the three Persons of the Trinity. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit don't necessarily work at the same time, but they work in harmony. To demonstrate this, play the harmonious notes above: start with C, then without lifting your thumb from C play E, then without lifting your fingers from C and E play G. Notice how when each note begins, it adds to the beauty of what's already being played?

Something to think about: should you be in harmony or dissonance with the work God is doing in the world? _____

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Write Your Memory Verse



Study

Now that you understand that the three Persons of God work in harmony with each other, let's take one more look at the particular work that they do in harmony:

- ❖ The Father designs and plans.
- ❖ Read John 4:34 to find out what the Son does: _____

- ❖ Read John 16:12-14 to find out what the Holy Spirit does: _____

Notice that, while the three Persons of the Trinity are equally God, there is a demonstrated authority among them. The Father is highest, the Son is under the Father, and the Holy Spirit is under the Father and the Son.

Authority is an important concept in the Kingdom of God. Can you think of examples where two people have equal value and worth as human beings, but one is under another's authority?
