

GOSPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

PULPIT SERIES

Gospel Community Church, 54 Atlantic Ave. West Sayville, NY 11796

#1

JESUS DRIVEN CHURCH

THE TRIUNE GOD

In order to lay a foundation of understanding concerning what, “THE JESUS DRIVEN CHURCH,” is all about, let us first go back to our basic assessment of who the wonderful, triune God we worship is.

Many of us have encountered cults like the Jehovah Witnesses, and Mormons whose idea of God is very different from orthodox Christianity.

Their false ideas stem basically from their concept of who Jesus and the Holy Spirit are.

So let's return to our ROOTS and establish through scripture, whom we believe our GOD is. We will start at the place of beginnings, Genesis.

OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

Creation

Gen 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

(Hebrew word for God, Elohim is plural in form joined to a singular verb)

Creation of Man

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Expulsion from Eden

Gen 3:22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Confusion at Babel

Gen 11:7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

Other passages

Deut 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

(The word for one in the Hebrew, “echad,” is pluralistic in form. Like saying a husband & wife are one, or one bunch of grapes)

Prov 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended?

who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

Eccl 12:1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

(The Hebrew actually says “creators”)

Isa 54:5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

(The Hebrew actually says “makers”)

Triune conversations

Isa 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

Isa 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the

Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.

Isa 63:9-10 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled, and vexed his Holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Father & Son conversations

Ps 2:1-9 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Ps 45:6-8 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia,

out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad.

Ps 110:1-5 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath.

NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES

Baptism of Jesus

Matt 3:16-17 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Temptation of Jesus

Matt 4:1 Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Teachings of Jesus

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom

the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Baptismal Formula

Matt 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Apostolic benediction

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

Descriptions "as God"

Father is God

John 6:44-46 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.

Rom 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Pet 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus

Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Son is God

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father;) full of grace and truth.

John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God (and) our Saviour Jesus Christ; Heb 1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Holy Spirit is God

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast

thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. Heb 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hopefully through this brief survey of scriptures you have been able to see that indeed our God is a wonderful and gracious TRIUNE GOD.

There are many descriptions which men have used to try to describe this concept. I will give you 8 quick ones. Please be advised that the first 5 are unscriptural. That doesn't mean they are wrong to use them. It just means you can not find scriptures to back them up. The last three have possibilities.

1. a three – leaf clover
2. the 3 states of water (liquid, vapor, and solid)
3. the 3-fold nature of man (body, soul, and spirit)
4. the 3 states of matter (vegetable, mineral and animal)
5. the 3 parts of an egg (shell, white and yolk)
6. the nature of light, consisting of 3 kinds of rays:
 - a) chemical ray – rays that are invisible, and can neither be felt nor seen
 - b) light rays – rays that are seen, but cannot be felt
 - c) heat rays – rays that are felt, but never seen

7. the dimensional example: a book has height, width, and length. These 3 cannot be separated, yet they are not the same.
8. a triangle

False views

There are 2 serious errors about the doctrine of the TRIUNE GOD:

1. The error of Tri-theism. This says that the Triune God consists of 3 separate (but cooperating) Gods.
2. The error of Modalism. According to this view there is but one God who simply reveals himself through 3 different modes, or roles. For example, a particular man could be considered a husband to his wife, a father to his children, and an employee to his boss. Scripture states that our triune God is three distinct personalities yet being one.

Definition of God

The Westminster Catechism defines God this way:

“There is but one only living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, most absolute, working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious,

merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin; the rewarder of them that diligently seek him; and withal most just and terrible in his judgments; hating all sin, and who will by no means clear the guilty.”

Although this definition is relatively large in size and great in significance, it barely scratches the surface of who our God really is. One day we will know Him even as we are known.

Before we close I just want to make a comment on the one attribute of God that is most universally known, that is His Love. Today most people in our world speak about the love of God. However their definition leaves out the totality of His attributes which include His Holiness, Truth, Righteousness, and Justice just to name a few. Their idea of love would suggest that a man and a woman who are having an adulterous relationship are justified because their “love” one another. However according to God this is not a “holy love.” Simply love can be defined as an unselfish concern about another’s welfare, or an act of one person seeking the highest good for another person. It is a decision that is made.

Lets quickly review the objects of God’s love that scripture reveals.

God loves Israel

Deut 7:7-8 The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of

all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

God loves the world

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

God loves the church

Eph 5:25-32 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

God loves the sinner

Rom 5:8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us

God loves the Christian

Gal 2:20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

God loves the Son

John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

God loves the cheerful giver

2 Cor 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

If you are a Christian let me remind that this awesome, wonderful, TRIUNE God, loves you and has a purpose for you, “For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.” (Jer. 29:11-13 NASB)

If you are not a Christian, WHY NOT? Write to us, we would be privileged to discuss the matter with you. After all the decision you make will be eternal.