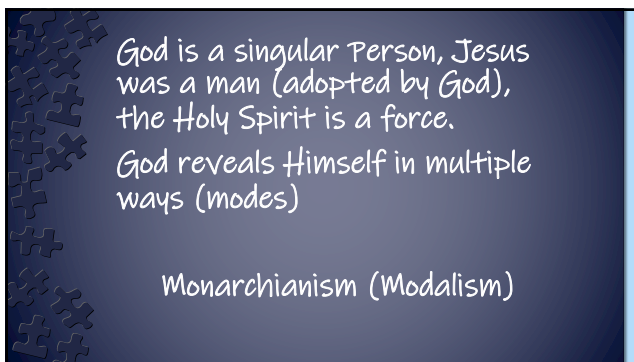


The Godhead
A Controversial
Concept?

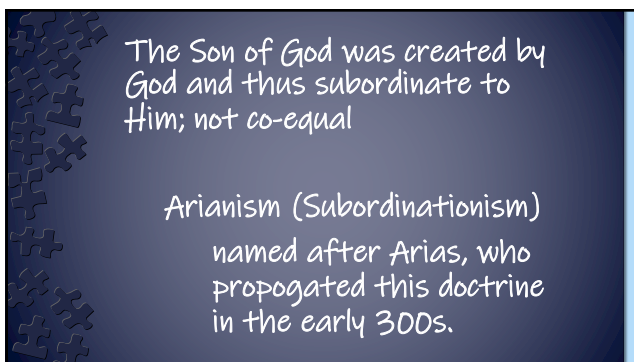
1



God is a singular Person, Jesus was a man (adopted by God), the Holy Spirit is a force.
God reveals Himself in multiple ways (modes)

Monarchianism (Modalism)

2



The Son of God was created by God and thus subordinate to Him; not co-equal

Arianism (Subordinationism)
named after Arias, who propogated this doctrine in the early 300s.

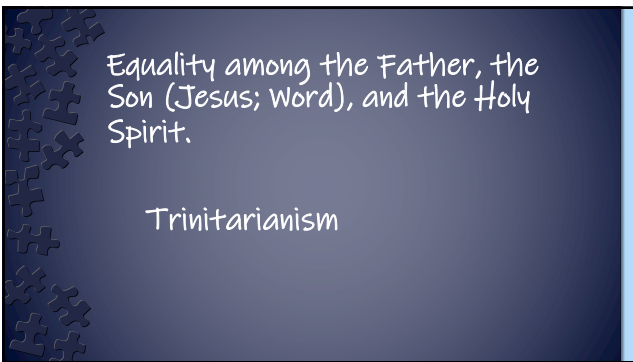
3



Three separate Gods; denies unity of the three.

Tritheism

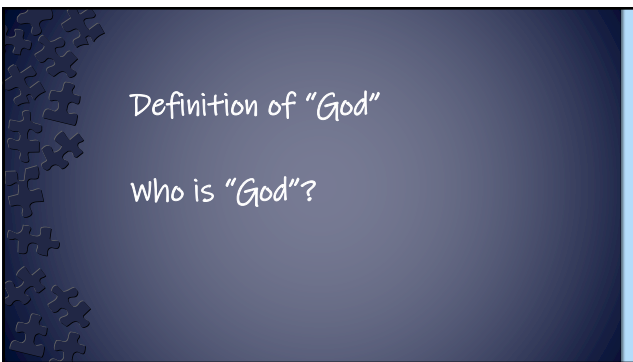
4



Equality among the Father, the Son (Jesus; Word), and the Holy Spirit.

Trinitarianism

5



Definition of "God"

Who is "God"?

6

Definition of "God"
 Old Testament (Hebrew) El - "deity"

- Elohim (strong) (Gen 1.1)
- El Shaddai (almighty) (Gen 17.1)
- El Elyon (most high) (Gen 14.19)
- El Roi (all seeing) (Gen 16.13)
- El Echad (one) (Malachi 2.10)
- El Emet (truth) (Psalm 31.5)
- El Tsaddik (justice) (Isaiah 45.21)
- El Olam (everlasting) (Gen 21.33)

7

Definition of "God"
 New Testament (Greek)

- Theos (deity)
 - divine in character or nature
- Theotes (Godhead) (Acts 17.29; Col 2.9)
 - the state of being God
 - divine nature (NJKV)

8

"God" is a nature or a quality of being -
 Wayne Jackson, "The Biblical Doctrine of the
 Godhead," *ChristianCourier.com*. 3/28/17
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1488-biblical-doctrine-of-the-godhead-the>

"God" is a name of divine nature. There is
 but one divine nature. Therefore, there is
 but one God." - David Lipe, "The Lipe-Lewis
 Debate, 1984", p10

9

Who is "God"?

The Father is God (John 6.27)
 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

The Son is God (Hebrews 1.8)
 "But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom."

The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5.3-4)
 "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.'"

10

Who is "Jehovah" (LORD)?

The Father is Jehovah (Hebrews 1.5 -> Psalm 2.7)

The Son is Jehovah (Hebrews 1:10-12 -> Psalm 102.25)

The Holy Spirit is Jehovah (Hebrew 10.15-16 -> Jeremiah 31)

11

However, Old & New Testament Passages say there is only one God.

Deuteronomy 4:35	Psalms 86:10	John 10:30
Deuteronomy 4:39	Isaiah 37:16	John 17:3
Deuteronomy 6:4	Isaiah 37:20	Galatians 3:20
Deuteronomy 32:39	Isaiah 43:10, 11	James 2:19
2 Sam 7:22	Isaiah 44:6	Jude 25
1 Kings 8:60	Isaiah 44:8	
2 Kings 5:15	Isaiah 45:21	
2 Kings 19:15	Isaiah 46:9	
1 Chronicles 17:20	Hosea 13:4	
Nehemiah 9:6	Joel 2:27	
Psalms 18:31	Zachariah 14:9	

12

And yet, Old & New Testaments both imply a plurality in God.

Genesis 1.26	Matthew 3.15-17
Genesis 2.18*	Matthew 28.19-20
Genesis 3.22	Luke 1.30-31
Genesis 11.7	
Isaiah 6.8	

13

Options for the Plurality in Genesis 1.26 – “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”

1. God (singular Being) is talking to the earth (God providing the soul, the earth providing the material).
2. God (singular Being) is talking to the ‘heavenly hosts’; created angels that are in heaven with Him.
3. God is using the “royal” we.
4. God is speaking to other Beings who are with Him.

14

One more thought regarding plurality:
 Genesis 2.18 – “And the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.’”

15

A fundamental point of contention between Judaism and Christianity.
"I and My Father are one." - John 10:30

16

How do we reconcile one God with the picture that multiple Beings are called God?

17

Why does this apparent contradiction exist?
How can these two concepts exist in inspired writing and be correct?
What is meant when God is said to be "one"?

18

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear O Israel: The LORD our God is one!"

The Hebrew word for LORD is "Jehovah". Jehovah means "self-existent/eternal."

The word for God is "Elohim". Elohim is the word for "gods" (i.e., "deity").

The Hebrew word for one is "echad". It means united, alike, alone, or altogether.

19

Echad – An examination of Genesis 2.24:

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh."

The same Hebrew word for "one" (echad) is used in Genesis 2.24 that is used in Deuteronomy 6.4.

20

The Point?:

Multiple individuals who are:

- united in their thoughts
- harmonious in their actions,
- altogether in their purpose.

21

The Picture?:

A single divine nature that is composed of three equal Persons, united in their thoughts, harmonious in their actions, and altogether in their purpose.

22

Why is it important for the Old Testament Israelites to understand that their God is one?

It has to be the idea of Unity and Harmony! – a concept that resounds throughout Scripture.

Israel's God is not a pantheon of gods with individual areas of responsibility or competition.
Canaanite pantheon of gods
Roman pantheon of gods

23

Summary

1. God is the name of a divine nature, state, or character.
2. There is only one divine nature.
3. There are multiple Persons that are God.
4. These multiple Persons exist within the Godhead. They are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
5. Monotheism and Trinitarianism are compatible ideologies since there is only one divine nature.
6. Deuteronomy 6.4 is important for the Children of Israel to understand; their God is not a pantheon of gods.

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