

# APPROVED UNTO GOD

## THE DOCTRINE OF THE FATHER

### I. Misconceptions of God

1. "a pure mathematical mind" (Einstein)
2. cosmic killjoy
3. angry policeman
4. tired old man
5. God in a box (limited)
6. vending machine
7. only cares about my happiness

Truth of God: He doesn't necessarily care about my happiness. He cares about my holiness.

### II. God's Attributes

#### A. His "Natural" Attributes (qualities that constitute what He is, the very characteristics of His nature)

1. He is separate from His creation.

DEFINITION: Transcendent = above and beyond His creation, including the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1)

2. His power and presence pervade His creation.

DEFINITION: Immanent = He does not stand apart from the world. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is working with us. (Genesis 2)

3. He is omnipotent, all powerful.

C. While God is able to do the impossible, in reality, He will do only what is in harmony with His moral character.

For example, "it is impossible for God to lie" (see Hebrews 6:18).

b) The omnipotence of God is not subject to conceptual absurdity.

For example, "Can God make a rock so big that even He cannot lift it?" As C. S. Lewis says, "Nonsense is still nonsense, whether we are talking about something else or about God."

4. He is eternal; He never had a beginning and will never have an end (see Isaiah 57:15; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2).
5. He is infinite; He is not limited by, or confined to the universe. There is no place where God cannot be found.
6. He is unchangeable (see James 1:17, Malachi 3:6 & I Samuel 15:29). God's love is steadfast and constant, and not subject to the ebb and flow of human love. His wrath is a fixed attitude toward sin and is not like our fits of temper when something displeases us.

Malachi 3:6 "I the LORD do not change."

NOTE: God "repent?" The Bible speaks of God repenting, a term that seems to mean that He has changed His mind (see Jonah 3:10). Actually, instead of God changing His mind, the people have turned from rebellion to repentance, so that God was consistent, the people changed.  
God is **CONSISTENT!**

7. He is omnipresent; He is fully present everywhere.  
Jer. 23:24 "Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. 'Do not I fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD."

Psalm 139:5-10 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

8. He is omniscient, that is, He knows everything, including our own thoughts.  
Psalm 139:2 "You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar."
9. He is a spirit; He does not have a physical body  
John 4:24 "God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

John 20:19 "On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'"

John 20:26 "A week later His disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!'"

10. He is personal, that is, He is a person. He has the elements of personality - intellect, feelings, and will. Because he is personal, our relationships with him have dimensions of warmth and understanding. He is approachable. He is spoken to and he speaks.

B. God's "Moral" Attributes (characteristics of God as a moral being that allow Him to be trusted and loved)

1. Love

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

I John 4:7-16 - "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.

Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them."

2. Faithfulness

I John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

3. Holiness (set apart, perfect, pure)

Leviticus 19:2 - "Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.'"

I Peter 1:15-16 - "But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy.'"

4. Mercy

Ephesians 2:4 - "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved."

God is a God of Mercy. Mercy is not receiving the punishment or negative consequences that are deserved. (Titus 3:5)

Titus 3:5 - "He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy."

5. Grace

God is a God of Grace. Grace is unmerited divine assistance and favor - getting something good you don't deserve.

Ephesians 1:5-12 - "He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious **grace**, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. In him we have redemption through his

blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, <sup>10</sup>to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.”

**God's Riches At Christ's Expense ... GRACE**

6.                     *Righteousness*                    

Psalm 119:137,142 – “You are righteous, Lord, and your laws are right. Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.”

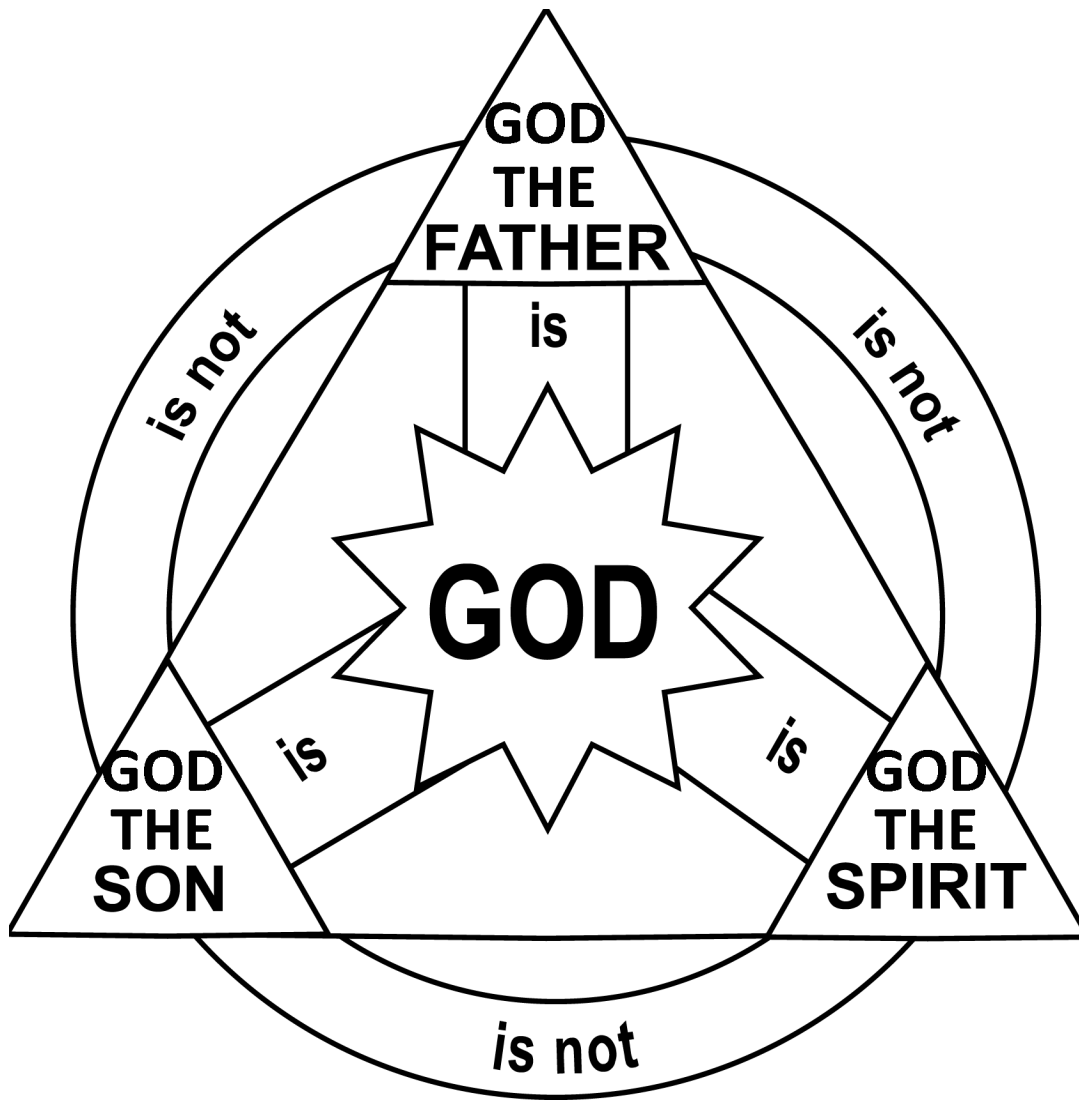
7.                     *Justice*                    

Romans 9:14 – “What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!”

Psalm 37: 1-2, 10 – “Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away.... A little while, and the wicked will be no more; though you look for them, they will not be found.”

God is fair in the administration of his law – he doesn't show favoritism – who the person is, is not significant.

# Diagram of the Trinity



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## THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

*"Try to explain it, you'll lose your mind.  
Try to deny it, you'll lose your soul."*

### I. Trinity defined:

Tri-unity; Three-in-one.

God is one divine being existing in three distinguishable persons, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### II. Three Biblical truths

#### A. There is diversity.

1. The     *Father*     is not the     *Son*      
(see Jesus' prayers, for example John 17 and 1 Corinthians 8:6  
1 Cor. 8:6 "yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.")
2. The     *Father*     is not the     *Holy Spirit*      
(see John 14:26).  
"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."
3. The     *Son*     is not the     *Holy Spirit*      
(see John 16:7).  
"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."

#### B. God is three.

1. The     *Father*     is     *God*      
(see Romans 15:6)  
"So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. The     *Son*     is     *God*      
(see John 1:1).  
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
3. The     *Holy Spirit*     is     *God*      
(See Acts 5:3, 4).  
"Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at

your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

C. There is                     one                     God.

<u>Exodus 20: 3</u>	“You shall have no other gods before me.”
<u>Deuteronomy 6:4</u>	“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, The Lord is one.”
<u>James 2:19</u>	“You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that - and shudder.”
<u>John 10:30</u>	“I and the Father are one.”
<u>I Timothy 2:5</u>	“For there is one God and mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”
<u>Isaiah 44:6</u>	“This is what the Lord says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.”
<u>Matthew 28:19-20</u>	“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### III. GOD IS THREE IN ONE

A. The Trinity created us (see I Corinthians 8:6; John 1:1, Gen. 1:26)).

1Cor. 8:6 “yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. “

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

Gen. 1:26 “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish of the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’”

B. The Trinity redeemed us (see I Peter 1:2 & Hebrews 9:14).

1Pet. 1:2 “who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.”

Heb. 9:14 “How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!”

C. The Trinity fellowships with us (see John 14:21).

John 14:21 “Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

D. Trinity in prayer

We pray:

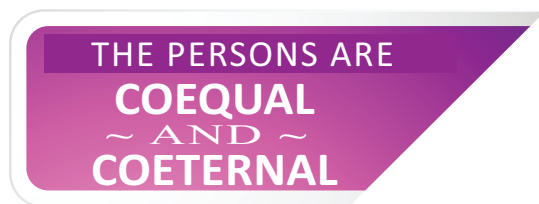
To the Father

In the Name of Jesus

By the Power of the Holy Spirit

IV. The Trinity: 4 Essential Affirmations

1. There is one true/living God .
2. This one true God eternally exists in 3 persons, God the Father, God the Son & God the Spirit .
3. All 3 are equal in attributes, each with the same divine nature
4. While all 3 are fully and completely God , the persons are not identical.



## **APPROVED UNTO GOD**

### MEMORY VERSE #3

“Since what may be known about God is plain to them,  
because God has made it plain to them.  
For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities  
—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen,  
being understood from what has been made,  
so that people are without excuse.”  
Romans 1:19-20

### **Commentary**

The theme of the entire book of Romans, righteousness is from God, was introduced by Paul in the passage just prior to our verse. In our memory verse Paul states that no one—not even one who has not heard of the Bible or of Christ—has an excuse for not honoring God, because the whole created world reveals him.

### **Easy Memorization Breakdown**

- ⇒ Romans 1:19-20
- ⇒ Since what may be known about God is plain to them,
- ⇒ because God has made it plain to them.
- ⇒ For since the creation of the world
- ⇒ God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—
- ⇒ have been clearly seen,
- ⇒ being understood from what has been made,
- ⇒ so that people are without excuse.
- ⇒ Romans 1:19-20

### **Practice writing the verse**

(Remember to write the reference, too!)