

Key Text:

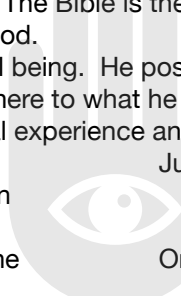
Colossians 1:15,16; 2:9

“He is the image of the invisible God...”
&
“For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form...”

GOD

The existence of God is to be first established and believed before the other topics can be addressed. God is the creator and sustainer of everything in the universe and God has provided mankind with a revelation of Himself. **The Bible does not seek to prove the existence of God; it simply affirms His existence by declaring, “In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1).** Belief in God is absolutely foundational to an understanding of the Bible or life itself. (Hebrews 11:6) So it is always by faith that we have a connection with the “Unseen” God of the Bible. This faith is never unreasonable or “Blind-Faith” for it is made clear through many compelling arguments for the existence of God. So much evidence has been revealed that anyone who denies the existence of God is considered foolish. (Rom. 1:20; Psalm 53:1) **Here are just five of the arguments for God’s existence:**

1. **THE WORLD IS PROOF:** This is referred to as the Cosmological argument. “Cosmos” means world. The Cosmological Argument looks at the world then argues from the law of cause and effect. The existence of an effect indicates the existence of a cause. All things must be traced to a first cause which is God, the creator. (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20; Heb.11:3)
2. **THE BIBLE IS PROOF:** The miracle of the Bible provides excellent proof for God. Through its “Predictive” prophecies subsequently fulfilled, through its unity in diversity, through its miraculous preservation and influence, and finally through its own declaration. The Bible is the word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16). This is referred to as the Bibliological Argument for God.
3. **MORALITY IS PROOF:** Man is a moral being. He possess an inner sense of right and wrong as well as a sense of responsibility to adhere to what he believes is right and avoid the wrong. WHY? A sense of morality is a universal experience and becomes another evidence for the existence of an objective Moral Law-Giver or Supreme Judge. (Romans 2:14-15; 1 Tim. 4:2; Titus 1:15)
4. **WORSHIP IS PROOF:** Worship exists in some form or another within every culture and in every human experience. This universal need to worship something other than self or even the worship of self provides another evidence for God. This is referred to as the Ontological Argument for God. (Acts 17:23-24; Romans 1:18-32; own 1:3-7)
5. **JESUS CHRIST IS PROOF:** This is the Christological Argument. The Christ of history is a fact and it is impossible to explain the person of Jesus Christ apart from the existence of God. Consider, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His Teaching, and His Death-Burial-Resurrection as proof of God. (John 14:9; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 John 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:19-21)



HOW CAN I KNOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE?

There are two things which help a person to know what God is like, they are The Bible and Jesus Christ. **The Bible provides us with God’s own testimony about Himself.** The Bible declares to us that; God is love: 1 John 4:8. God is patient: Numbers 14:18. God is faithful: Deuteronomy 7:9. God is good: Psalm 34:8; God is merciful: Exodus 34:6. God is gracious: Psalm 145:8; God is true: Revelation 19:11; God is righteous & Just: Psalm 11:7. God is wise: 1 Timothy 1:17. God is sovereign: Isaiah 46:9-11. **The second way of knowing God is through a relationship with Jesus Christ. It is when you see Jesus that you also see God the Father. When you see and know what Jesus is like you also experience what the Holy Spirit is like. (John 14:9 & Colossians 2:9)** Christianity is unique in that each and everyone of us can have an active relationship directly with God. Believers read His thoughts, they talk to Him in prayer and hear His voice, believers feel His presence, they give to God in worship and receive actual benefits from Him throughout life. When a believer reads the many testimonies of Jesus within scripture and couples them with testimonies from life the result is a strong emotional connection and bond. Your relationship with Jesus becomes cemented by shared experience just like other relationships in life. This process of knowing God is a life-long one. This is because of the many attributes of God which are hard for our “finite” minds to grasp. We can only understand or know what God himself reveals and is subsequently grasped by us.

**ALL KNOWLEDGE IN
THE UNIVERSE**

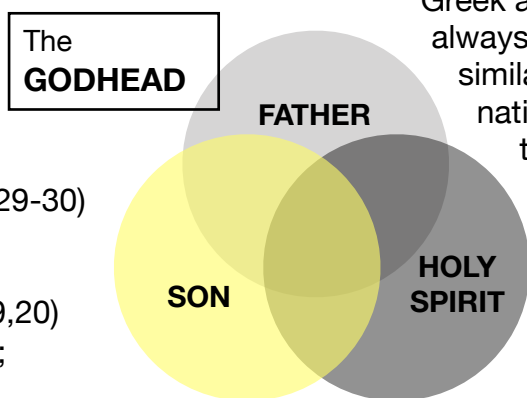
G O D

**ALL YOUR
KNOWLEDGE**

THE ESSENTIAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Attributes are the characteristics or qualities belonging to a person. The essential attributes are those qualities which belong to God apart from any relationship to His creatures. They are the characteristics which make God who He is. They can never become attributes of man because man would then become God. These are referred to as incommunicable attributes. (*Ones that cannot be shared.*) They include:

- ◆ **Self-Existent** (Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 41:4; John 5:26)
- ◆ **Immutable/Unchanging.** (James 1:17; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 102:27)
- ◆ **Omnipotent.** (Revelation 19:6; Genesis 18:14; Job 42:2)
- ◆ **Omniscient.** (1 Samuel 2:3; Psalm 147:5; Hebrews 4:12-13). This knowledge includes...
 - ◆ Foreknowledge (Rom. 8:29-30)
 - ◆ Foreseeing (Gal. 3:8)
 - ◆ Prophetic (Acts 3:18-24)
 - ◆ Foreordained (1 Pet. 1:19,20)
- ◆ **Omnipresent.** (Psalm 139:7-12; Ephesians 1:23)



MORAL ATTRIBUTES

These are the characteristic which belong to God especially in relation to His creatures. These attributes are also those which God intends man to possess and thus they are called communicable attributes. They include:

- ◆ **Perfect Holiness.** (Leviticus 19:2; 1 Peter 1:16)
- ◆ **Perfect Righteousness.** (Deuteronomy 32:4; Genesis 18:25; Romans 1:17)
- ◆ **Perfect Love.** (2 Corinthians 13:11; 1 John 4:8,16). His love includes the expressions of: Goodness, Grace, Mercy, Compassion and Kindness. (Ephesians 2:4-7 & Titus 3:4-7)
- ◆ **Perfect Faithfulness.** (Isaiah 25:1; Deuteronomy 7:9; Isaiah 49:7)

Remember the more you get to know God, the more you will look and act like God in these attributes. If you are not more loving today than when you first came to know Christ...you might not know God. (1 John 4:8)

The TRINITY

The term used in the New Testament relative to God is "**The Godhead**". This word refers to that which is Divine, to Deity, involving God's revelation of His own mode of being. (*Acts 17:29...the Godhead is not like idols made of gold or stone.*) The Bible also reveals that in the Eternal Godhead there are three which are spoken of as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. (Matt.28:19; 3:16-17; 1 John 5:7-8)

The Bible also states very clearly that God is ONE. Deuteronomy 4:35,39; Mark 12:20. So is there a contradiction in scripture? No, the words used in every case referring to God are not a mathematical word for one. In both Greek and Hebrew translations the words used always speak of a compound unity. Which is similar to saying "One" army or "One" nation. English translators must work hard to communicate the same intended meaning with fewer words. Tertullian was one of the leaders early on in the church who introduced the word "**Trinity**". Trinity was the word used to define the teaching of the Godhead. The word means threefold.

This accurately reflects the Bibles revelation of God as three distinct persons. All three persons are distinguishable yet indivisible in essence, co-eternal; co-equal; and co-existent in attributes, power, nature and glory.

If you take the idea of "Godhead" to any extreme you will open yourself up to unbiblical perspectives. Such as...POLYTHEISM or Tritheism. The God of the Bible is not like one of the millions of Hindu gods. If you push to the other extreme of numerically ONE God. You will be like the Unitarians and diminish the deity of Christ or the Holy Spirit. We can not allow a lack of mental understanding on our part to dictate a change with regard to God's revealed nature and essence. The Conclusion is that we must trust the revealed truth about God's attributes and characteristics. The Lord our God is One and that IS The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.