

1. Doctrine of

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GOD

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- 2. Nature of Jesus
- 3. Holy Spirit

I. DOCTRINE OF GOD

God's General Attributes

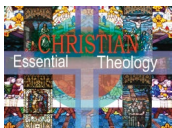
An attribute is an inherent characteristic of a person or being. Describing God in a comprehensive way is not possible; however, His attributes are revealed in the Bible and can be examined.

All-knowing (Omniscient)	Job 38:39, 37:16, Psalm 147:5; Rom.11:33-36
All-powerful (Omnipotent)	Gen.17:1; 18:14; 18:25; Is.40:27-31
Everywhere (Omnipresent)	Ps.139:7-12; Gen. 18:25
Changeless	Heb. 1:12
Eternal	1 Pet. 3:8; Rev. 1:8
Holiness	Is. 6:1-3; Eph. 4:24
Love	Gen1:31; Ps: 145:9; Mk 10:18
Righteousness	Gen. 18:25; Deut. 32:4; Rom. 2:6-16
Spirit	John 4:24
Wisdom	1 Tim. 1:17; 1 King 3:9; James 1:5

GOD

Creator

How He Exists



What Other Religions Say about God

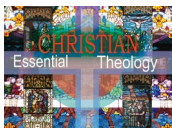
	God
Mormonism Later-day- Saints	God the Father was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother), no Trinity. They are separated. Worthy person may become a god
Islam	Christians and Muslims worship the same God. God (Allah) is One, Creator of the universe. He is eternal, all powerful..; the difference between Christians and Muslims is <i>the revelation of God’s Himself</i> and His existence- <i>Self-disclosure</i>
Christian Science	God is an impersonal Principle of life, truth, love, intelligence, and spirit. God is all that truly exists; matter is an illusion.
Jehovah’s W	One-person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created
Judaism	God is spirit. <i>To Orthodox Jews</i> , God is personal, all-powerful, eternal and compassionate. No Trinity
Hinduism	God is “the Absolute,” a universal spirit. Everyone is part of God (Brahman) like drops in the sea, but more people are not aware of this. People worship manifestations of Brahman (gods of goddesses)
Buddhism	The Buddha himself did not believe in the existence of God. Others speak of the Buddha as a universal enlightened consciousness or as a god.
Atheist	Idea, moral behavior(s). <i>God’s existence is a speculative hypothesis of an extremely low order of probability.</i>
Philosophy	Highest being, hypothesis, piety, or virtue. <i>Natural religion: Enlightenment</i>

Monotheistic Creator

- “I am who I am” (Exodus 3:14) Allah = El or Elohim / Quran
- Only God/Savior = No Other name can save us.

God’s existence

The Creator is powerfully above and independent of the created world but also lovingly present and at work in it. We have seen repeatedly that biblical-Christian faith emphasizes both the sovereign power of a “**transcendent**” God over all created reality and the nearness of an “**immanent**” God in and for all created reality.



One of the most difficult problems of a Christian doctrine of creation is the problem of maintaining a proper balance between these two emphases. Every attempt to talk about the relation between Creator and creation tends to defend one at the expense of the other.

Transcendent

Is 55:8-9

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”

declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Immanent

Is 6:3

³And they were calling to one another: “Holy,
holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole
earth is full of his glory.”

Jeremiah 23:24

“Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot
see them?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill
heaven and earth?” declares the LORD.

Christian Tradition (Theism)

Theism: *Theos* – inferior reality of human

- The great distance and difference between Creator and creation, and on the absolute power of the Creator over creation.
The love of God is that of a superior condescending to “look down on” and help inferior creatures from the heavenly heights, safely removed from intimate personal involvement in their need, hurt, and pain.
- God sent Jesus to share all the weakness and suffering of human life but God himself cannot and does not suffer and experience what it is like to die.

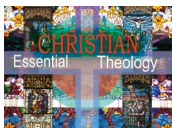
Pantheism

Everything comes from God.

Everything is God.

Totemism

Can I be God?



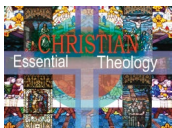
Panentheism

- Everything that exists is in God. The world is in God and God is in the world.
- Emphasis on the immanent presence of God in the world (Col. 1:16)
- The world is always dependent on God and can never be confused with God.

II. NATURE OF JESUS

Real God and Real Human
Incarnation through the HS.

Mormonism Later-day-Saints	God	the Father was once a man, but “progressed” to godhood. He has a physical body, as does his wife (Heavenly Mother), no Trinity. They are separated. Worthy person may become a god
	Jesus	Jesus is a separate god from the Father (Elohim). He was created as a spirit child by the Father and Mother in heaven. His body was created through sexual union between Elohim and Mary. He is married.
	Holy Spirit	HS is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God
Islam	God	Christians and Muslims worship the same God. God (Allah) is One, Creator of the universe. He is eternal, all powerful.; the difference between Christians and Muslims is <i>the revelation of God’s Himself</i> and His existence- <i>Self-disclosure</i>
	Jesus	He is one of the respected prophets (124,000) sent by Allah. His virgin birth is like Adam’s creation. He is not God. He is not Son of G.
	HS	Allah is or has a spirit. No trinity
Christian Science	God	God is an impersonal Principle of life, truth, love, intelligence, and spirit. God is all that truly exists; matter is an illusion.
	Jesus	He is not Savior but a man who displayed the Christ idea. No death on the cross, no resurrection.
	HS	Teaching of Christian science
Jehovah’s W	God	One-person God, called Jehovah. No Trinity. Jesus is the first thing Jehovah created
	Jesus	
	HS	
Judaism	God	God is spirit. <i>To Orthodox Jews</i> , God is personal, all-powerful, eternal and compassionate. No Trinity
	Jesus	He is Michael the archangel. not the cross but a stake. He was resurrected as a spirit. He is not coming again. He <i>returned invisibly in 1914 in spirit.</i>



	HS	Invisible, active force from Jeohvah.
Hinduism	God	God is “the Absolute,” a universal spirit. Everyone is part of God (Brahman) like drops in the sea, but more people are not aware of this. People worship manifestations of Brahman (gods of goddesses)
	Jesus	Teacher, a guru, or an avatar (incarnation of Vishnu). He is a son of God as are others.
	HS	HS doesn’t exist
Buddhism	God	The Buddha himself did not believe in the existence of God. Others speak of the Buddha as a universal enlightened consciousness or as a god.
	Jesus	Teacher, avatar or a Bodhisattava (불자)
	HS	No HS
Atheist	God	Idea, moral behavior(s). <i>God’s existence is a speculative hypothesis of an extremely low order of probability.</i>
	Jesus	Historical figure, guru.
	HS	High energy, no HS
Philosophy	God	Highest being, hypothesis, piety, or virtue. Natural religion: Enlightenment
	Jesus	Philosopher
	HS	Immaterial component of an organism;

Question to Ponder

1. *Do we believe with Jesus or in Jesus?* (Adolf von Harnack, *What Is Christianity*; New York: Harper and Brothers, 1957, p.144)
2. Jesus is not God, then what?

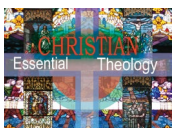
Real God

God loves us, so he chose to act through Christ to restore our relationship with the Creator. In God’s intended condition for humanity, Christ’s humanity is directly connected to his deity and the work of the Holy Spirit. Christ’s deity lies at the heart of our faith.

Jesus’ own self-consciousness: *Did he claim that he is GOD?*

Divine Prerogative

- (1) He would send “His Angels.” (Matt.13:41; Luke 12:8-9; 15:10)
- (2) His kingdom (Lk.12:8-9;15:10)
- (3) Forgiveness, “Your sins are forgiven.” (Mk.2:5); “Who can forgive sins but god alone?” (v7)
- (4) “His glory” and “He will sit on the throne.” (Mt.25:16)
- (5) one with Father; know him and know the Father (Jn. 10:30; 14:7-9)



Real Human

In the twentieth century Jesus's humanity did not receive the close and extensive attention paid to his deity, which was a major topic of dispute between fundamentalists and modernists. Yet, historically, the topic of Jesus's humanity has played at least as important a role in theological dialogue as has his deity, particularly in the earliest years of the church.

If, however, Jesus was not really one of us, humanity has not been united with deity and we cannot be saved. The validity of the work accomplished in Christ's death, or at least its applicability to us as humans, depends on the reality of his humanity, just as its efficacy depends on the genuineness of his deity. Furthermore, Jesus's intercessory ministry depends on his humanity. If he was truly one of us, experiencing all of the human temptations and trials, then he is able to understand and empathize with us in our struggles as humans. However, if he was not human, or only incompletely human, he cannot really intercede as a priest must on behalf of those whom he represents.

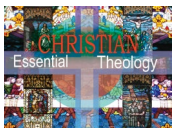
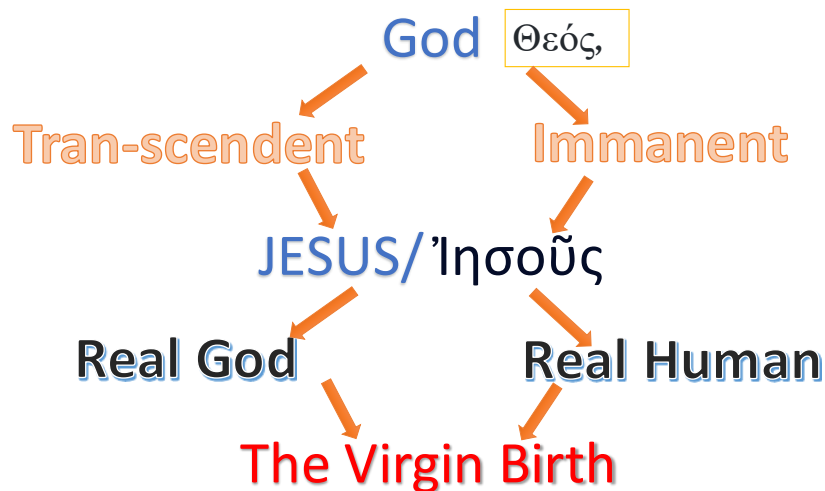
(1) Human Body/Physical Human Nature; Luke 2:52

- hunger (Matt. 4: 2)
- thirst (John 19: 28)
- fatigue (John 4: 6).
- Jesus suffered physically and died, just like everyone else.
- in John 19: 34, a spear was thrust into his side, and water and blood mingled came out.

(2) Human Emotion

Jesus' reactions to the death of Lazarus. He "was deeply moved in spirit and troubled" (John 11: 33); he wept (v. 35); at the tomb he was "once more deeply moved" (v. 38).

1-2-1-2-1 Diagram: Natures of God and Jesus



The Virgin Birth (Human Incarnation)

Matthew 1: 18– 25; Luke 1: 26– 38; Isaiah 7:14 (Mt.1:23)

The doctrine of the virgin birth is a reminder that

(1) Our salvation is supernatural (John 1: 13).

The emphasis is that salvation does not come through human effort, nor is it a human accomplishment. So also the virgin birth points to the helplessness of humans to initiate even the first step in the process.

(2) God’s salvation is fully a gift of grace.

(3) Jesus was, at the very least, a highly unusual human singled out by God in particular ways.

(4) God was able to work the seemingly impossible in the matter of the virgin birth. It symbolizes his ability to accomplish the seemingly impossible task of granting a new birth to sinners (Matt. 19: 26).

III. HOLY SPIRIT

Because the Holy Spirit is not systematically described in Scripture, the doctrine of the Third Person of the Trinity has been controversial. The Spirit is important, since he provides contact between the believer and God. From the biblical evidence, we can discover his deity and personality.

Question to Ponder: How do you know you have the HS? (1 Cor.12:3)

God is one in Essence and three in persons.

HS is God in the same fashion and to the same degree as are the Father and the Son.

1. We should understand the HS in the line of God’s nature of “Transcendent & Immanent.”

2. HS is God = Jesus

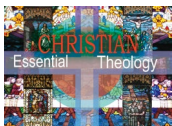
(1) Acts 5:3: “You lied to the HS....You have not lied just to human beings but to God.

(2) “Holy Spirit” and “God” are used interchangeably in Paul’s discussion of the Christian’s body.

- 1 Cor. 3:16: “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?”

- 1 Cor. 6: 19 “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”

- John 16:13: Jesus’ followers will be guided by the HS.



OT: Ps. 104:30 “You send forth Your Spirit; they are created; and you renew the face of the earth.

Trinity

John 1:1-5

“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.”

John 1:14 “the Word became 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 10:30

“I and the Father are one.”

Genesis 1:26

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

HS is a person

John 16:14

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you.

Resources

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Guthrie Jr., Shirley C.. Christian Doctrine, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

Erickson, Millard J.. Introducing Christian Doctrine (p. 419). Baker Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

