

Nature and Character of God

God is **spirit** (1 Kg 8:27; Jer 23:24; John 4:24); **jealous** (Ex 20:5; 34:14; Dt 4:24; 6:15; Josh 24:19); **beyond comprehension** (Job 36:26ff; Isa 40:25f; 46:5, 9; 55:8f); **unique** (Dt 4:35,39; 32:39; Isa 43:10; 44:6f; 45:22; 46:9; 1 Cor 8:5; 2 Ths 2:4); called "**Father**" (Isa 64:8; Mal 2:10; Philip 1:2; 1 Ths 1:3); and "**one**" (Dt 6:4; 1 Cor 8:5f).

God **alone** gives salvation (Isa 43:11; 45:21; Hos 13:4) and is worshipped (Dt 5:7, 9). God does not give His glory to another (Isa 42:8; 48:11).

Jesus is God (Jn 1:1; 5:17; Col 1:15ff; 2:9f; Heb 1:3–8)

The Holy Spirit

Is a **Personal Being**, not a thing, or a force (1 Cor 12:3ff; Rom 8:26f; 15:30; Acts 8:29; 11:12; 16:6f; Eph 4:30).

Identified as **God** (Acts 5:3f).

The Three are distinct and interact with one another

Jesus was baptized, the Spirit descended, and the Father spoke (Mt 3:16)

Father and Son speak with one another (Jn 17:1ff)

Jesus says both he and the Father are two distinct witnesses (Jn 8:14ff)

Jesus sends the Spirit from the Father (Jn 15:26f)

Definition

One "essence" or "substance": the "what" of God is one.

Three distinct "persons" in relationship, communication, agreement, and equality: the "who" of God is three.

Actions of one are in concert and concord with the others; the three are inseparable, and constantly interact with the others. One never acts without the participation of the others.

The fellowship and communion with the Triune God always existed; God was never alone.

Heretical Denials of the Trinity:

Modalism—one God appears in three distinct modes or roles; One Person reveals himself and interacts with us at times as Father, sometimes as the Son, and other times as the Spirit. Cf. Oneness Pentecostalism.

Adoptionism—God exalted and adopted another (an angel or a man) to be God's Unique Son. Cf. Unitarianism.

Arianism—Jesus is second in command; the first created being, with a unique status over and beyond all others. Cf. Jehovah Witnesses.

Tritheism—There are three distinct and separate gods.