

San Juan church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... What is the Godhead?

The word "Godhead" is used three times in the Bible (Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9). When the word "Godhead" is used, we think of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit being the sum total of Deity (Matt. 28:19). The Bible teaches there is one God but there are three divine persons that make up the one God.

Notice how "one" is used in the scriptures: Paul said in Romans 12:4, "Just as we have many members in ONE body and all the members do not have the same function, so we, who are many, are ONE body in Christ, and individually members one of another." You can see that one body does not mean only one person, but rather many persons making up one body.

Jesus taught that two persons are one without losing their individual identity. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become ONE flesh. So they are no longer two, but ONE flesh. What therefore God has joined together let no man separate" (Matt. 19:5-6). You can clearly see that one here includes two persons.

Jesus prayed that all believers might be one. "I do not ask on behalf of these alone [apostles], but for those also who believe in Me through their [apostles] word that they may all be ONE; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You...the glory which You have given Me I have given to them [believers], that they may be ONE, just as We are ONE" (John 17:20-22). One in this passage cannot and does not mean only one person. Furthermore, Jesus prayed that His followers would be one AS [note the adverb of comparison] He and His Father are one. "AS" means "in this way," or "in this manner." Therefore, one God does not mean only one person of God.

Jesus the Word occupied a human body and came in the flesh to dwell among men (John 1:14). Of the Godhead, He is the only one spoken of as man (1 Timothy 2:5). He emptied Himself of the nature or form of God and became a man (Phil. 2:6-7). He was the person of the Godhead that was born of flesh, died, was buried and rose again (Phil. 2:8-11). He was man but also God (John 20:27-28; 1 John 1:1-3).

The Jews, as well as many people today, have a hard time understanding that Jesus is Deity. Jesus said, "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). I = Jesus, and Father = Jehovah. Jesus also said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born I am" (John 8:58). On both occasions the Jews wanted to stone Jesus for these statements of His Deity, and Jesus answered them, "I showed you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you stoning Me?" Then the Jews answered Him, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy; and because You being a man, make Yourself out to be God" (John 10:32-33). They could not understand that Deity may be composed of two persons with one taking upon Himself humanity, while the other person was in heaven. One cannot come to Jesus [one person] unless the Father [another person] draws him (John 6:44-45).

In regard to the third person in the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, "But I tell you the truth, it is to your [disciples] advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper [Holy Spirit] will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He [Holy Spirit], when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; but when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He [Holy Spirit] will glorify Me [Jesus], for He will take of Mine and disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and I will disclose it to you (John 16:7-15).

The apostle John wrote, "Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also" (1 John 1:22). "Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son" (2 John 9-11).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to: info@sanjuanchurchofchrist.org