

GBC WOMEN'S THEOLOGY CLASS 2018

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1. *The doctrine of the Trinity briefly comprehended:*

- a. Theologically we call this? _____
- b. **Is God one?** Or is He three? – God is _____ Lord/One divine being – Deut 6:4/Eph 4:6
Echad – (complex, compound – unity) – vs absolute/ simple- oneness – Gen 1:4-10; 2:24; 11:6
Ex 26:6/Deut 36:13

Only One – solitary oneness – Yachiyd – Ps 68:6/Gen 22:2/12/Prov 4:3/Jer 6:26/Amos 8:10

The term unity is in fact what the Hebrew scholars confess as the components that make up the Echad or the One.

- c. **God is also Three?** _____ – 1 John 5:6-12/Matt 28:19-20/Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:7/Prov 30:4/
Isa 61:1/ 48:16
- d. **Where is their oneness or Unity ?** In the _____ – 1 Cor 8:4/Eph 4:6/Phil 2:11/Isa 64:8/
Mal 2:10
(Deny what is often expressed as a non- personal monad)
- e. **What doctrine do we call this?** _____
- f. **Where is their Threeness?** _____ – John 16:8-14/Prov 8:30-34/Matt 3:17/John 17:5/
1 John 5:6-12/Matt 28:19-20
- g. **What two errors are we seeking to avoid ?** _____ / _____
- a. Modalism – Oneness Pentecostals (Sabellius) (GOD is Unipersonal)
- b. Tri –theism – “Jehovah witnesses – Mormons – Christians who cannot safely formulate
- c. Three and one construct – and be biblical

“God the Father is the One True and Living GOD from whom *proceeds* the *Son* and the *Spirit bearing his nature as God* and demonstrating a perfect manifestation of those divine attributes mutually and individually so as to affirm their absolute unity of being and distinction of persons.” – John 10:30/
Mark 5:9/Acts 2:32; 3:15; 16:28

I and the Father – Plural subject object persons- relationship – Gen 1:26

Are (plural – verb) esmen Not I is – or I am (ego-eime) (one singular)
“I and the Father, One – we are”

One Singular – Shared Divine Nature and purpose – John 5:16-23/John 10:30

ἐγὼ καὶ ὁ πατήρ ἓν ἐσμεν.

I and the Father one We/are

(Pre/Ind /Act /Plural)

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ONTOLOGICAL – FRAMEWORK – OF THE TRIUNE GOD

- Oneness of nature** F / S / S = EQUALITY OF NATURE – Deut 6:4/John 1:1/Phil 2:5
Co-equal – Co-eternal – Co-essential – (A shared single Divine Nature)
Omnipotent / Omniscient / Omnipresent
Attributes/Characteristics – vs – Each are called GOD – 1 Cor 8:6/Heb 1:8/Acts 5:3-4
- The Order, Distinction and Relation of the three Persons is Called _____
Father
Son
Spirit – Matt 28:19-20/Col 2:5
- The Aseity principle of their Oneness** – Of Him, By Him, Though Him – Rom 11:34-36
The Father is GOD _____ (Of) Himself, but not by Himself – Isa 45:5, 22-25/Phil 2:10/Prov 30:4
The Son is GOD _____ (In) but not of Himself, nor by himself – John 5:19-20/Isa 48:12-16/
Rev 1:17; 22:13
The Spirit is GOD _____ (In) but not of Himself, nor By himself – Acts 13:2-3/ Gen 1:1, 26/
Is 48:16
- The interdependence of the two by the genitive form (of) meaning possessive/ownership:**
The Son (of) God – The Spirit (of) God – But never the Father (of) GOD
“The Father is _____” – 1 Cor 8:6a
Affirms the _____ (oneness) of Nature – essence – ontology
And avoids the _____ (three-ness – Tri-theism)
One God – generically Three persons numerically

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1. **The objective of the believer towards the three?**

- a. The Father is *the ultimate* but *not exclusive* object of Worship! – Matt 6:9/John 4:24-25/1 Peter 1:17/James 1:17
- b. We *worship God through* their persons. It is by the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father. – Eph 2:18
- c. The Father is the *Ultimate* cause – Son the *Essential* cause – Spirit is the *Instrumental* cause –
Originator Mediator Illuminator

We *understand* God, furthermore through this means as well. Eph 1:17-18/2 Cor 4:4-6

The Benefits of the Triune Framework

1. **Clarity on the nature of scripture. The pronouns are identified more readily** – Eph 1:1-14/
1 Peter 1:18-21/John 1:1-3/Gen 1:26/Ps 110:1-2/Isa 48:6; 61:1
2. **The singular and plural forms of God are clarified more easily** – “I – Me vs We – Us” – Gen 1:26;
3:22/Isa 48:16
3. **The paradoxical attributes of God are reconciled through their tri-unity:**
God does and does not repent – Num 23:19/Mal 3:2/Gen 6:7/Jonah 3:10
God is both High and Near – Isa 57:15/Acts 17: 27/Eph 2:13, 17
God is both infinite and limited – Jer 23-24/Ps 139:7-12/Col 1:19; 2:9

“The Economical Trinity”

4. **They are a pattern of perfect unity of purpose** – (Love – Subjection – Co-operation)
 - a. Their unity is rooted in _____
 - b. Their subjection is rooted in _____
 - c. Their cooperation is rooted in _____ – 2 Cor 13:14
God is _____ (love) – 1 John 4:7-8
God _____ (demonstrates) his love – John 3:16
God _____ (Gives us His love) – Rom 5:5/Gal 4:4-7

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THIS REDEMPTIVE REALITY IS TO BE REFLECTED IN THE WAY WE LIVE AS HIS PEOPLE:

1. This Redemptive reality is to be reflected in the way we live as his people:

- a. As Sons – b. As Servants – c. Bride – d. – As Heirs

The Economic Trinity is the doctrine concerning how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relate to each other and the world.

The word economic is used from the Greek *oikonomikos*, which means relating to arrangement of activities.

Each person has different roles within the Godhead, and each has different roles in relationship to the world (some roles overlap).

The Father sent the Son – (John 6:44; 8:18). The Son came down from Heaven not to do His own will but the will of the Father – (John 6:38).

The Father gave the Son – (John 3:16), who is the only begotten – (John 3:16), to perform the redemptive work – (2 Cor 5:21/1 Peter 2:24).

The Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit. The Father, who chose us before the foundation of the world – (Eph. 1:4), predestined us – (Eph 1:5/Rom. 8:29).

And gave the elect to the Son – (John 6:39).

It was not the Son who sent the Father. The Father was not sent to do the will of the Son. The Son did not give the Father, nor was the Father called the only begotten.

The Father did not perform the redemptive work. The Holy Spirit did not send the Father and Son.

It is not said that the Son or the Holy Spirit chose us, predestined us, and gave us to the Father.

For a single verse that shows differences in roles, see – 1 Peter 1:2, "According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood,"

You can see that the Father foreknows. The Son became man and sacrificed Himself. The Holy Spirit sanctifies the church.

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THE MANY BIBLE PASSAGES THAT DEMONSTRATE

Both the *Oneness* of GOD (monotheism) and the Plurality of GOD in their (Tri-unity).

I would suggest that you commit to memory 3 passages in the Old and three in the New for both views.

You want to do this for two good reasons:

1. To KNOW for yourself, that the bible explicitly states these facts
2. To SHOW that your view as a Trinitarian is not merely tradition but biblical

Furthermore, if you are careful in your comparison of the verses given you will find that several of the Old-testament verses referring to the LORD – are confirmed in the New testament as referring to Jesus Christ.

Example:

Isa 45:22-23 = One GOD – Phil 2:9-11= Plurality of Persons – Father/Son (bonus) – Rom14:11

Isa 6:1-6 = One GOD – John 12:41= Plurality of Persons – Fathers/Son

Christ's own interpretation of Isaiah 6:1-6 is that Isaiah saw HIS (Christ) glory. This would be Christ's pre-incarnate glory which He had with His Father before the world began as He stated in? _____ –

John 17:5

Only God possesses _____ – Ps 90:2/Deut 32:37/Micah 5:2/Isa 57:15

Only God can give _____ – Rom 6:23/John 10:28; 17:2 (bonus) – Heb 9:14

A Trinitarian conclusion?

The Father gives us eternal Life through His Son – 1 John 5:11, 13, 20 – By His Spirit – John 3:5-6

The implication of this Truth was so evident to the Jews that they concluded that Christ was blaspheming.

Because He called himself the Son of GOD. – John 10:29-38 (33) – John 5:17-18

It is only by God's Grace that anyone can overcome their prejudices and submit to the inevitable clarity of scripture.

1 Tim 1:12-15/Acts 9:17-19 (9:8) Rom 2:19/Matt 15:14/11:25,27

This is an ongoing process of careful scriptural reflection: – 2 Cor 3:18

One can have sight and lose it! – Heb 6:4-6 – From Christ to Works/law-self

We must make our _____ / _____ / _____ – 2 Peter 1:5-10

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Identifying Weak Arguments:

Arguments by silence

1. **The bible does not say we can't baptize babies.**
 - a. The bible also does not say we cannot smoke crack-eat poisonous shrubs
 - b. It positively says- thou shalt not kill.
 - c. It positively says teach and baptize – In that order. (believers) Matt 28:19

2. **Jesus did not say that He was GOD**
 - a. Jesus did not say he was a lot of things
 - b. Jesus did not say that He was a man- does that make him not a man? _____
 - c. Jesus did not say that He was a Jew.....
 - d. Jesus did not say He was the Savior..... (Inherent in his name-conduct)

But Others DID – His Father – Matt 3:17/The Prophets – Isa 9:6/Heb 1:8/His disciples – John 20:31
His enemies – Matt 26:63 – The devils – Mark 3:11

3. **To Whom Do We Pray?** Just to the Father? Or to the Son and or the Spirit also?
 - a. The Father is always primary in worship – but never exclusive. – Matt 6:9/1Peter 1:17
 - b. The Son is through whom we pray to the Father – John 14:13
 - c. The Spirit is by whom we pray to the Father- through the Son – Gal 4:6

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BIBLE PASSAGES THAT AFFIRM THE ONENESS OF GOD'S BEING

1. **Deuteronomy 4:35, 39** – Unto thee it was shown, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; **there is none else beside him.** (39) Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.
2. **Deuteronomy 6:4** – Hear, O Israel: **The LORD thy God is one LORD.** [Note in Mark 12:28-34 how Jesus and a Jewish scribe he encountered understood this text.]
3. **Deuteronomy 32:39** – See now that I, even I, am he, and **there is no god with me:** I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.
4. **2 Samuel 7:22** – Wherefore thou art great, O LORD God; for there is none like thee, **neither is there any God beside thee,** according to all that we have heard with our ears.
5. **1 Kings 8:60** – That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, **and that there is none else.**
6. **2 KINGS 5:15** – And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that **there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel;** now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.
7. **2 Kings 19:15** – And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, **even thou alone,** of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.
8. **1 Chronicles 17:20** – O LORD, there is none like thee, **neither is there any God beside thee,** according to all that we have heard with our ears.
9. **Nehemiah 9:6** – Thou, even **thou, art LORD alone;** thou has made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.
10. **Psalm 18:31** – For **who is God save the LORD?** or who is a rock save our God?
11. **Psalm 86:10** – For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: **thou art God alone.**
12. **Isaiah 37:16, 20** – O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, **even thou alone,** of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou has made heaven and earth. (20) Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.
13. **Isaiah 43:10-11** – Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: **before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.** I, even I, am the LORD; **and beside me there is no savior.**
14. **Isaiah 44:6, 8** – Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.** Fear ye not, neither be afraid; have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

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- 15. Isaiah 45:21** – Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time: who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and **there is no God else beside me**; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.
- 16. Isaiah 46:9** – For I am God, and **there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.**
- 17. Hosea 13:4** – Yet I am the LORD thy God from the land of Egypt, and thou shalt know no god but me; for **there is no savior beside me.**
- 18. Joel 2:27** – And ye shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I **am the LORD your God, and none else**: and my people shall never be ashamed.
- 19. Zechariah 14:9** – And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.
- 20. Mark 12:29-34** – And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord**: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: **for there is one God; and there is none other but he**: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.
- 21. John 17:3** – And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.
- 22. Romans 3:30** – Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.
- 23. 1 Corinthians 8:4-6** – As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and **that there is none other God but one**. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) **But to us there is but one God**, the Father, of whom all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.
- 24. Galatians 3:20** – Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, **but God is one.**
- 25. Ephesians 4:6** – **One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- 26. 1 Timothy 1:17** – Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, **the only wise God**, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES AFFIRMING TO THE TRI-UNITY OF THEIR PERSONS

1. **Matthew 3:16**

"After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him."

2. **Matthew 12:28**

"But if I [Jesus] cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."

3. **Matthew 28:19**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit . . ."

4. **Luke 3:22**

"And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him [Jesus] in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven,

"You are My [the Father's] beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."

5. **John 14:26**

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My [Jesus'] name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

6. **John 15:26**

"When the Helper comes, whom I [Jesus] will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me . . ."

7. **Acts 1:4**

"Gathering them together, He [Jesus] commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me . . ."

8. **Acts 2:33**

"Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Jesus] has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

9. **Acts 10:38**

"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

10. **Romans 1:4**

"Who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord . . ."

11. **Romans 8:9**

"However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

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NEW TESTAMENT PASSAGES AFFIRMING TO THE TRI-UNITY OF THEIR PERSONS Cont'd From Page 9

12. 1 Corinthians 6:11

Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

13. 2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

14. Galatians 4:6

Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

15. Ephesians 1:17

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

16. Ephesians 2:18

For through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

17. Ephesians 2:22

In whom [Jesus] you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

18. Titus 3:6