

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8

KJV

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"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16

Sounding Out The Faith

August 2022

An Intimate and Personal Savior

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence." Colossians 1:14-18

Colossians 1:14-18 reveals to us that Jesus Christ, Jehovah, created all things and for His pleasure they were created. This creating also includes mankind. However, when Jesus made Adam's body and then created in him an eternal soul by the breath of life, Jesus showed He would deal with man on a more personal level. When it comes to dealing with man, Jesus formed Adam out of the dust of the ground. Everything else He spoke into existence, yet, when it came time for Adam to be created, He stopped and formed Adam. This is the first time we see Jesus dealing with man personally. By forming man like this, Christ showed that His relationship with Adam was different. He took more time with this relationship than with all of the rest of creation. Jesus didn't stop there. Once He formed man out of the dust of the ground, He breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul. To make a living soul, Jesus, the Almighty, breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life. The first time Jesus dealt with mankind, it was as intimate as it could have been. As we will see, this continued through-

out the Bible and will continue all throughout eternity.

Genesis 2:7 says, *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."* The very act of breathing into Adam the breath of life was as personal of an act as Jesus could have done. God is not a god that is afar off. Jeremiah 23:23 says, *"Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off?"* God deals closely and personally with each and every individual. After He breathed into Adam the breath of life, He had a close fellowship with Adam that was driven by His love for Adam. God personally prepared the place where man would dwell and where God would go to meet him in the cool of the day.

"And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Genesis 2:8

God didn't just designate an area for man, He planted a garden. Planting requires thought, planning and effort. Then God explained to Adam the "rules" of the garden of Eden. God made sure Adam understood what he could and could not do. When Adam named the animals, it was done because God desired to see what Adam would do.

"And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call

them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him." Genesis 2:19-20

God was interested in Adam and enjoyed the ability to spend time with Adam and watch him. The Lord saw that Adam didn't have a help meet for him and that Adam was alone. God's love for Adam motivated Him to remedy that by creating Eve. Eve was everything Adam needed in a spouse. Again, in making a partner for Adam, God chose to be intimate and personal by taking the rib out of Adam and making Eve.

When Adam and Eve sinned, God didn't stay in Heaven. No doubt, God knew what they were guilty of before He went to the garden, yet He still came and personally looked for them to see them face to face.

Proverbs 15:3 says, *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Proverbs 15:3*

"Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Isaiah 66:1-2

When Jesus found Adam and Eve, Adam turned and essentially blamed God for his sin. Adam did not blame Eve.

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c/o 4028 Camellia Street
Springfield, Oregon 97478

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Contact Springfield FLMBC by mail, or phone 541-747-3549.

Published by:
Albany Missionary Baptist Church, Albany, OR
www.albanymissionarybaptist.org
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, Creswell, OR
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Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, Reedsport, OR
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"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." Genesis 3:12

Notice, Adam's implication that if God had given him a better woman, Adam would not have sinned. Yet, Jesus personally made them clothes to cover their nakedness, demonstrating that He would also provide a covering for their sin.

"Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." Romans 4:7

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels." Isaiah 61:10

Everything Jesus did in the garden, the choice He made to be personal with Adam, was because of the immense love that Jesus had for Adam. Yet, everything Jesus did in the garden was done because of His immense love for each and every individual from Adam throughout time.

When we consider the parallels between what God did in the garden and what He still does today, it is astonishing.

God prepared a garden for Adam and He is preparing a place for those who choose to "walk" with Him today.

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." John 14:2-3

God gave Adam a wife and He has made a plan for a man and woman to be joined together. Thus, showing Jesus' desire to picture His future plan to be joined to His bride, the faithful of the Lord's New Testament churches.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church." Ephesians 5:31-32

Jesus covered their sins. Jesus will cover all of mankind's sins if they will come to Him.

"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 John 2:1-2

Mankind's existence started with an intimate, personal God. There has never been a time when God did not desire that relationship to continue with all of mankind. God has done everything He possibly could do in order to give to every individual the love that He gave to Adam. God desires that intimate and personal relationship with each individual He has created.

"(To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.) O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there." Psalm 139:1-8

The Doctrine of God

The Bible declares that there is One, True God. It does not argue that there is a God, or apologize for His being. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) God is infinite and limitless. We cannot fully understand or know all about Him, however, we can study and learn what the Bible teaches about God.

Only One, True God exists or has ever existed. The Bible and testimony of history and time are considered to be indisputable evidence of the existence of only One, True God. This One, True God is the God of the Bible.

The New Testament writers by inspiration declared there was only One, True God. "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 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 are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him." (I Corinthians 8:4-6)

Jesus quoted Old Testament Scripture about the One, True God of Heaven. "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." (Mark 12:29-30)

Old Testament writers by inspiration declared there was only One, True God. "Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us? Why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?" (Malachi 2:10) "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." (Deuteronomy 4:39) "Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord; neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou art great, and doest wondrous things: thou art God alone." (Psalm 86:8-10)

God is One Lord, Master, and Ruler over all the earth which He has made, still controls, sustains, and upholds. "That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth." (Psalm 83:18) It is this One, True God whom men should worship and serve today.

God is three persons with the ability of love, hate, seeing, hearing, knowing, feeling, desiring, and affection. Man has said, "Let us see God." John

14:8-9 says, "Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" Notice Jesus is not the Father, but He is the "pressed out" image of the Godhead in the flesh. "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:" (Colossians 1:15-16) "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" (Hebrews 1:3) "And the Word was made 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 1:14)

God is a Spirit. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24) Many things about God are a mystery, but He has revealed those things in the Word. "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." (I Timothy 3:16) There may be many things about God that He hasn't revealed in the Word so we will have to wait until we get to Heaven to know those things. However, if it is written, then we can know it. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (II Timothy 3:16-17) "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Ephesians 3:4)

God being a Spirit doesn't mean He is without a form. Man was made in the image (visible form) that God has. (Genesis 1:26-27) Death and depravity hide God from us, but it will not always be that way. Stephen saw Jesus. "But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God," (Acts 7:55) We can see God's work in creation. "For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God." (Hebrews 3:4) "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." (Psalm 19:1) "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture." (Psalm 100:3) To create requires life and power.

God is not a mere principle or force. He is three divine beings or persons. God is One God, but yet He is Three in One. "Elohyim" - meaning "strong ones", is the Hebrew word for God. It is a plural word. In the old Hebrew language they have three tenses: Singular, Duo, and Plural. In order to have plural in the old Hebrew language, you must have three or more. This is God's order that the Trinity took on these roles in their counsel for the redemption of mankind. God the Father, as the Intelligent Designer, God the Son, as the Creator, and God the Holy Spirit, as the Executioner or One to carry out the work show us the desire of God to have fellowship with man-

kind.

We see clearly throughout the Scriptures the Triune God of Heaven is the One, True God. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." (John 15:9) Notice here we see the Father and the Son shown as separate persons of the Godhead. "And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God." (Acts 7:56) Again, the Son and Father are not one person. The Father cannot be to the left of Himself, nor can Jesus be to the right of Himself.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:18-20) Here we see all three Persons of the Godhead. "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (Ephesians 2:13,18) Another example of the Triune God of Heaven, the One, True God, displaying the Three Persons in One Godhead.

"Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (I John 5:5-7) God is not His own Son, nor is Jesus His own Father. These verses declare clearly that the One, True God of Heaven is a Trinity, Three distinct persons in One Godhead.

This is what the Bible teaches us about God. As God's, Bible believing people we must study and the Holy Spirit will help us understand it. Now we need to accept these teachings and long for the hour when we will be able to see God. "That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." (Ephesians 3:16-19) God has given us His Word and He has written about His Persons and power. We can understand by the aid of the Holy Spirit and trust what God has revealed to us in His Word about Himself. Romans 11:33 says, "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" This verse shows us that we will never know everything about the One, True Triune God of Heaven! (Isaiah 40:12) God is infinitely holy and we cannot understand all we want to know about Him, but we can understand by the Scriptures what He wants us to know.

God is eternal. "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the

earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." (Psalm 90:2) "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." (Isaiah 40:28) (Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 57:15) He always was, is, and will be everlasting. "And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God." (Genesis 21:33-34) "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them." (Deuteronomy 33:27) (Hebrews 1:10-12; Revelation 1:8)

God is omnipresent. God is present everywhere at the same time. "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (I Kings 8:27) "Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:23-24) (Acts 17:24-28) God is present everywhere in nature by His Holy Spirit. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1-2)

God is omniscient. God knows everything. Man must gain knowledge over a period of time, but God has perfect, infinite knowledge now. "He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." (Psalm 147:4-5) "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father." (Matthew 10:29) "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." (I John 3:20) (Job 34:21-22; Proverb 15:3) It is evident that God knows all. "The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew." (Proverbs 3:19-20)

God is omnipotent. He is all powerful. "He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?" (Job 9:4) "I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee." (Job 42:2) "But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

God is holy. This is God's greatest attribute because He is perfect and pure He could redeem man from his sin. "The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works." (Psalm 145:17) God's every act is perfect.

God the Father is called, "Holy Father" in John 17:11. "And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are." (John 17:11) God the Son is called,

"The Holy One". "But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;" (Acts 13:14) "Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel." (Isaiah 41:14) God the Spirit is called, "The Holy Spirit". "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:" (Matthew 28:19)

God is love. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." (I John 4:8, 16)

God loved His Son. "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)

God loves those saved by faith in His Son. "We love him, because he first loved us." (I John 4:19)

God also loves those that follow His ways in His Word. "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him." (John 14:21, 23) (John 16:27; 17:23)

God loves the entire human race. He seeks their salvation from sin and ruin. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." (John 3:16-17) "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8)

In the love of a dog for his master may be seen the highest degree of animal love. In the love of a mother for her child may be the seen the highest degree of human love. But the love of God for His Son is greater than all these yet. His love for humanity and the redemption of the world is a supreme attribute claimed by Him only and it can be seen in no other god.

To love this One, True God with all one's heart, and to serve Him supremely with one's life, will make one's life fuller and eternity more blessed. "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." (Mark 12:30) "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

God is the Eternal Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. To be an Eternal Father, He must have an Eternal Son. The term "son" in the Scriptures does not

always mean "son" by generation. It may also mean a "son" by relationship. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) Notice the "child" and the "son". The Child is born, the Son is given. The Babe was born, but that life was the Son who has been forever. He has existed always with the Father. "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35) "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law," (Galatians 4:4)

The Father recognizes Jesus as His Son. "And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17) (Luke 9:35)

The Son recognizes God as His Father. "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me." (Luke 22:29) "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:" (John 17:1)

Even mankind has recognized Jesus as God's Son. "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16) "And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God. He saith unto them, Come and see. Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel." (John 1:34, 49)

Demons recognize Jesus as the Son. "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" (Matthew 8:29) "And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" (Acts 19:15)

God is the Father of all believers. "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." (Ephesians 4:6) Man is a creature of God by creation. He becomes a child of God by recreation in the new birth. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." (I Peter 1:3-5) "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (II Corinthians 5:17)

There can be no "sonship" apart from the spiritual rebirth. A child has the nature of his father. The natural birth gives us the sin nature. We must have a "supernatural" birth for God to be our Father.

"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

The unsaved man can only call God by His name, God, as His Creator. He has no relationship to God as His Father. Only the saved, child of God can call God his Father. When the Lord Jesus was on the cross, He called out. "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46) Jesus did not cry out, "My Father, My Father, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Jesus was taking the sins of mankind on Himself. In doing so, He had to cry out to God as God because of the separation man's sin caused. In Adam, we have no relationship to God. In Christ, we have the opportunity to become sons of God. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." (I Corinthians 15:22)

The Father loved the world and sent His Son. (John 3:16)

The Holy Spirit seals us in salvation. "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise." (Ephesians 1:13)

Jesus, the Son, sits at the right hand of the Father to intercede on our behalf. "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Romans 8:34)

It is by the Holy Spirit that we can know we are children of God. "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:15-16)

Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father as an Advocate for those that are children of God. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (I John 2:1)

God the Father wants to bestow gifts on His obedient children. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (James 1:17)

Jesus Christ, God the Son, became forever changed when He took on the flesh of man. "And the Word was made 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 1:14)

The doctrine of God shows us God's love for mankind. Without the One, True God of Heaven, there is no salvation or redemption for mankind, nor can there be an opportunity for man to have fellowship with the Great God of Heaven. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were

yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." (Romans 8:17) God offers the inheritance of Heaven to those that are saved because of the new birth. However, He offers joint-heirship with Christ to those that are willing to suffer with Him in service through obedience. Imagine being a joint-heir with God the Son! This is humbling when you consider the doctrine of God we have looked at in the Scriptures. Remember who Jesus is? He is God! As God, He humbled Himself so that we might have the opportunity to have this joint-heirship with Him as faithful, New Testament church members.

The thought of God can be overwhelming. It fills us with awe and amazement to consider that the God of Heaven would even consider man. "LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!" (Psalm 144:3) The thought that an all powerful, infinite, and HOLY God would even consider man should humble us. "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:3-4)

The Godhead's grace is what causes The Great Triune God of Heaven to consider and be mindful of man. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen." (II Corinthians 13:14) However, even in that, it is still all about God. "Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's." (I Corinthians 3:21-23)

Man was created in the image of God, but this image has been marred by sin. One day, by His grace, that image shall be restored fully.

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." (I John 3:1-2)