

# The True God

Article of Faith II

# Article of Faith – The True God

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker, and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.





We  
“The Church”  
believe...

We believe is a proclamation.

What we (the Church) proclaims is measured by the standard of the Holy Scriptures, of the Old and New Testaments.

Holy Scripture is the document of the basis, of the innermost life of the Church, the document of the manifestation of the Word of God in the person of Jesus Christ.



# Faith

Trust is the act in which a man may rely on the faithfulness of Another, that His promise holds and that what He demands He demands of necessity.

No more must I dream of trusting in myself, I no longer require to justify myself, to excuse myself, to attempt to save and preserve myself. The effort of man to trust to himself, to see himself as in the right, has become pointless.

I believe—not in myself—I believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

# Levels of Faith

Some Christians may be “weak in faith” (Rom. 14:1), while others can be regarded as “strong” or enabled (15:1). Faith is something that can grow (2 Cor. 10:15) or be lacking in some aspects (1 Thess. 3:10) but then become strong in its conviction (Rom. 4:20–22; 14:5). It is not static in the face of threats but dynamic, showing itself in action (1 Thess. 1:3), through love (Gal. 5:6).

...one, and  
only one,  
living and true  
God

The Bible clearly teaches that there is only one God (Deut 6:4; Isa 42:8; Jas 2:19).

<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. <sup>6</sup> Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. <sup>7</sup> Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. <sup>8</sup> Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, <sup>9</sup> and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.



# ...infinite

Unbounded – having no limits

Unlimited - unconfined

Countless – innumerable

Numberless – so great in number that no numerically  
expressed amount is reasonable or possible

Eternal – lasting forever

Immutable - unchangeable

# ...intelligent Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:9–13 (NRSV)

<sup>9</sup>But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

<sup>11</sup>For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God’s except the Spirit of God.

<sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

<sup>13</sup>And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

# ...Maker, and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth

God is the Creator in the strict sense, i.e., He creates out of nothing.

The God of salvation, is also the Creator, the Lord of heaven and earth. It is from Him, from His revelation, that we are to learn about the Creator, for He is the Creator. It is from Him that we learn about the relation of the creature to Him. It is from Him that we are to know the Creator, i.e., God Himself as Creator, Jesus Christ as the Word of creation, and to enter into the fulfillment of His creative purpose for us.

G. W. Bromiley, [“Creator,”](#) ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley, The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Revised (Wm. B. Eerdmans, 1979–1988), 803.

...inexpressibly  
glorious in  
holiness

Holiness refers primarily to the quality of God, denoting his transcendent apartness from the rest of creation, his uniqueness, and his total purity.

When the term is applied to people, things, or places that have been touched by the presence of God or dedicated to God, it connotes the idea of being set apart for God and thus belonging to the realm of the divine, which is morally and ceremonially pure.

...worthy of  
all possible  
honor  
confidence  
and love

As creator, God is the Lord of heaven and earth (Mt. 11:25f). His will is to be done by all His creatures (Mt. 6:10). He is worthy to receive glory and honor and power because He has created all things (Rev. 4:11).

### **Revelation 4:11 (NIV)**

<sup>11</sup>“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

# ...the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

The Trinity is the collective name given to the three persons in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Think of persons as ways. God in three persons or God in three ways. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God. Each of them do things only God can do and receive the worship due to God alone. These persons are not detachable parts of God, nor are they merely different masks that he wears according to particular times or functions. Some theologians have distinguished the persons as Creator (Father), Redeemer (Son), and Sanctifier (Holy Spirit), and there's a sense in which these distinctions can be useful—but in fact each of these titles and activities can be applied equally to all three persons as God.

Gerald Bray, ["The Trinity,"](#) in Lexham Survey of Theology, ed. Mark Ward et al. (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2018).

# ...equal in Every Divine Perfection

Divine – proceeding from God or of the nature of God

Perfection is a condition of wholeness. Perfection means lacking nothing. Also, having no blemish or defect. Bring something to its full measure is perfection.

## **Ephesians 4:10–14 (NRSV)**

<sup>10</sup>He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

<sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,

<sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

<sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

<sup>14</sup>We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming.

# Executing...in the great work of redemption.

Release from legal obligation or deliverance from desperate circumstances, closely connected with a payment necessary to affect that release.

## **Legal obligation**

The believer is “bought with a price” (1 Cor. 6:20; 1 Pet. 1:18–19; Rev. 5:9; 14:3–4) and so is “redeemed from the curse of the law” (Gal. 3:13; 4:5).


## **Ransom**

Jesus came to “give his life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45) and in Paul’s affirmation that Jesus “gave himself a ransom for all” (1 Tim. 2:6).

## **Deliverance**

Jesus’ death has accomplished redemption in securing the forgiveness of sins (Rom. 3:24; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:11–15). Yet believers still await the redemption of the body at his return (Luke 21:28; Rom. 8:23; Eph. 1:14; 4:30).

John D. Harvey, [“Redemption,”](#) ed. David Noel Freedman, Allen C. Myers, and Astrid B. Beck, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans, 2000), 1114.



# Key Take Away – “The True God”

Like the Holy Scriptures...

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is best understood in  
context...

And still, God is inconceivable.