

Course DC101: Doctrine of God

¹ Thus says the Lord: "Heaven *is* My throne, and earth *is* My footstool. Where *is* the house that you will build Me? And where *is* the place of My rest?" ² For all those *things* My hand has made, and all those *things* exist," Says the Lord. "But on this *one* will I look: On *him* who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word. Isaiah 66:1-2



Intro: Theology in the strictest sense of the word is the study of God Himself. However, there is no one course nor multitude of courses which could ever reveal the wonder and greatness of God. He is transcendent (i.e., above/beyond the best of all creature attempts, language, comprehension and imagination to consider). Language quickly fails the one who begins to understand that God is incomprehensibly wonderful. God has revealed enough of Himself from nature alone so that all mankind is without excuse for his rebellion. However, the highest, the truest, the perfect revelation of God – is given to us in the Person of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For Jesus is God manifested in the flesh, so that seeing Him we see God. He is “the brightness of His glory and the express image of His Person” (Heb. 1:3). Regarding all our best attempts to gather information from nature and Scripture concerning the study of God, right theology demands all be brought into harmony with what God has revealed of Himself in Jesus Christ. For “. . . the light of the knowledge of the glory of God [is revealed] in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Cor. 4:6).

I.) God, The Almighty

Great Beyond Comparison:

- Isa. 40:18;25 To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we should be alike? Isa. 46:5
- ¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him? . . . ²⁵ "To whom then will you liken Me, or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.
- Ps. 89:6-8 ⁶ For who in the heavens can be compared to the Lord? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened to the Lord? ⁷ God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence by all those around Him. ⁸ O Lord God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O Lord? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.
- Ex. 20:3-4 ³ You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴ "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;
- Ps. 71:19 Also Your righteousness, O God, is very high, You who have done great things; O God, who *is* like You?
- Ps. 113:3-6 ³ From the rising of the sun to its going down The Lord's name *is* to be praised. ⁴ The Lord *is* high above all nations, His glory above the heavens. ⁵ Who is like the Lord our God, Who dwells on high, ⁶ Who humbles Himself to behold The things that are in the heavens and in the earth?
- Mic. 7:18 Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, Because He delights in mercy.

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Great Beyond Comprehension:

- Job 26:13-14¹³ By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent. ¹⁴ Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, and how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?
- Rom. 11:33-36 ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" ³⁵ "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?" ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.
- Isa. 66:1-2 ¹ Thus says the Lord: "Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? ² For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist," Says the Lord. "But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word."
- Job 36:22-26 ²² Behold, God is exalted by His power; who teaches like Him? ²³ Who has assigned Him His way, Or who has said, "You have done wrong"? ²⁴ Remember to magnify His work, of which men have sung. ²⁵ Everyone has seen it; man looks on it from afar. ²⁶ Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered.
- Job 37:5 God thunders marvelously with His voice; He does great things which we cannot comprehend.
- Ps. 145:3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable.

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God is Wonderful, We Must Hallow Him:

- Matt. 6:9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.
- Ex. 20:7 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.
- Jude 1:14-15 ¹⁴ Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, ¹⁵ to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."
- 1 Sam. 2:2-3 ² No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. ³ Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the Lord is the God of knowledge; and by Him actions are weighed.
- 1 Cor. 1:19,25 ¹⁹ For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." ²⁰ Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? . . . ²⁵ Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9

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II.) The Holy Trinity

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . Matthew 28:19

Scripture clearly reveals the doctrine of the Trinity. However, it is one thing to humbly receive the clear testimony from Scripture regarding the Holy Trinity, but it is another to comprehend the mystery of it. A. W. Tozer wrote, "The fact that it cannot be satisfactorily explained, instead of being against it is in its favor. Such a truth had to be revealed; no one could have imagined it."¹ Perhaps there has never been any better summation of this clearly revealed doctrine in Scripture than that which comes from the ancient Athanasian Creed:

We worship One God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the substance. For there is One Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all One; the Glory equal, the Majesty Coeternal. . . . The Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated. The Father is infinite, the Son is infinite, the Holy Spirit is infinite. The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal. . . . the Father is omnipotent, the Son is omnipotent, and the Holy Spirit is omnipotent. . . . So the Father is God: the Son is God: and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet there are not three gods: but One God only. . . . The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created: but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten: but proceeding . . . And in this Trinity none is afore, or after another: none is greater, or less than another. But the whole Three Persons are Coeternal, and Coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid: the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshiped.

The Unity of the Trinity:

- Deut. 4:35 **To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.**
- Deut. 6:4-5 **Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with **all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.****
- John 5:44 **" . . . honor that comes from the only God . . ."**
(Mark 10:17; Mark 12:29; 2 Tim. 2:5; James 2:19 and many more)

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The Trinity in Unity:

- Matt. 28:19 . . . baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .
- 2 Cor. 13:14 **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.**
- Heb. 9:14 . . . how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- Eph. 2:18 . . . through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.
- 1 Pet. 1:2 . . . elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.
- Jude 20-21 . . . praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.
- Acts 2:32-33 **This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.**

(Luke 1:35-37; John 3:34; Acts:1:4-5,7-8; Acts 10:36-38; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Rom. 1:1-4; Rom. 8:9-10, 26-28; 1 Cor. 12:3-6; 2 Thess. 2:13; Titus 3:4-8; 1 Pet. 3:18; Heb. 2:2-3; Heb. 10:19-31; Rom. 5:1-5; 1 Pet. 4:14; Rom. 8:5-15; Zech. 12:7-10; Isa. 48:16; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:5-15, etc.)

¹ A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy* (NY: Harper & Row, 1975) 31.

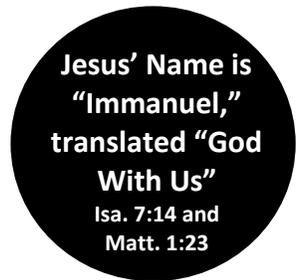
The Father is God:

- John 6:27 . . . God the Father has set His seal on Him.
- Jude 1 . . . sanctified by God the Father . . .
- 1 Pet. 1:1 . . . according to the foreknowledge of God the Father . . .
- Eph. 4:6 . . . One God and Father of all . . .

The Son is God:

- John 1:1&14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory. . . .
- John 20:28 My Lord and my God!
- 1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh. . . .
- Isa. 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Acts 20:28 . . . among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
- Rom. 9:5 . . . of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.
- Titus 2:13. . . looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ . . .
- 2 Pet. 1:1 . . . To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
- Heb. 1:6-10⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him." ⁷ And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire." ⁸ But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom. ⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions." ¹⁰ And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands.
- John 10:30,33 I and My Father are One. . . . The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."
- John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.
- John 5:23 . . . that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.
- Phil. 2:6 . . . who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God . . .
- Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily . . .
- John 14:7-10⁷ "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him." ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?"

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The Holy Spirit is God:

- 1 Cor. 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit. . . ? . . . You have not lied to men but to God."
- (He wrote the Word of God) 2 Pet. 1:20-21 / 2 Tim. 3:16
- (To be born of the Spirit is to be born of God) John 3:6 / 1 John 4:7
- (The work of the Spirit is the work of God) Matt. 12:28 with Luke 11:20

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, He is a Person:

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| - 2 Cor. 13:14.....Fellowship | - John 14:26He teaches |
| - Acts 8:29.....Commands | - Rom. 8:14 He leads |
| - 1 Cor. 2:10.....Intelligence | - John 16:13.....He guides, hears and speaks |
| - 1 Cor. 12:11.....He works, He wills | - Eph. 4:30..... He can be grieved |
| - Acts 13.....By His will He decides, directs, and sends to His work | - John 16:8.....He convicts |
| - Heb. 10:29.....He can be insulted (outraged) | - John 15:26.....He testifies |
| - Rom. 8:26.....Intercedes/Prays | - Acts 9:3.....He comforts |

III.) The Works and Attributes Belonging to God Alone Reveals the Holy Trinity

Scripture reveals works and attributes which can only belong to the one true God – yet these works and attributes are ascribed to three – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Thus, the attributes which only belong to God testify to both the Unity of the Godhead (i.e., that there is only one true God), as well as revealing that God is a Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit). For example, certainly God is omnipotent (*i.e., the Almighty, He who has all power, greater power than all else*), thus, there can be no one else who possesses power as great as His own. For, if there were two (or three) who possessed omnipotence (*power greater than anyone else*) then the word (the attribute itself) would become meaningless (an oxymoron), for there would be at least another who would prevent each from being able to say that he himself is the Omnipotent One. Yet, Scripture plainly reveals that the Father is omnipotent, the Son is omnipotent, and the Holy Spirit is omnipotent – yet, again, omnipotence is an attribute that can belong to only the *one* true God.

Likewise, Scripture declares that there are works which belong to God alone, yet these works of the one true God are ascribed to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. In like manner, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all referenced by the Divine Name, YHWH (Yahweh/Jehovah). Thus, by ascribing the works, the Divine Name YHWH and attributes which belong to only the one true God to the Person of the Father, the Person of the Son and the Person of the Holy Spirit – Scripture testifies again to both the Unity and the Trinity of the Godhead. Yes! Great is the mystery! Great is our God!

The Divine Name YHWH and Attributes of God – Ascribed to the Father:

- **God the Father, YHWH (Yahweh/Jehovah):** Isa. 63:16, 64:8, Deut. 32:6
- **God the Father, Omnipotent:** Jer. 32:27, Jer. 32:17, Matt. 19:26
- **God the Father, Omnipresent:** Jer. 23:23-24, Isa. 57:15
- **God the Father, Omniscient:** Isa. 46:9-10, Ps. 139:4, Eccl. 12:14
- **God the Father, Eternal/Infinite/Immutable:** Deut. 33:27, Ps. 90:2, Mal. 3:6

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The Divine Name YHWH and Attributes of God – Ascribed to the Son:

- **God the Son, YHWH (Yahweh/Jehovah):** Jer. 23:5-6; Isa. 40:3 (Mal. 3:1, Mark 1:1-3); Heb. 1:10 (Revealed in the title, “The First and the Last” and “Alpha and Omega” Isa. 41:4, 44:6, 48:12; Rev. 1:8, 21:6, 22:13.)
- **God the Son, Omnipotent:** Heb. 1:3; Rom. 9:5; Rev. 1:8, 22:13; 1 Tim. 6:15; Col. 1:17; Phil. 2:21; Col. 2:10; Matt. 28:18
- **God the Son, Omnipresent:** Eph. 1:20; John 3:13; Matt. 28:20, 18:20 (Revealed in passages about being in those who are His.)
- **God the Son, Omniscient:** John 21:17, 16:30; Col. 2:3; John 1:48, 2:24-25; Matt. 9:4; 2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 4:13
- **God the Son, Eternal/Infinite/Immutable:** John 8:58; Micah 5:2; Isa. 9:6; Heb. 13:8

The Divine Name YHWH and Attributes of God – Ascribed to the Holy Spirit:

- **God the Holy Spirit, YHWH (Yahweh/Jehovah):** Jer. 31:31-34 with Heb. 10:15, Isa. 6:3&9-10 with Acts 28:26-27
- **God the Holy Spirit, Omnipotent:** Luke 1:35; Matt. 12:28
- **God the Holy Spirit, Omnipresent:** Ps. 139:7-10
- **God the Holy Spirit, Omniscient:** John 16:13 the Holy Spirit guides into “all truth”; as well as 1 Cor. 2:10-11
- **God the Holy Spirit, Eternal/Infinite/Immutable:** Heb. 9:14

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Works of God Reveal the Holy Trinity:

- **The Work of Creation:**
 - Ascribed to God the FatherGen. 1:1
 - Ascribed to God the SonCol. 1:16
 - Ascribed to the Holy SpiritJob 26: 13, 33:4,
- **The Resurrection of Christ:**
 - Ascribed to God the FatherActs 2:43
 - Ascribed to God the SonJohn 2:19, 10:17-18
 - Ascribed to the Holy SpiritRom. 8:11
- **Salvation:**
1 Pet. 1:2 . . . elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, in sanctification of **the Spirit**, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of **Jesus Christ** . .
- **Atonement:**
Heb. 9:14 . . . how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

God Has Referred to Himself in both the Singular and Plural:

- Gen. 1:26 Then **GOD** said, "Let **US** make man in **OUR** image, according to **OUR** likeness..."
- Gen. 3:22 Then **THE LORD GOD** said, "Behold, the man has become like one of **US**, to know good and evil..."
- Gen. 11:7-8 "Come, let **US** go down and there confuse their language" . . . So **the LORD** scattered them . . .
- Isa. 6:8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall **I** send, And who will go for **US**?"

