

LifeSavers Lesson 3: *Three to the Rescue*

When trying to understand God it is well for us to keep in mind not just our own limitations of comprehension, but how unlimited God is in His. This gulf between God's ways and ours is incomprehensible. The Bible says, "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!" (Romans 11:33, NKJV). Even so, there are many things revealed in the Bible about the nature and person of God that we can know. Some can be understood; but others we must accept by faith. Used only three times in Scripture, the term "Godhead" designates the divine nature of God (Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9). We must be very careful when discussing God's divine nature that we don't make Him into something He isn't. After all, the controversy between Christ and Satan has much to do with the nature and character of God.

Check one answer for each question

I. One God in Three Persons

It seems strange that God is three persons in One, yet the Bible often refers to Him in the plural form. For example, these Bible texts use the Hebrew word "elohiym" (Gods) when referring to God.

1. When Scripture says, "God created the heavens and the earth," God the Father, the Son, and the Spirit were all present.

Genesis 1:1-2, 26; Colossians 1:12-16: TRUE FALSE

2. The following verses from Scripture clearly teach that Jesus is God, is with God and is equal with God.

John 1:1-2, 14; John 14: 8-10, 20; 17:1, 5, 11, 20-22: TRUE FALSE

3. Each person of the Godhead was present at Jesus' baptism.

Matthew 3:16-17: TRUE FALSE

4. Jesus taught that all three persons of the Godhead are working for the salvation of humanity.

John 14:16-18, 23-26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-15, 25-27: TRUE FALSE

The Bible is clear, yet it is difficult to comprehend how there can be one God yet three beings. They are considered "one God" because they always work together as one, never against one another while accomplishing their goal. In relation to this earth, God's goal is seen most clearly in the role Jesus undertook for our salvation. "For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself." Colossians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 5:19.

These examples may help to illustrate the concept of the Trinity: one family with several family members; many players on one team; fifty states yet one nation; or man and woman becoming

one when they are married. Still, these analogies are imperfect descriptions of the perfect unity of the Godhead.

II. Jesus is Fully God

5. Matthew calls Jesus "Immanuel" to show that He truly is "God with us".

Matthew 1:20-23: TRUE FALSE

6. In the New Testament Jesus referred to Himself as the "Son of Man."

Mark 14:61-62: TRUE FALSE

Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man 81 times in the gospels.

7. Only God the Father can raise the dead and forgive sins.

John 10:17-18; Luke 5:20-21: TRUE FALSE

8. Jesus called Himself the "I Am," of the Old Testament. This inflamed the religious leaders so much they wanted to kill Him because they knew He was identifying Himself as God.

Exodus 3:13-14. John 8:58: TRUE FALSE

III. Jesus is Fully Human

9. Jesus Christ, identified as the *Word*, is also God, but became a man to live among us. According to Paul, even though Jesus was God He was fully human.

Hebrews 2:14-17; Hebrews 4:15: TRUE FALSE

10. Because Jesus could claim no one but God as His father, He is called "*that holy thing*" in Luke 1:35. Jesus was different from us in that He never sinned.

Hebrews 1:9, first part. 1 John 3:5: TRUE FALSE

Jesus' nature was like Adam's before he and Eve sinned, therefore, from childhood Jesus did not have a rebellious nature against God. He was the second Adam (see Romans 5:12-19). It is in this sense that He had a sinless nature just as our first parents did before they sinned. Yet Jesus got tired, hungry and thirsty, and was continually assailed by temptations which were as real to Him as yours and mine are to us. He was subject to the physical infirmities and weaknesses that we encounter.

11. Scripture refers to Christ as God's "only begotten Son."

John 3:16: TRUE FALSE

In the fullest sense, God gave Jesus to and for the human race. He was such a unique being that there has never been anyone like Him: truly a God-man. The term "*only begotten*" comes from the Greek words "*mono*" (one, or only) and "*genes*" (generation, kindred, or kind). Hence, Jesus was "the only one of His kind"; truly, the "unique One," who is fully God and fully man at once. It was this unique combination that allowed Him to hold humanity in His grasp and, at the same time, lay hold of the throne of God. This is what enabled Him to be the Savior of the world.

12. Jesus used His divine nature to help himself.

Matthew 26:39; John 5:19-20, 30; 8:28-29; and John 14:10-12: TRUE FALSE

13. It was only by God's power that Jesus was able to perform His miracles?

Acts 2:22: TRUE FALSE

14. Through His response to Satan's temptations, Jesus showed us how to resist evil.

Luke 4:4, 8, 12; Luke 5:16; 6:12; Luke 4:16: TRUE FALSE

Jesus can truly be called our brother for He is our example in all things. The Bible says: "*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:...and was made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*"
Philippians 2:5-8.

Like Jesus, we can build our faith with regular Bible study, prayer and church attendance, and by cultivating a humble and giving attitude that will motivate us to want to help others.

15. I want to grow in my knowledge of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. YES NO