

Is the Oneness Doctrine from God?

➤ = next PowerPoint

➤ Intro:

- **Jn. 10:30** is a verse people use to try and justify the Oneness Doctrine (“Jesus only”)
- some brethren have adopted the Oneness Doctrine, so want to answer the question
 - **Is the Oneness Doctrine from God?**

➤ Overview: Oneness Doctrine

- **monarchianism** (mono - "one"; arche - "rule") is a false doctrine some date back as far as the **1st and 2nd centuries**, attempting to maintain the doctrine of Monotheism, esp. as believed by Jews relating to God in the OT
 - **two areas: (below) dynamic and modal monarchianism**
 - **modal monarchianism** is what we mean when we say “oneness” today
 - **note: brethren who are confused** on this issue often neglect to understand that God was revealed in the NT to a greater degree than in the OT, they try to understand God on an absolute basis from OT revelation and reject NT revelation that contradicts their position
- - **dynamic monarchianism**, also called adoptionism
 - asserts that **Jesus was born a man and did not preexist as God**, after Jesus proved Himself to be a sinless man, God adopted Him and filled Him with the Holy Spirit, thereafter making Him divine
- - **modal monarchianism**, also called Sabellianism, named for Sabellius who became the leader of those who accepted modalistic monarchianism in the **2nd century**
 - teaches that **the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are modes** of the single person who is **God**
 - **God not** simultaneous and separate persons
 - **Oneness – Jesus only**
- **Pentecostal movement began around 1900, giving birth to Oneness Pentecostal**
 - **Oneness Pentecostal groups** and other “Jesus only” groups are **modalists**
 - believe in the “**oneness Godhead**” – that **Jesus alone constitutes the Godhead** – that **the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Jesus**
 - **baptized in “Jesus name”** rather than the “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”
 - **pray to Jesus**
- - **PP: Oneness chart** shows attributes and analogies used of God and Jesus, mixing OT with NT, without understanding these points in light of NT revelation
 - **illus. God is Creator / Jesus is Creator:** assumes Jesus is God (Father), without understanding NT revelation that God created the world through, for, and by Jesus (**Col. 1:16-19; Heb. 1:2**)

➤ **How do we find out whether the Oneness Doctrine is from God?**

- series: **How Do We Study The Bible** – this lesson illustrates principles in the series
- - **examine** (search) the **Scriptures**
 - **Acts 17:11 Bereans, examined daily**, see if what Paul said was true
- - **there are no contradictions** in God's word
 - **1 Cor. 14:33 God not God (author) of confusion** – word harmonious, not contradict itself
- - **principle: if one Scripture contradicts the Oneness Doctrine, it's false**
 - **Matt. 22:23-28 Sadducees' question**, thought proved no resurrection, taken Scriptures out of context that were not related to resurrection and ignored others
 - **Matt. 22:29-33 Jesus' answer**, used precision of God's word to prove resurrection, **1st person singular pronoun, present tense**, proving the **people have eternal souls (Lk. 16:19-31)**
 - **Jesus didn't go into a discourse lasting days, addressing every possible detail** of their doctrine and every scenario, He **presented one Scripture** that refuted it – **that was sufficient**

- **Two Examples: if a Scripture contradicts a doctrine, it's proven to be wrong**
 - **example: once saved always saved**
 - **doctrine says:**
 - **once a person is saved, they can never fall** from grace and be lost
 - **Bible says:**
 - **Heb. 12:15** Christians warned not to “come short” of God’s grace – Christians can come short, lost
 - **Gal. 5:4** Christians who try and be saved by keeping the Mosaic Law have “fallen from grace”
 - **many other Scriptures** prove the doctrine to be wrong
 - **application:**
 - **not have to understand all nuances of doctrine, or analyze every hypothetical**
 - **compared basic understanding of doctrine, saw it contradicted Scripture, know it's false**

- **- example: baptism is not essential for salvation**
 - **doctrine says:**
 - **saved by accepting Jesus as personal Savior through prayer**, baptism only an act of obedience, saved before baptized and without baptism
 - **hypothetical:** man on airplane that's about to crash, believes and prays five seconds before crash, has to be saved, proving can be saved without baptism
 - **Bible says:**
 - **Mk. 16:16** believe and baptized saved – not believe and pray
 - **Acts 2:38** repent and be baptized – not repent and pray
 - **1 Pet. 3:21** baptism now saves us – not prayer now saves us
 - **many other Scriptures** prove the doctrine to be wrong
 - **application:**
 - **not have to understand all nuances of doctrine, or analyze every hypothetical**
 - **compared basic understanding of doctrine, saw it contradicted Scripture, know it's false**

- **Oneness Doctrine:** we don't have to know every Scripture, every nuance, and every hypothetical Oneness Doctrine proponents put forth
 - **need general understanding** – already have from overview of doctrine (above)
 - **need to know if any Scriptures contradicts it**

- **Scriptures that contradict the Oneness Doctrine** – one is sufficient, but there are many
 - **Jesus before, and at the time of creation**
 - **Gen. 1:1, 26 at creation** – **Oneness proponents use Gen 1:1 to prove their case**
 - vs. **1 Elohim** (Hebrew, God): plural
 - vs. **26 God said, “Let Us make man. . . .”** – English translation, “Us” “Our”
 - **Col. 1:16-19; Heb. 1:2 NT reveals the Father created heaven and earth, through Jesus**
 - **application:** God (deity, divinity) is composed of separate individuals
- - **Jn. 1:1 John begins gospel much like Genesis**
 - **definite article** tells us there are two separate individuals of the Godhead under consideration
 - God the Father, God the Son
- - **PP: Greek / English text**, definite article (red) shows John references two different divine persons
 - “the God” definite article denotes the Father
 - “God” without the definite in reference to the Logos denotes that Jesus is divine
 - **application:** God (Father) and Jesus are both God, separate individuals of the Godhead
- - **Jesus and the Father are two separate individuals**
 - **Jn. 14:23 Jesus’ words show that He and the Father are separate individuals** – today, heaven
 - **application:** Jesus used the word “we” showing that He and the Father are, and would be separate individuals for eternity
- - **1 Cor. 11:3 Christ is the head of man, and God (Father) is the head of Christ** – today, heaven
 - **application:** Jesus separate from the Father in heaven, as man is separate from Jesus on earth
- - **2 Jn. 1:9 has “both the Father and the Son”** – today, heaven
 - **application:** Jesus and the Father are two separate individuals, in heaven, today
- - **Jesus in heaven: mediating, interceding, and advocating** – separate from the Father – today, heaven
 - **1 Tim. 2:5 Jesus in heaven mediating between us and man**
 - **Jesus is our go-between** – between man and the Father (**Gal. 3:20**)
 - **if Jesus was the Father**, He couldn’t be the mediator
- - **Rom. 8:34 Jesus is in heaven interceding for us, reconciling us to the Father** – today, heaven
 - **if Jesus was the Father**, He couldn’t be interceding on our behalf
- - **1 Jn. 2:1 Jesus is our Advocate in heaven** – today, heaven
 - **if Jesus was the Father**, He couldn’t be our advocate – pleading our case before a separate individual, the Father
 - **if Jesus is the Father, we are hopelessly lost without anyone to mediate, advocate, or intercede for us**

- - **Holy Spirit: interceding in different regard than is Jesus – He's separate from Jesus and the Father**
 - **Rom. 8:26-27** Spirit intercedes between man and God, to communicate our thoughts to God, according to Him will
 - the Spirit is separate from the Father, on whose behalf He intercedes
 - the Spirit is separate from Jesus, who is interceding in different areas (**Rom. 8:34**)
 - if Jesus is the Father and Holy Spirit, we have no one to help in our weaknesses and communicate our thoughts to God

- - **Jesus separate from the Father for eternity:**
 - **1 Cor. 15:23-24** Christ will hand kingdom over to Father at the end – separate, eternity
 - **application:** Christ in heaven, separate individual from the Father, waiting to hand the kingdom over to Him

- - **Phil. 2:10-11** Jesus exalted, every knee bow and tongue confess, to glory of Father – separate, eternity
 - **application:** Jesus, in heaven, separate person from Father, will glorify Father in heaven

- - **Heb. 12:2** Jesus is in heaven sitting at the right hand of the throne of God – separate, eternity
 - **application:** Jesus can't be sitting at His own right hand, He is a separate person from the Father

- - **Heb. 13:8** Jesus is the same for eternity – as deity is unchanging, Jesus is unchanging – separate, eternity
 - **application:** Jesus will always be a separate person from the Father and Holy Spirit

- - **Rev. 22:1, 3** God (Father) and the Lamb (Jesus) are two separate individuals – separate, eternity
 - **application:** the Father and Jesus are now, and will be for eternity two separate individuals, whom we will worship in heaven

- **Summary / Inv.**
 - **conclusion:** since the oneness doctrine clearly contradicts Scripture, it is a false doctrine
 - **PP: review**
 - **What does the idea of oneness expresses in the Bible? - union and unity**
 - God and Jesus are one because they are unified in perfect harmony as deity, yet distinctly different individuals
 - **illus.:** we are one with the Father and one with Jesus, united in spirit, joined to the Lord, yet separate individuals
 - **illus.:** Christians are one, in one body, united in spirit as those joined to the Lord, yet separate individuals
 - **inv.:** not lesson on salvation
 - if you've not been united with the Lord. . . . (Rom. 6:3f; Heb. 5:9)