

# JOHN

## John: The Gospel of Gospels

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### John 1:1

#### Lesson No. 3: The Deity of Jesus Christ, Part 1

A seminary student approached his professor and asked him, “Why did John call Jesus the Word in John 1:1?” The professor answered him with a question, “What do you use word for?” He replied, “We use word to communicate.” The professor told him, “You are correct. Words are used to communicate one’s thoughts to another.” In the same way, God uses the Word, His Son, to communicate His thoughts to us. “In the beginning was the Word.”

We capture this beautifully in John 1:18, “No one has seen **God** at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” The last phrase “**He has explained Him**” is where we get our word, *exegetis*, which means critical explanation or interpretation of a text, especially of Scripture.

F. F. Bruce, a British scholar, calls God’s Son in John 1:18, “**the ‘exegete’ of the Father.**”<sup>1</sup> Jesus said to the apostle Philip in John 14:9, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father.” Jesus Christ was and is the embodiment of God’s thoughts or as the author of Hebrews 1:3 puts it “the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.”

Keep in mind, no human illustration about God can ever be perfect. But for illustration only, let’s assume that God the Father is unable to speak, yet in His eternal thoughts He has so much to communicate to man, but cannot because he could not say what is in his mind. He resorts to conveying his thoughts to men by

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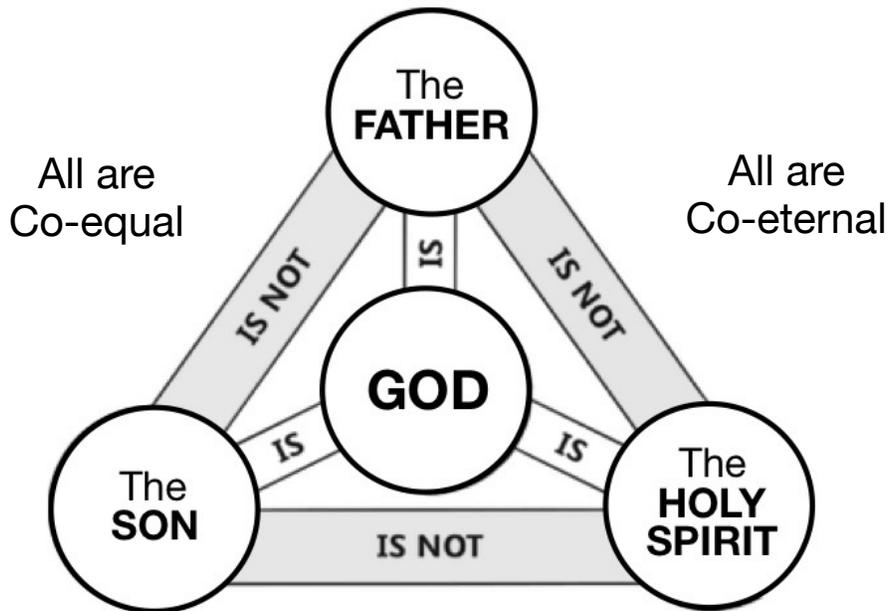
<sup>1</sup> F. F. Bruce, *The Gospel of John*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company (Grand Rapids: Michigan, 1983), 45

bringing forth His thoughts in a man, who becomes his hands, his feet, and his voice in action, to bring his thoughts and ideas to his creatures.

My brothers and sisters do not let anyone mislead you. You may say “What is the big deal about the Deity of Jesus Christ?” The deal is huge! Accepting the Deity of Jesus Christ is the prerequisite for salvation. Mark my words: no one can be saved, who does not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Period. Jesus Christ Himself made this abundantly clear to the religious crowd in John 8:24, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.”

Before we can grasp John’s systematic teaching on the Deity of Jesus Christ, we need to briefly examine the doctrine of the Trinity.

### Overview of the Holy Trinity



Two important things are noteworthy about the Trinity

A) Point 1: The Son is not the Father. Point 2. The Holy Spirit is not the Father. Point 3: The Son is not the Holy Spirit.

B) Point 1. The Son is equal with the Father. Point 2. The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father. Point 3. The Son is equal with the Holy Spirit.

It is interesting to note: the word trinity does not occur anywhere in the Bible, yet many places in Scripture reveal God as three Persons in One. This revelation is brought to light with the phrase “the Word is God” in John 1:1 and “the Word [God] became flesh” in v. 14. The Word-God became flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ, becomes fully man and fully God.

Here is an amazing thing: at the baptism of Jesus Christ, all three members of the Trinity were revealed. Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity comes out of the water following His baptism. The Holy Spirit, the third member of the Trinity descends on Him like a dove. Suddenly, the voice of the Father, the first member of the Trinity thunders through the corridors of heaven, “This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased”? (Matt. 3:16-17).

**Question:** How did we, as Christians come to accept this idea of One God in three persons as a true representation of the God of the Bible? The answer to this question has for centuries alluded multitudes of believers. Many today are still confused about this subject. It is my earnest desire that at the end of this study, we should have a deeper knowledge and understanding about the Holy Trinity.

### **Persons of the Trinity**

- A. Trinity is a belief, that God exists *eternally* in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- B. The eternal God is known by three names: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- C. Theologians assigned the term *Person* to all members of the Godhead to make distinctions between the three members of the Trinity.
  - **Avoid Confusion**
    1. Avoid humanizing God. He is not like human beings.
    2. The term person does not mean there are three separate thrones in heaven—only one throne.
    3. Therefore, the word Person is used because all three members have the same attributes or characteristics.
      - a. The Father can speak. He spoke at the baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:17). He can be angry or punish sinners. Only a person can manifest these traits.
      - b. The Son can speak. He spoke to Moses in the burning bush (Ex. 3:14; cf. John 8:58). Only a person can speak intelligently.

- c. The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3) and be grieved (Eph 4:30). Only a person can experience these things.

- **Description and Function of the Trinity**

- 1. **The Father:**

- a. He is One and the only eternal God. 1 Cor. 8:6: “to us [there is but] one God, the Father.”
    - b. The term Father is used only for designation of the authority head of the Trinity. 1 Cor. 11:3: “The [authority] head of Christ is God.” (Authority originates in Godhead).
    - c. He is the supreme architect and designer of the eternal plan of the Godhead.
    - d. He is the supreme decision maker.

- 2. **The Son:**

- a. The Son is One and the only eternal God—God’s Word in the flesh. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (John 1:1, 14).
    - b. The name Son, is a reference to His servanthood Acts 3:26: “For you first, God raised up His Servant [Jesus Christ] and sent Him to bless you.”
    - c. The Son’s role as a Servant is confirmed in John 6:38, “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.” Jesus Christ came down as a servant.
    - d. He is the executioner of the Father’s plan.
    - e. Though equal with the Father, He subjects Himself to the authority of the Father (Phil. 2:5-8)
    - f. He is the sacrificial Lamb of God (John 1:29).

- 3. **The Holy Spirit:**

- a. He is the One and only eternal God, whom the Father sent. (Jn. 14:26)

- b. He is God. Acts 5:3-4: “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to men but to God.”
- c. He is the revealer of the Son’s work, the illuminator and enabler in the fulfillment of the Father’s plan. (John 16:13-14)

D. The three Persons of the Trinity are distinct from each other.

E. The three Persons co-exist eternally.

F. The three Persons are co-eternal, co-equal, co-infinite, and all possess the exact same attributes. (This is especially important).

G. Inherent in the titles of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a relationship of authority and submission to authority.

With this insight, we are led to one of two conclusions:

One, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit exist as three separate gods or Two, they exist as three persons in one God.

But what does the Bible say? Scripture is emphatic. Deut. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!” 1 Cor. 8:6: “There is but one God”; James 2:19: “God is one.”

These incredible truth leaves us as Christians to accept the inescapable teaching that our unique God exists in three persons. There never was a time when they did not exist as three in One God.

### **Invitation**

We dedicate the message to anyone who has not put his or her trust in Christ for the forgiveness of his or her sins. God the Father is ever willing to grant you forgiveness and eternal life right now. It was for this reason that He sent His Son for you, that His sacrificial death may result in the forgiveness of your sins. He paid for our sins on the cross. You can accept God’s complete pardon and forgiveness by simply accepting His offer of eternal life, through His Son. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:31). Faith alone in Christ alone. You can tell God that you are placing your faith in His Son. The moment you sincerely do that, eternal life is yours. “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” (1 John 5:1).