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Believe Three, Say One

“Something to Think About” Series by Don Ward



Jesus prayed,

Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent (John 17:3).

There are at least 46 bible verses which directly express the oneness of God such as “one God, only God, none other God,” etc

Although this is a simple enough concept to understand it is a very important concept to believe. When Jesus said, “*Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God . . .*”, we should consider what He said with the utmost gravity.

Yet the Athanasian Creed to which so many subscribe states,

“So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet there are not three Gods, but one God. . . . So are we forbidden by the catholic religion to say, there are three Gods . . .”

Now if you subscribe to this creed, what are you going to believe? “The Father is God (1), the Son is God (2), and the Holy Ghost is God (3)” (underscoring and parenthesis mine).

Help me out here. How are you going to believe that there are three individuals who are each God, as required, without believing that

there are three Gods? We challenge anyone to believe there are three Gods without believing there are three Gods.

Yet will anyone admit to believing in three Gods? No. They are in the position of believing one thing while saying something else. This is pretty much what the creed requires. “. . .we are forbidden by the catholic religion to say, there are three Gods . . .” (underscoring mine).

We can say anything but salvation is based on what we believe.

Our Lord addressed His Father as “*the only God*” in both John 17:3 and 5:44. He acknowledged His Father as the source of His own strength and power. He even said,

By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me John 5:30. Does that sound like Almighty God talking?

He worshipped God along with other faithful Jews. He said,

You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. John 4:22

Before his ascension Jesus graciously confirmed that believers serve the same God and have the same heavenly Father as he does.

. . . *go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.* John 20:17

The purpose of John’s gospel was to help us believe not that Jesus is God but the “*Son of God*” and promised Messiah (*Christ*). If we deduce with something else, we have missed his point.

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

Our concern is like John’s. It is that you might believe Jesus is the Son of God “*that by believing you may have life in his name*”. It is enough to say that Jesus is God’s Son. This, in itself, makes the distinction that He Himself is not God. Can God be His own Son?

We believe the overriding evidence in the bible is that there is only one God and that Jesus, being His Son, is therefore not God.

Trinitarians have scriptures which may seem to support their contention. But the number is small in comparison to the scriptures that lead us to believe otherwise. We believe even these texts, when looked at carefully, do not support a Trinity.

Our objections to a Trinity are not the conjecture of crackpots or cults. A number recognized bible students and scholars both past and present have concluded the Trinity to be unbiblical.

“How many know what Sir Isaac Newton, John Locke and John Milton have in common? They are recognized as among the most intelligent Bible students of the seventeenth century. All objected strongly to the doctrine of the Trinity. . . . All three were vigorous anti-Trinitarians. So also was Thomas Jefferson, who examined the Trinitarian question carefully in the light of the Bible. How many know that Harvard University at one time expressed non-Trinitarian views? Many contemporary biblical scholars recognize that the Trinity is a post-biblical development.” – Sir A. Buzzard

If you wish to study this further please contact me or go to

<http://www.mindspring.com/~anthonybuzzard/articles.htm> or www.atlantabiblecollege.org