

## **One God, Three Persons**

### **John 16:12-15**

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

How can there be \_\_\_\_\_ God but \_\_\_\_\_ persons? We've studied the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today we're going to look at the Godhead. We want to be right with God, and we know that the Lord teaches the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Word of God. When we believe and obey the truth, we know that we're in a \_\_\_\_\_ relationship with the Lord; but when we stray from the truth, we put our \_\_\_\_\_ in jeopardy. Truth matters! James 5:19-20 says, "My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth and one turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins." If truth matters this much to \_\_\_\_\_, it ought to matter as much to \_\_\_\_\_. We turn to the Scriptures because we \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord and we want to remain right with Him.

For the last few weeks, we've been \_\_\_\_\_ at God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We've seen how \_\_\_\_\_ of these three possess the nature and characteristics of God. The Bible \_\_\_\_\_ that there is but one God, yet three Persons. We don't believe in three Gods but in One God. Nor do we believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all the \_\_\_\_\_ person. Instead we believe in one God whose essence and substance is \_\_\_\_\_ in three distinct persons. This teaching provides a mystery for us, and we confess it's \_\_\_\_\_ to understand. But we don't believe this because of the church \_\_\_\_\_ but because the Scriptures clearly teach it. We want no other \_\_\_\_\_ than the Word of God. If we can't \_\_\_\_\_ it in the Bible, we can't hold it to be truth that God wants us to believe and obey.

### **Our reading today comes from The Gospel According to John 16:12-15.**

The Scriptures boldly and clearly teach that there is \_\_\_\_\_ one God. Some statements from the Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_ this. Moses wrote, "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is \_\_\_\_\_!" (Deuteronomy 6:4). In a prayer of thanksgiving David said, "For this reason You are great, O Lord GOD; for there is \_\_\_\_\_ like You, and there is no God besides You, according to all that we have heard with our ears" (2 Samuel 7:22). Another time David sang, "For You are great and do wondrous deeds; You \_\_\_\_\_ are God" (Psalm 86:10). Nehemiah declared, "You alone are the LORD. You have \_\_\_\_\_ the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give \_\_\_\_\_ to all of them, And the heavenly host bows down before You" (Nehemiah 9:6). The prophet Isaiah quoted the Lord, "I am the LORD, and there is no \_\_\_\_\_; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may \_\_\_\_\_ from the

rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does \_\_\_\_\_ these” (2 Kings 19:15). “Hezekiah prayed before the LORD and said, ‘O LORD, the God of Israel, who are enthroned above the cherubim, You are the God, You \_\_\_\_\_, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have \_\_\_\_\_ heaven and earth”” (Isaiah 45:5-7). It is \_\_\_\_\_ that the Old Testament teaches one, and only one God.

In the same way, the New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ clearly emphasizes there is one God. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ a scribe who asked Him what the foremost commandment of all was. “The foremost is, ‘Hear, O Israel! the Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord your God with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and with all your \_\_\_\_\_, and with all your strength” (Mark 12:29-30). Jesus certainly \_\_\_\_\_ there is one Lord and no other. The apostle Paul by inspiration taught, “we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but \_\_\_\_\_” (1 Corinthians 8:4). James said, “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder” (James 2:19). There are more than forty-five passages in the Old and New Testaments which express the \_\_\_\_\_ that there is “one God,” and that there is “only one God,” and there is no other God.

Someone now asks, “Well Phil, how can this be? Didn’t you teach that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are \_\_\_\_\_?” Can there be one God if all \_\_\_\_\_ persons are considered God? The New Testament writers help us to understand this \_\_\_\_\_ by their reference to the Godhead or to Deity. This designation “Godhead” anticipates the concept of Deity \_\_\_\_\_ in God the Father, Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Although it doesn’t appear in the Old Testament, “Godhead” appears \_\_\_\_\_ times in the King James translation of the New Testament. Newer versions translate the words for Godhead as Deity or the Divine \_\_\_\_\_.

This word first appears in Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ at Mars Hill in Athens. Paul said, in the King James Version, “Forasmuch then as we are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device” (Acts 17:29). The word “Godhead” in this passage is an adjective meaning “that which \_\_\_\_\_ to the nature or status of deity, or something that’s divine.” Paul made it clear that the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God was not like the idols of the pagan world. Since He created all things, He didn’t live in temples made with \_\_\_\_\_.

The word “Godhead” appears a second time in the King James Version in Romans 1:20. Paul said, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without \_\_\_\_\_.” We’ve seen how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were all involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. When we look at how great and how magnificent our world is, it’s easy to see how only a supernatural, divine Being \_\_\_\_\_ have created it.

The word “Godhead” appears the \_\_\_\_\_ time in the King James Version in Colossians 2:9. Paul wrote, “For in him (that is, in Jesus) dwelleth all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Godhead bodily.” This word “Godhead,” found in the last two passages is an abstract noun describing “the state of being God, that is divine in character or nature, that is deity.” So again, we see the divine \_\_\_\_\_ of God dwelling in Jesus in bodily form. This passage \_\_\_\_\_ us to understand that the one God is a Godhead and distinguishes the Son as having a body.

The New Testament, in two passages, \_\_\_\_\_ the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These passages \_\_\_\_\_ these three with the word “and.” The word “and” here means these three all \_\_\_\_\_ in the same category. The first passage is Matthew 28:19-20. People are to be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name (and that is a singular word) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. To be baptized into Christ means we’re baptized into the name of all \_\_\_\_\_. When we become a Christian by being baptized into Christ, we have God as our Father, Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit as the earnest or guarantee of our inheritance, according to Ephesians 1:13-14.

The second passage that lists all three comes in Paul’s final greeting to the \_\_\_\_\_ at Corinth, in 2 Corinthians 13:14. Paul said, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” Each of these three persons of the Godhead \_\_\_\_\_ us. They act together in unison with one \_\_\_\_\_ – to bless us with their grace, love, and fellowship. If Paul didn’t think of all three as divine, he would not have listed them together.

But you ask, “How can three be one?” Consider the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus to the Father. **Read John 17:20-23.** Jesus wanted His \_\_\_\_\_ to be one, and to be united, “just as We are one.” Just as the church can have \_\_\_\_\_ members and yet be \_\_\_\_\_ body, so the Father, Son, and Spirit can be united as one.

We noted last week that God the Father was not \_\_\_\_\_ in the beginning. **Read John 1:1-3.** While the Father is God, the \_\_\_\_\_ or the Word was God and was with God. Genesis 1:2 speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ “hovering” over the face of the waters, so we know that all three were \_\_\_\_\_ in the beginning and were involved in creation. While the Old Testament doesn’t use a word describing the Godhead, some passages do recognize the fact of a \_\_\_\_\_ of persons as one God. For instance, Genesis 1:26 says, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.” These passages necessarily show God the Father was not alone at the time of \_\_\_\_\_.

In the same way, the writer of the book of Hebrews quoted from Psalm 45:6-7. The Hebrew writer said God was \_\_\_\_\_ about His Son Jesus. God said, “Your \_\_\_\_\_, O God, is forever and ever” (Hebrews 1:8). Then again, in verse nine it says, speaking of the son, “You

have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has \_\_\_\_\_ you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.” Here you have one person in the Godhead speaking to another and calling Him \_\_\_\_\_.

The New Testament also \_\_\_\_\_ how each person in the Godhead interacted with the others and how the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are all distinct. **Read about Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist in Matthew 3:16-17.** Wouldn't it be absurd to \_\_\_\_\_ the Father who was speaking from heaven, and the Son who just came from the water after being baptized, and the Holy Spirit who was a dove, were all the \_\_\_\_\_ person?

**Read what the Lord Jesus said to the apostles in John 14:16-17.** All three are distinctly seen in this one passage. The Lord Jesus would \_\_\_\_\_ the Father to give the disciples another Helper or Comforter to be with them, and that would be the Holy Spirit. Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are \_\_\_\_\_ mentioned.

Again, in John 14:26, we have \_\_\_\_\_ persons! The Father will \_\_\_\_\_ the Holy Spirit to \_\_\_\_\_ and to bring to the remembrance of the apostles the things that the Lord Jesus Himself taught. Each was involved in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church.

Again, we have Jesus speaking in John 15:26. Here Jesus is sending the Spirit from the Father to \_\_\_\_\_ about the Lord Jesus. If the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were all the \_\_\_\_\_ person, it would be illogical and meaningless to speak of them interacting with one another as these passages do. It is right to believe in One God, but it is also right to \_\_\_\_\_ that there are three Persons. The concept of one God and three persons is \_\_\_\_\_ for many people. When we hear the word “apple,” we may think of a fruit, a tree, or a seed. These are \_\_\_\_\_ things yet the same in essence. When we think of H<sub>2</sub>O, we could speak of ice, water, or steam; they are distinct and yet one in \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus said, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30). He prayed to His Father in John 17:22 that His followers in the church may be one, “even as We are one.” Now unity comes only when people are united in heart and mind with the same \_\_\_\_\_.

**Read Philippians 2:5-8.** Jesus could be one with the Father because He took the form of a \_\_\_\_\_. Though He existed in the form of God, He humbled Himself and was \_\_\_\_\_ to die on the cross for our sins.

To be one with the Father and Son, we too must \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves and be obedient. **Read Hebrews 5:8-9.** When we \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel, when we \_\_\_\_\_ of our sins, \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and when we are \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ, we too are obedient and come to have the hope of eternal life. Only God can \_\_\_\_\_, and that's why we must do things God's way. If we wish to be God's people, let's do things God's way.