

# REAL WITH GOD: CHARACTER OF GOD

but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” *1 Peter 1:15-16 ESV*

## NATURE: TRINITY<sup>1</sup>

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### TRINITY: ONE GOD, THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON AND SPIRIT

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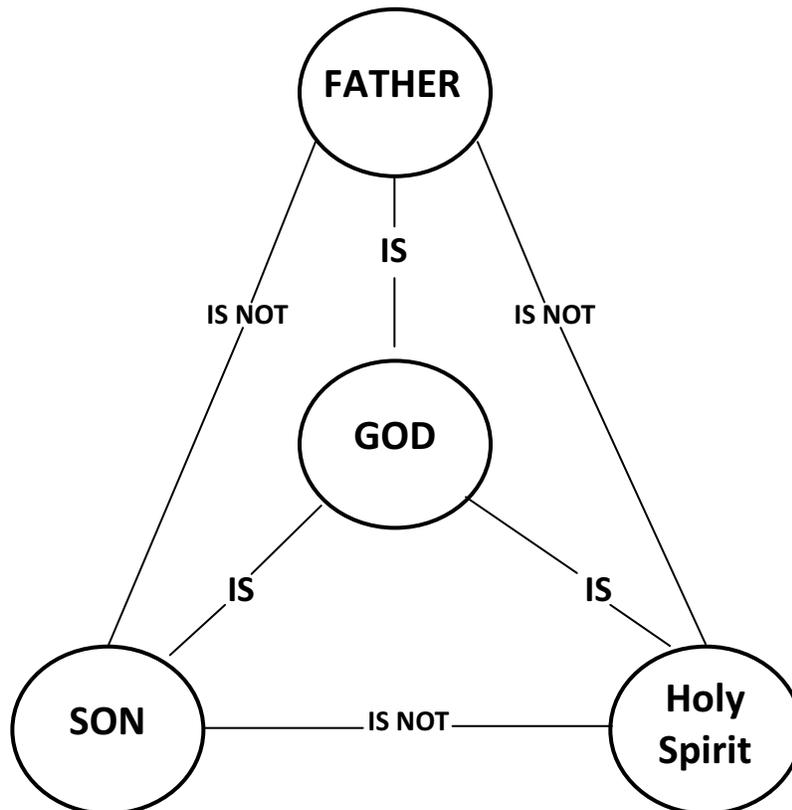
#### Biblical Foundation Three Statements

There is \_\_\_\_\_

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. *Deuteronomy 6:4-5 ESV*

I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me... *Isaiah 45:5 ESV*

God is \_\_\_\_\_



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<sup>1</sup> This section is adapted from Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000), 226-261

Each person is \_\_\_\_\_:

The \_\_\_\_\_ is God

The \_\_\_\_\_ is God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. **John 1:1-3 ESV**

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” **John 8:58 ESV**

God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” **Exodus 3:14 ESV**

This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. **John 5:18 ESV**

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **John 20:28 ESV**

And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. **Matthew 28:9 ESV**

The \_\_\_\_\_ is God

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... **Matthew 28:19 ESV**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **2 Corinthians 13:14 ESV**

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.” **Acts 5:3-4 ESV**

## HERESIES

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### MODALISM

Definition: God appears in three different modes

Problem: No relationship between the persons in the Trinity

### ARIANISM

Definition: Denies the deity of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Problems: Jesus must be God to atone for the sins of the world

Jesus must be God to save us

Jesus must be God to be worshipped

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### TRITHEISM

Definition: Denies there is one God

Problems: No unity in the universe

Creates a dilemma: Which God do we give our devotion to?

**IMPLICATIONS**

\_\_\_\_\_ existed before we did

Unity and diversity of God reflected in human relationships

**Relationship between Father and Son reflected in the family**

Parents and children

Husband and wife

**In the church**

One body, many members

Spiritual gifts

Different ethnicities

**ATTRIBUTES AND ACTIONS**

**GREATNESS**

**Spirituality**

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. **John 4:24 ESV**

**Jesus:**

Hypostatic union

Two natures

Fully \_\_\_\_\_

Fully \_\_\_\_\_

**Personality**

Not an impersonal force

**Life: Self-Existence**

Not \_\_\_\_\_

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **Psalm 90:2 ESV**

Always \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ of life

“Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.” **Revelation 4:11**

For from him and through him and to him are all things, to him be the glory forever. Amen.

**Romans 11:36 ESV**

...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. **1 Cor 8:6 ESV**

**Infinity**

\_\_\_\_\_ (omnipresence)

Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God far away? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. **Jeremiah 23:23-24 ESV**

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell

in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. **Psalm 139:7-10 ESV**

\_\_\_\_\_ (omniscience)

Do you know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him who is perfect in knowledge... **Job 37:16 ESV**

...for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and he knows everything.  
**1 John 3:20 ESV**

\_\_\_\_\_ (omnipotence)

For nothing will be impossible with God. **Luke 1:37 ESV**

But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." **Matthew 19:26 ESV**

...and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.  
**2 Corinthians 6:18 ESV**

### Constancy (Immutability<sup>2</sup>)

Same God today as in the Bible

God's \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't change

Time: Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. **Psalm 93:2 ESV**

Substance: ...who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. **1 Timothy 6:16 ESV**

God doesn't get better – He is already perfect

God's \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't change

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. **James 1:17 ESV**

God's attributes don't change – not good one day and then evil the next, just and unjust, etc.

God's \_\_\_\_\_ doesn't change

"God still stands behind all the promises, and demands, and statements of purpose, and words of warning, that are there addressed to New Testament believers."<sup>3</sup>

A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

**Isaiah 40:6-8 ESV**

Forever, O LORD, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. **Psalm 119:89 ESV**

But you are near, O LORD, and all your commandments are true. Long have I known from your testimonies that you have founded them forever. **Psalm 119:151-152 ESV**

God's \_\_\_\_\_ don't change

God still acts towards us in the same way he does in the Bible

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from J. I. Packer, “God Unchanging” in *Knowing God* (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1993), 77-80

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 79

God’s \_\_\_\_\_ do not change

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations. ***Psalm 33:11 ESV***

For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, saying, “Surely I will bless you and multiply you.” And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain... ***Hebrews 6:13-19 ESV***

## GOODNESS

\_\_\_\_\_ Purity – “moral” - good/evil – right/wrong

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and **the train of his robe filled the temple**. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!” ***Isaiah 6:1-5 ESV***

## Righteousness and Justice

Righteousness – To act in conformity with what is right

Just and Justifier

The sacrifice of Jesus allows God to justify us and remain just  
***(see Romans 3:21-26 ESV)***

God is able to bring to pass what He has promised God will bring about what He has promised God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it? ***Numbers 23:19 ESV***

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it. ***1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 ESV***

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
***1 Corinthians 1:9 ESV***

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ***1 John 4:8 ESV***

Five uses of the love of God in Scripture<sup>4</sup>

1. **Inter-trinitarian love**
2. **Providential love**
3. **Yearning and salvific love**

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. **2 Peter 3:9 ESV**

[God our Savior] desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
**1 Timothy 2:4 ESV**

For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **Philippians 3:18 ESV**

For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **Romans 5:10 ESV**

Say to them, As I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel? **Ezekiel 33:11 ESV**

4. **Love for his children**
5. **Conditional love**

As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.  
**John 15:9-10 ESV**

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## THE WORD "WORLD" IN JOHN COMMUNICATES BOTH THE BIGNESS AND BADNESS OF IT

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**How God shows love:**

\_\_\_\_\_ – undeserved favor

\_\_\_\_\_ – “tenderhearted, loving compassion for his people”<sup>5</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ – patience

And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him... **2 Peter 3:15 ESV**

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<sup>4</sup> Adapted from D. A. Carson, *The Difficult Doctrine of the Love of God* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2000)

<sup>5</sup> Millard Erickson, *Christian Theology*, 2nd Ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998), 322