

WHAT WE BELIEVE

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God

# ARTICLE 2

## II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

# OUR BELIEFS

## God

We believe that there is one God who eternally exists as three persons in one nature: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

# ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD

- Jeremiah 10:10-11 - But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, And the nations cannot endure His indignation. Thus you shall say to them, “The gods that did not make the heavens and the earth will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.”
- 1 Thess 1:9 - For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,

# ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD

- God is not one among other gods, he is the only God.
- God exists by his very nature. He was never created or came into being. His very nature is life.
- Exodus 20:3 - “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

# ONE LIVING AND TRUE GOD

- Deuteronomy 6:4 - Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
- Isaiah 45:5-6 - I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; That men may know 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.

# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God's divine attributes are the qualities or characteristics that are inherent in who he is; characteristics not of his personality, but of his essence.
- God's attributes are inseparable from his being; an attribute is that without which God would cease to be God.
- To study God's attributes is to study God himself.

# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God is spiritual, which means that God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is different and higher than any other kind of existence.
- John 4:24 - “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”



# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God is both infinite and personal at the same time (transcendent and immanent).
- God is infinite in that he is not subject to any of the limitations of creation and far greater than anything else that exists.
- At the same time God is intimately involved with us as persons, and he relates with us, he speaks to us, rejoices in us, loves us, responds to our worship and prayer and obedience and love and disobedience and sin (Psalm 86, 116; Isaiah 40-48).

# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God is self-existent and self-sufficient. He does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify him and bring him joy (Exodus 3:14; Job 41:11; Psalm 50:10-12; 90:2; John 17:5, 24; Acts 17:24-25).
- God is eternal, he has no beginning, end, or succession of moments in his own being, and he sees all times vividly, yet God sees events in time and acts in time (Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2, 4; Job 36:26; Isaiah 45:21; 46:9-10; John 8:58; Acts 17:30-31; Galatians 4:4-5; 2 Peter 3:8; Jude 25; Revelation 1:8).

# ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

- God is unchanging in his being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations (Psalm 33:11; 102:25-27; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17).
- God is glorious, majestic, and radiant in and of himself. He is incomparable. Although he does not need us, he chooses to glorify himself through us and share his glory with us (Numbers 16:42; 1 Chronicles 16:28-29; 29:11; Psalm 19:1; 24:7-8; 72:19; 96:3; Romans 11:33-36; Revelation 4:11)

# GOD'S ACTIVITY

- God is Creator (Genesis 1-2)
- God is Redeemer (e.g., Exodus 6-12; Mark 10:45)
- God is Preserver (e.g., Matthew 10:29)
- God is Ruler (e.g., 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; Daniel 4:17)

# THE TRINITY

- There is only one God – Scriptural Monotheism
- God is three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit – Scriptural Trinitarianism
- God is one and three at the same time

# THE TRINITY

- The Father is God
- Jesus is God
- The Holy Spirit is God

# THE TRINITY

- 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 - Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

# THE TRINITY

- John 10:29-30 – “My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. “I and the Father are one.”
- Acts 5:3-4 - But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”



# THE TRINITY

- Matthew 3:16-17 - After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”
- Matthew 28:19-20 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

# THE TRINITY

- Although the doctrine of the Trinity is not explicitly asserted, Scripture (especially the New Testament) contains so many suggestions of the deity and the unity of the three persons that we can understand why the church formulated the doctrine and conclude that they were right in doing so.
- The Trinity is primarily a biblical doctrine supported by history and philosophy, not the other way around. It is fundamental and foundational for the Christian faith.