

# The Community of God

## Presentation Handout

### Confusion on Godhead

- Beyond our comprehension.
- We'll spend eternity "wrapping" our minds and hearts around the idea of the Godhead and never fully grasp or appreciate.

### The Ontology of the Godhead—Who They Are

- **The Father** {Genesis 1:1; 2 Samuel 7:22; Psalm 89:26; 90:2; Isaiah 40:28-31; 44:6; 45:18}
  - Is God, Creator, eternal, all-powerful, love
- **Jesus** {Psalm 2:4, 7, 11-12; John 1:1-5, 9; 5:20-(23); Colossians 2:1-3 (2); Philippians 2:5-(6); 1 John 2:22-23}
  - Divine, Creator, eternal, equal to the Father
  - Should be honored and worshiped like the Father.
  - If Jesus isn't God, He could not save sinful humanity because it would be a non-God trying to provide salvation for oneself or others—an impossibility!

**Take-Away:** *This is why religions that don't believe Jesus is divine seem to end up with a "salvation by works" or "salvation by humanity" focus.*

- **Holy Spirit** {Genesis 1:2; Psalm 51:10-11; Isaiah 63:10; John 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-11}
  - Divine, Creator, eternal, equal to the Father and Jesus, not an "essence," "force," or "it" since you can't grieve an essence, force, or it, nor could "it" comfort.
  - Personal pronouns "He" or "Him" used to describe the Holy Spirit.
  - If the Holy Spirit is not divine God humanity is doomed because He woos us to faith and salvation along with empowering to live a growing, overcoming walk with Jesus.

**Take-Away:** *When the Holy Spirit is seen as an "essence," "force," or "it" people end up focusing on themselves for salvation or the "god" within themselves to grow spiritually because they live in their own human power.*

### The Community of God

- **Defer/Promote the Others in the Godhead**
  - Father -> Jesus {Matthew 17:5} – We are to honor, listen to and worship Jesus the same as the Father.
  - Jesus -> Father {John 5:30; 17:4} – Jesus came to glorify the Father and lead human beings to understand and worship Him, not glorify Himself, the Father did that.
  - Holy Spirit -> Jesus & Father {John 16:13-14} – The Holy Spirit leads human beings to understand Jesus' words, believe in Him, and follow Him in loving faith-obedience.

- **Subordination/Humbling for our salvation**

- Father gave/sent Jesus {John 3:16}.
- Jesus came in humanity {Mathew 1:21, 23}.
- Holy Spirit empowered Jesus {Hebrews 9:14} and empowers human beings {John 16:12-13}.

**Take-Away:** *Though the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are divine and equal; They took roles of “subordination”—humbling Themselves for the effective implementation of the plan of salvation so humanity could be saved.*

## The Community of Believers

“Finally, brethren...., Become complete. Be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace...” The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, ...the love of God, ...the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all....” {2 Corinthians 13:11, 14}

- **Deferring & loving others** {1 John 3:11, 23; 4:11, 21; 5:1; Ephesians 5:22-25, 28-33}
  - God’s love working in our lives *will* lead us to love others with a caring, sacrificial love as the Holy Spirit fills & empowers us with His love so we can.
  - We will still have boundaries in this kind of loving, yet, life isn’t about me—it becomes about God & others because His love transforms our attitudes.
- **Subordination/Humbling** {1 Corinthians 13:4-5; Ephesians 5:25, 28-29; Philippians 2:(5)-8; 1 Peter 5:1-3, 5) 9}
  - Our natural, sinful human natures don’t submit or respond humbly because they crave the spotlight—crying out for notice wanting to be right or in charge—all opposite from the humble, subordinate nature of the Godhead.
  - Unless we invite by faith the Godhead into our lives to dwell in us our natural sinful natures will control our lives.

**Take-Away:** *The Godhead’s grace, love, and communion/fellowship are qualities that build community, which in turn builds community among Their followers in the Church family and in all of their other relationships.*

## The Godhead Bodily in Community

- When the Godhead—the Community of God, Father, Jesus & Holy Spirit—live in us bodily, dwelling in us fully, like Jesus while on this earth—our lives will be transformed!

“For in Him (Jesus) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;  
and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.”

{Colossians 2:9-10}

**REFLECTION:** *As you see the Godhead’s love for each Other, what changes need to happen in your life to reflect Their community of love to others?*