

"...Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Deuteronomy 6:4,5

1. God is defined as 'one'
2. What does 'one' mean? In terms of the nations surrounding God's people—what would 'one' mean?

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

So God created man in his own image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26f

1. The passage does not talk about God in three forms but suggests the possibility that God sees himself in a more complicated way than we do
2. What does the passage say about how God communicates?

The New International Version of the Bible is used throughout

DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

LESSON 53 THE FAMILY OF GOD

The lesson gives a brief outline of the idea of how God can be understood. Many Christians use the term 'Trinity' to define God. The term can be unhelpful and so the term 'the Family of God' is used in this lesson

"...Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it." A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

John 20:24-28

1. Thomas is often called 'the doubter' - because he wants proof. What proof does Thomas get about Jesus?
2. What is his reaction to this proof?
3. If Jesus were just an angel how should he react to being called 'God'?

"Then the angel said to me, "Write: `Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' " And he added, "These are the true words of God."At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 19:9-10

1. What does this say about who we should worship?

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

John 8:58

1. Why do these people try to stone Jesus?
2. Ifs Jesus saying that He was on earth before Abraham? Is He saying more than this?

"Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Revelation 14:6,7

1. Angel's here convey a message from heaven which we need to pass on. The message is to worship God
2. What is said about the nature of God in this passage?

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:4-12

1. The overall picture given is of 'working together towards one goal'. How is this shown?
2. If we were to say that Jesus as the son of God, God, as Father and the Holy Spirit were one—could this passage give an idea of what kind of 'oneness' they share?

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit..."

Ephesians 2:14-22

1. That theme of unity continues. Can you see links between us and God in the passage?
2. How do we get close to the Father—God?

"I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he."

Deuteronomy 32:3,4

1. We can easily recognise that this passage describes a particular characteristic of God—His solidness and strength
2. Do you recognise anyone else who has been called 'the Rock'? See 1 Corinthians 12:4,5