The Holy Spirit

Understanding the Trinity Lesson 2

I. Is there more than one God?

A. Perhaps you have questions about the Biblical view of God - that He is three in one. Christians are often accused of believing in three gods. The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible, which nowhere teaches that there are three "Gods." There is only one God.

B. But Christians do believe that God's nature - or God "Himself" - is demonstrated in three persons (or personalities). One God - three Persons - is that really possible?

II. Trinity or Tri-unity?

A. 1 + 1 + 1 = 3

B. 1 x 1 x 1 = 1

III. God is One

A. Deuteronomy 4:35, 39 - "...the LORD Himself is God...there is no other."

B. Deuteronomy 6:4 - "...the LORD is one..."

C. Isaiah 44:6 - "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me.'"

D. Isaiah 45:5-6 - "...there is no God besides Me."

E. Mark 12:29 - "Jesus answered, 'The foremost is, "Hear O Israel! The LORD our God is one LORD."'"

F. John 5:44 - "...seek the glory that is from the one and only God."

G. I Corinthians 8:4-6 - "...there is but one God..."

H. Romans 3:29-30 - "Or is God the God of the Jews only? Is He not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, since indeed God who will justify...through faith is one."

I. James 2:19 - "You believe that 'God is one.' The demons also believe and shudder."

IV. The Bible's Teaching about the Nature of God

A. The Name of God is a Plural Noun.

1. Elohim - its meaning. In the Hebrew language the “im” ending on a word made it plural (for example: cherub (sing.), cherubim (plural). Elohim is the plural form of “El.”

2. Elohim - its significance. Elohim conveys the idea that the one supreme being, who is the only true God, is in some sense plural.” “The plural form refers to the triune God of Genesis 1:1-3, who works through Word and Spirit in the creation of the world.” (Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary, “Names of God,” p.504. Thomas Nelson, Nashville, 1995.)

B. Plural Pronouns are used of God

1. Genesis 1: 26 - "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image..."

2. Genesis 3: 22 - "Then the Lord God said...'Behold, the man has become like one of Us..."

V. Further Clarification

A. God's Name is Applied to More Than One Person in the Same Text

1. Psalm 45: 6-7

2. Isaiah 48:12-16

3. Psalm 110: 1 (Matthew 22:41-46)

1. John 6: 27 The Father is God

2. Hebrews 1: 8, Romans 9: 5, Acts 20: 28 The Son is God

3. Acts 5: 3-4 The Spirit is God

