

## THE DIVINE NATURE

Acts 17:22-29

### Introduction:

1. Theologians speak of "The Trinity."
  - a. The Bible does not use this term, but the concept is there.
  - b. The Bible speaks of "The Godhead" or "Divine Nature."
  - c. The Greek word for God is "theos" - "Divine Nature."
  - d. There is one Divine Nature but Three Who possess it.
2. Some deny there are three Persons who are called God:
  - a. Muslims deny the Divinity of Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
  - b. Unitarians believe Jesus was only a man.
  - c. Jehovah's Witnesses make Jesus a lesser god and the Spirit a force.
  - d. Mormons teach that each male Mormon is potentially a god.
  - e. Oneness Pentecostals teach only one Person in the Godhead.
3. What does the Bible say?

### Discussion:

#### I. FINITE MAN CANNOT COMPREHEND THE INFINITE GOD.

- A. There are no limits to God's power and knowledge.
  1. Man is limited in strength and knowledge.
  2. His understanding is limited by what he has experienced.
  3. If man could comprehend God, he would be God.
- B. God has revealed Himself to man.
  1. God's existence can be seen in His creation (Ro. 1:20; Ps. 19:1; 53:1).
  2. God's nature can be seen in Jesus (Jn. 1:18; Jn. 14:7-9).
  3. God has revealed His will in the Bible (1 Co. 2:10-13).

#### II. THERE IS ONE GOD.

- A. The Old Testament teaches there is only one Divine Nature.
  1. "The Lord, our God, the Lord is one" (De. 6:4).
  2. "I am the First and the Last; beside Me there is no God" (Is. 44:6).
  3. "The Lord is one, and His name is one" (Zec. 14:9).
- B. The New Testament teaches there is one Divine Nature.
  1. "There is no other God but one" (1 Co. 8:4).
  2. "You believe that there is one God. You do well" (Ja. 2:19).

#### III. THERE ARE THREE PERSONS WHO ARE CALLED GOD.

- A. The Father is called God.
  1. "I bow my knees to the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Ep. 3:14).
  2. There is "one God and Father of all" (Ep. 4:6).
  3. "We bless our God and Father" (Ja. 3:9).

- B. The Son is called God.
  - 1. The Word was in the beginning; thus eternal (Jn. 1:1-3).
  - 2. The Word was with God; thus separate from God.
  - 3. The Word was God; thus possessed the Divine Nature.
  - 4. The Word became flesh - God became man in Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:14; Phil. 2:5-11).
  - 5. The Jews tried to stone Jesus because He claimed to be God (Jn. 8:56-59).
  
- C. The Spirit is called God.
  - 1. To lie to the Spirit is to lie to God (Ac. 5:3,4).
  - 2. He is called "the Spirit of God" (Ro. 8:14).
  
- D. The three Persons of the Divine Nature are found together.
  - 1. At Jesus' baptism (Mt. 3:16,17).
  - 2. In the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19).
  - 3. In Paul's benediction (2 Co. 13:14).

#### IV. THE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD ARE ONE, YET THREE.

- A. There is one Divine Nature but Three Who possess it.
  - 1. Jesus said: "I and My Father are One" (Jn. 10:30).
  - 2. Jesus prayed His disciples would be one as He and the Father are One (Jn. 17:20, 21).
  
- B. Some teach there is one Person in the Godhead.
  - 1. Why three separate Persons at Jesus baptism?
  - 2. Why pray to the Father in the name of Jesus (Mt. 6:9; Jn. 16:23, 24)?
  - 3. How could Jesus be the Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5)?
  - 4. How could He be our Advocate with the Father (1 Jn. 2:1)?
  - 4. Other passages show the Father and Son are One, yet separate.
    - a. One can be forgiven for blasphemy against the Son, but not blasphemy against the Spirit (Mt. 12:32).
    - b. The Father knew something the Son on earth did not know (Mt. 24:36).
    - c. Jesus said, "My Father is greater than I" (Jn. 14:28).
    - d. The "head of Christ is God" shows they are two Persons (1 Cor. 11:3).

#### Conclusion:

- 1. There is one Divine Nature, but Three who possess it.
- 2. Our finite minds cannot comprehend the infinite God.
- 3. We must accept what He has revealed to us by faith.
- 4. We must be baptized "into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Mt. 28:19).

