

How can God, Christ and the Holy Spirit be One?

1. *Colossians 1:15-23*:

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in Heaven and on Earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the Body, the Church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. (19) For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on Earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.”

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (22) But now He has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the Gospel.”

A. Christ is the (15) "image of the invisible God." God had (19) "all His fullness dwell in Him (Christ), and through Him (Christ) to reconcile to Himself (God) all things...(22) by Christ's physical body."

2. *John 1:1-3* says: "In the beginning was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that had been made."

A. *Genesis 1:26* says "Let us make man in our image." There was someone with God when he made the world and Adam. Angels? John says it was Christ ("the Word").

3. *John 1:18* goes on to say: "No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known." So, are there two Gods? If they are the same God, then how is it that the Son was at the father's side?

4. *Acts 7:30, 35-38,53*:

(30) "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai.

(35) This is the same Moses whom they had rejected with the words, 'Who made you ruler and judge?' He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God Himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. He led them out of Egypt and did wonders and miraculous signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the desert. This is that Moses who told the Israelites, 'God will send you a prophet like Me from your own people.' He was in the assembly in the desert, with our fathers and with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai; and he received living words to pass on to us.

(53) You who have received the Law that was put into effect through angels..."

A. Here, Stephen is telling the story of the calling of Moses, and the giving of The Ten Commandments (*Exodus 3:2-4 & 23:20,21*) who was called (35) "by God Himself,

through the angel who appeared to him in the bush," and given the Law (53) "through angels."

B. Here Stephen says the Law was spoken to Moses by an angel, and yet *Exodus 20:1* says they were spoken to Moses by God Himself. From *Exodus 19:3* to the end of the Book, it says God spoke to Moses.

C. But, God said something strange to Moses in *Exodus 23:20,21*: "*See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and bring you to the place I have promised. Pay attention to Him and do what He says. Do not rebel against Him, for He will not forgive your rebellion since My Name is in Him!*"

D. In *Exodus 24:9-11* Moses, Aaron, Nadab and 70 Elders saw God.

E. In *Exodus 33:9-11* God spoke to Moses in the cloud "*face to face*" as a man speaks to a friend, and yet in *Exodus 33:20* God told Moses you "*may not see My face.*" So, later, God lets Moses see His back.

G. *Genesis 18:1-19:18* talks about three men who appeared to Abraham to tell him that his wife Sarah would have a baby, and that Sodom & Gomorrah would be destroyed. One of the three does all the talking, and Abraham refers to him as "*The Lord.*" in *verses 10,17,22,23*. The other two men were called "*angels*" in *19:1*, but the third one that did all the talking was called "*The Lord*" in *18:1*.

(1) Was this third man God? *Genesis 18:20-25*: "*(22) The men (two of the three men) turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the Lord (third man that did all the talking).*"

(2) Was this third man a special angel that God spoke through? *Exodus 23:20,21*: "*See, I (God) am sending an angel ahead of you (children of Israel) to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared (Promised Land). Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since My Name is in him.*"

(3) Was this third man another visit from Melchizedek? *Genesis 14:17-20*: "*After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).*

Then Melchizedek king of Salem (later called Jerusalem) brought out bread and wine (like Communion?). He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram...Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything."

(4) Was this third man Christ? *Hebrews 6:20-7:17* compares Melchizedek to Jesus, and *I Corinthians 10:1-4* says:

*“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud (that led the children of Israel through the desert) and that they all passed through the sea (that Moses parted so they could get across, and then came back together to destroy the Egyptian armies). They were all baptized (immersed) into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; **for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.**”*

5. John 8:58 says: *"I tell you the truth." Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am'.* "I Am" is the exact title God gives Himself!

A. Jesus explains this in John 10:30-37: *(30)"I and the Father are one...(34)Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came — and the Scripture cannot be broken — what about the one whom the Father set apart as His very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse Me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'? Do not believe Me unless I do what my Father does."*

(1) Jesus is quoting **Psalm 82:6**. Here David speaks of Judges commissioned by God to be gods to His people.

(2) **Exodus 21:1-6** explains further of how a Hebrew slave may go free after seven years. **Verse 6** says: *"Then his master shall bring him to the Judges."*

(3) **These "Judges" represented God.** Whatever they said, was as if God, Himself, said it. The word "Judges" is the Hebrew word "Elohim," which is literally translated "gods."

(4) These Judges, or gods, were also referred to again in **Exodus 22:9,28**.

(5) Jesus was saying that if Scripture can call men "gods," because they speak for and represent God; then why can't He speak this way about Himself since He too was commissioned by God, as He points out in **Matthew 28:18**: *"...all authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me..."*), to speak for, and to represent Him as "God's Son."

6. I Corinthians 15:20-28:

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him. Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. (27) For He 'has put everything under His feet' (Psalm 8:6). Now when it says that 'everything' has been put under Him, it is clear that this does not include God Himself, who has put

everything under Christ. When He has done this, then the Son Himself will be made subject to Him who put everything under Him, so that God may be all in all."

A. It is clear that God has given His Son Jesus Christ complete authority (as if He were God, Himself). But, it is also clear in **verse 24-28** that when the End comes, and Christ has destroyed all His enemies (including death), **(27)** *"For He (Christ) has put everything under His feet. Now when it says that everything has been put under Him (Christ), it is clear that this does not include God Himself, who put everything under Christ. When He (Christ) has done this, then the Son Himself will be made subject to Him (God) who put everything under Him (Christ), so that God may be all in all."*

B. So, Who's the Judge?

(1) *II Corinthians 5:10* says it is Christ!

(2) *Hebrews 12:23* says it is God!

(3) *Romans 5:11-17* says God will judge through Jesus Christ!

7. John 14:6-26:

"Jesus answered (his Apostles), 'I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you really knew Me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.

Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.'

Jesus answered: 'Don't you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves...

(23) *If anyone loves Me, He will obey My teaching. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me will not obey My teaching. These words you hear are not My own; they belong to the Father who sent Me.*

*All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counselor, **the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name**, will teach you all things, and remind you of everything I have said to you'."*

A. Jesus made it clear to His disciples that no one could get to the Father except through Him, and that after He died and rose from the dead, He was going back to the Father. And, He goes on and explains in **verses 23-26** that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit will make their home in Christians.

B. Romans 8:9-17:

*"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the **Spirit**, if the*

***Spirit of God** lives in you. And if anyone does not have the **Spirit of God**, he does not belong to **Christ**. But if **Christ** is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness (doing what is right). And if the **Spirit of Him** who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit**, who lives in you.*

*Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation — but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the **Spirit** you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the **Spirit of God** are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of sonship**. And by Him we cry, ‘Abba, Father.’ The **Spirit** Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. **Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ**, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory.”*

(1) Notice how many times the Bible says the (Holy) Spirit, Spirit of God, and Spirit of Christ must live in us.

C. Remember, ***1 Corinthians 3:16*** says: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's Temple, and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

8. Titus 3:4-7:

*“But when the kindness (grace) and love of **God our Savior** appeared, He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy (grace). **He saved us through** the washing of rebirth (baptism) and renewal of **the Holy Spirit**, whom He poured out on us generously **through Jesus Christ our Savior**, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”*

A. Now you can see the Trinity: "...God our Savior...saved us...by the Holy Spirit...through Jesus Christ our Savior..."