

Jeff Applegate
Houston Christian University
October 9, 2022
Systematic Theology 5340
Dr. Chris Sneller

Personal Creed and Doctrine of God (Theology Proper)

One God three persons: I believe in one God having one nature and in perfect harmony expresses Himself in three persons.ⁱ

God is the Creator of all that is: I believe God is the sovereign creator of heaven and earth and all things that are. Out of His will and by His command He brought everything into existence.ⁱⁱ God reveals Himself to all men through His creation.ⁱⁱⁱ

Jesus, Son of God: I believe that Jesus is the Son of God being of the same nature as God.^{iv} I believe Jesus was eternally with God and was co-creator of all things made.^v I believe that in accordance to His will Jesus came from the presence of God to be born of human flesh through the Spirit to a virgin, lived a blameless life, was crucified, died and was raised from the dead to sit at the right hand of God the Father to redeem mankind to God.^{vi}

Jesus will judge all men: I believe Jesus will return to judge all men and His kingdom will have no end.^{vii}

God in Spirit: I believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of a triune God and is of the same nature as the Father and the Son.^{viii} I believe the Holy Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of the Scripture and resides in those who, through faith, trust in Jesus as their Lord and savior from sin.^{ix}

God is Love: I believe the essence of God's character is love.^x God loves Himself first and from the overflow of His love, He loves His creation.^{xi} Through the power of the Spirit we also can receive Love, realize His love in our lives and reflect His love back to Him and others.^{xii}

ⁱScriptures declare that there is one God and no other besides Him. Deut. 4:35, Deut. 6:4, Ps. 83:18, Ps. 86:10, Isa. 43:10, Isa. 44:6, Eph. 4:6; Genesis 1 describes the Spirit of God hovering over the water and John describes God the Father and the Son present at creation. Gen. 1:1-2, Jn. 1:1-3; God is not represented in three people or three gods present at creation, but one God sharing the same nature expressed in three persons. The Apostle Paul speaks of the three persons of God working together in his blessing to the Corinthians bestowing the grace of Jesus, the love of God and the fellowship of the Spirit. 2 Cor. 13:14; All persons of the Trinity are present at baptism of Jesus. Mark 1:9-11; We are commanded to make disciples and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. Matt. 28:19; Peter describes the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together for the grace of those chosen residents. 1 Peter 1:2; The one God provides the gifts of the Spirit, services of the Lord and is the same power behind them all. 1 Cor. 12:4-6; The Triune God is one God that is mysteriously expressed in three persons but works in perfect harmony according to one nature.

ⁱⁱThe sovereignty of God is defined by the right God bears to exercise his ruling power over His creation. Rev 4:11; At the creation of time by the Word of God the heavens and all things that are were made. Gen.1:1; Ps. 33:6-9; Isa. 44:24; Jn. 1:3; Col 1:15-17.

ⁱⁱⁱ The intelligent design, remarkable beauty and observable order of creation proclaim the Creator. Gen. 1:1, Ps. 8:3-4, Ps. 19:1-4, Isa. 40:26; In His creation God provides evidence so that all men can know him. Rom 1:18-20, Acts 14:17; All things have been created for Him and by Him. Col. 1:16; As the observer of creation, I am overwhelmed by the limitless power of the Creator. Job 38:4.

^{iv} Jesus is the perfect mediator between God and men because they share the same nature. 1 Tim. 2:5; Jesus proclaims that He and the Father are one. Matt. 11:27; John 10:30.

^v Jesus was present with God when everything was made, and nothing was made apart from Him. He was eternally begotten of the Father. John 1:1-3

^{vi} It was God's will to crush His Son as the guilt offering. Isa. 53:10, John 3:16; Jesus was with God at creation. John 1:3; Jesus was born of the Spirit to a virgin. Luke 1:35; Jesus was fully human born of flesh and blood. Luke 24:39; He was declared innocent by Pilate. John 18:38; He was crucified, died and buried. Matt 27:35, 50, 60. Luke testifies to the person of Jesus crucified as Lord and Christ. Acts 2:36; The tomb is empty Jesus has risen and conquered death. Mark 16:6, Matt 28:6 After appearing to many, Jesus ascended to heaven. Mark 16:19. Jesus is at the right hand of God interceding for us today. Rom. 8:34; Man is redeemed through confessing his sins and believe that Jesus conquered death. Rom. 10:9.

^{vii} Jesus Himself declares that he will return in glory to judge all men living and those who have died before his return. Matt. 25:31-46; Jn. 5:26-29; Acts 10:42; Rom. 2:16. He will rule in peace and His kingdom will have no end. Isa. 9:7, Luke 1:33, Rev. 11:15.

^{viii} The Lord is the Spirit. 2 Cor. 3:17; The Holy Spirit was with God at Creation. Gen. 1:2.

^{ix} The Holy Spirit led the writers of the Scripture to declare Jesus. 2Peter 1:21, 2Tim. 3:16, John 14:26; The Holy Spirit abides in the believer. John 14:17; Just as we are born of the flesh, we must be born of the Spirit. John 3:5; By his mercy we are cleansed by the Spirit. Titus 3:5; We are saved by faith as a result of God's grace. Eph. 2:8; Rom. 10:9, John 3:15, John 1:12.

^x 1 John 4:8, 1 John 4:16.

^{xi} God loves Himself, to not love Himself would deny Himself and His worthiness to receive love. Ps. 113:4-6, Ps. 148:13, Isa. 40:25-26; God is the source of love and to comprehend the expanse of His love for us is our life pursuit. Rom. 5:5, Eph. 3:14-20, Jn. 3:16; He loves His creation because His works are good an expression of His glory. Gen. 1:31, Ps. 19:1.

^{xii} We can love because He first loved us. 1 Jn 4:19, The Spirit gives us the fruit of love. Gal. 5:22; We are commanded to love one another. Jn 13:34, 1 Jn. 4:7-10; 1 Cor. 13:1-13.