GOD IS ONE

Intro: The modernist of our day has made an attempt to revise history saying man began as polytheist and that monotheism came much later. However, from the beginning of the Bible, we are taught that God is one. The Scriptures also clearly teach that man was monotheistic and only later became polytheistic.

I. GOD IS ONE IS EMPHASIZED IN THE BIBLE.
   A. Deu. 4:35 “Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.”
   B. Deu. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"
   C. Isa. 44:6 “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”
   D. Mark 12:29 “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"
   E. 1 Cor. 8:4 “As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.”
   F. Gal. 3:20 “Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.”

II. GOD IS PRESENTED AS A UNIFIED ONE.
   A. Deu. 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"
      1. The Hebrew had two words for one.. a. Achad - means a numerical one.
         b. Echad - means a unified one.
      2. Here the word is echad showing a unified one.
   B. Gen. 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
      1. “God” in Hebrew is Elohim a. This is a plural noun.
         b. The singular is Eloha (El is the shortened form).
         c. We see this in English (1) Gen. 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”
         (2) Gen. 3:22 “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:”
         (3) Isa. 6:8 “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”
      2. “Created” is the Hebrew bara.
         a. This is a singular verb (joined with a plural noun).
         b. This shows the unified one echad of Deu. 6:4.
   C. John 17:20-21 “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; 21That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.”
      1. The Father and Son are one even as the disciples are one. The disciples are one as the Father and Son are one.
         a. One family.
         b. When it says there is one God, it must mean there is one family named “God.”
2. Think what a privilege it is that we too can be a member of that family.
   a. 1 Tim. 3:15 “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
   b. 1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

D. Thus, we have more than one being brought together as one.
   1. Gen. 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one [echad] flesh.”
   2. Gen. 11:6-7 “And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one [echad], and they have all one [echad] language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. ‘Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”
   3. 1 Cor. 3:8 “Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.”
   4. Acts 4:32 “And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.”
   5. Consider the fruit of the Spirit (singular) yet, nine separate items; Gal. 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

III. WHO IS GOD?

A. The Father
   1. John 6:27 “Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.”
   2. Rom. 15:6 “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
   3. 1 Cor. 8:6 “But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”
   4. Eph. 4:6 “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

B. The Son, Jesus Christ
   1. Mat. 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
   2. John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
   3. Phi. 2:6 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:”
   4. 1 John 5:20 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”

   1. Acts 5:3-4 “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? ‘Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”
   2. 1 Cor. 2:10-11 “But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”
   3. Eph. 2:22 “In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit [ASV—in the Spirit].”

D. All the characteristics, attributes, titles, and prerogatives of Deity are ascribed to each one of these three.
IV. NOT POLYTHEISM BUT TRINITY.

A. It is not three Gods but one God, and within the one God there are three personalities or persons.

B. God is a family name, and this divine family name embraces three divine beings (the same is true of Jehovah).

1. The Old Testament Scriptures speak of the three as separate and distinct personalities.
   a. Gen. 1:2 “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”
   b. Psa. 2:7 “I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”
   c. Psa. 110:1, 4 “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thy footstool... The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”
   d. Isa. 48:16 “Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.”
   e. Consider “the angel of the LORD.”
      (1) Gen. 22:11-12 “And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.”
      (2) Jud. 13:18 “And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Why askest thou thus after my name, seeing it is secret?”
         (a) Secret in Hebrew is “Wonderful” as in the ASV and NKJV.
         (b) Consider Isa. 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

2. The New Testament Scriptures speak of the three as separate and distinct personalities.
   a. Mat. 11:25-26 “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”
   b. John 1:1-3, 14, 18 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 1The same was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.... 14And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.... 18No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
   c. John 15:26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”
   d. Phi. 2:6, 9-11 “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God... 9Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
   e. 1 John 1:1-3 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us:) 3That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”
3. The Scriptures speak of all three at the same time.
   a. Mat. 3:13-17 “Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
   b. Mat. 28:18-20 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, ever unto the end of the world. Amen.”
   c. Rom. 8:16-17 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.”
   d. 2 Cor. 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”
   e. Eph. 4:1-6 “I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”
   f. Heb. 2:3-4 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; 4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

4. Thus, we read of a Godhead, or God family.
   a. Acts 17:29 “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”
   b. Rom. 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”
   c. Col. 2:9 “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

5. Example:
   a. William Hardy Hatcher
   b. William Cain Hatcher
   c. William Michael Hatcher
   d. William Andrew Hatcher

6. These three (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are one.
   a. One in purpose.
   b. One in nature or essence.
   c. When God is mentioned we need to think of all three divine beings unless the context shows that one is specifically being discussed.

Conclusion: The oneness of God and the recognition that He is the only God is one of the basic ideas of Christianity. With that recognition, we learn we must submit to Him in all things.