

Place the appropriate verses against each of the above functions. *1Thes 5:23; 2Cor 13:5; Jn 14:23; Heb 2:11; Jn 5:21; 1Cor 1:2; Jn 6:63; 1Cor 6:19; Jn 17:17.*

GOD IS BOTH VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

Failure to grasp this point is one main reason why so many people misunderstand the Godhead. Notice that in *Col 1:15*, Jesus is referred to as the “image (visible likeness) of the invisible God.” Read carefully *Jn 1:1,14; 1Jn 1:1-3*.

Write out *Col 2:9* _____

The Lord Jesus Christ is the **WORD** or **VISIBLE EXPRESSION** of the Godhead. However there are two **INVISIBLE** persons in the Godhead – Father and Holy Spirit.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE TRI-UNE GODHEAD

1. As we shall see in a later study, the Bible reveals that man also is “tri-une”...i.e. made up of spirit, soul, body, *1Thes 5:23*. The spirit and the soul are invisible, while the body is visible. All three parts are necessary to the revelation of the complete man.
2. A man may be a father, husband and son all at the same time, but is still regarded as one man!
3. Water may exist as liquid, solid or gas but is water.

THE INADEQUACY OF FINITE ILLUSTRATIONS

While it is good that natural illustrations be used to express spiritual truth, (God does this in His Word), we need to be reminded that no finite illustration can ever adequately express the infinity of God.... as someone has said, “our illustrations of the Trinity are not the Trinity.”

No 07

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Seven: God

A prevailing idea amongst Christians is that no-one can know or understand God. He is spoken of as being so remote from humanity, that it is impossible to know Him. Write out the rest of this verse from *Jer 9:24*, “Let him that glories, glory in this, _____ that I am the Lord...”

Although there are aspects of the Godhead which are difficult for us to comprehend, we see from the above verse that God wants us to know and understand Him. Indeed this is the overall theme of the Bible! When you became a Christian, you entered into a wonderful relationship with God. This study seeks to acquaint you with some of His attributes.

WHO IS GOD?

God is the Eternal, Unchanging, Supreme Being who is wise enough, able enough, and strong enough to create and maintain **ALL THINGS**. Read *Genesis 1; Neh 9:6; Ps 24:1,2; Ps 33:6,7,9; Ps 65:6; 1Tim 1:17; Ac 17:22-31*.

SOME OF GOD’S ATTRIBUTES God is:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Unchangeable _____ | b. Almighty _____ |
| c. All knowing _____ | d. Ever present _____ |
| e. Holy _____ | f. Just _____ |
| g. Faithful _____ | h. Good _____ |
| i. Forgiving _____ | j. Love _____ |
| k. Light _____ | l. Judge _____ |

Place the appropriate verses against each of the above descriptions of God.

2Tim 2:13; Jer 23:24; Mal 3:6; Gen 17:1; 1Jn 4:8; Ps 139:1-4; Jn 3:36; 1Jn 1:5; Lev 19:2; Ex 34:6,7; Ps 145:9; Deut 32:4.

GOD IS ETERNAL

Before time began, God already existed. Write out *Ps 90:2*.

God is self-existent. He **IS** life in Himself and was never in any sense created. Read *Gen 1:1; Is 41:4; Is 44:6; Ps 36:9; Jn 5:26*.

GOD IS REVEALED IN THREE PERSONS

The Bible teaches that in the makeup of the **ONE true God**, there is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these **THREE** are **ONE**. Read *Mat 3:16,17; Mat 28:19; 1Tim 3:16; 2Cor 13:14*. This is one of the greatest mysteries in the Bible. Nevertheless, we are not called to fully comprehend it. Our part is to accept it as the authentic description of the Godhead.

THE TRIUNE GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. The Hebrew word for God, (“Elohim”) is plural in form, suggesting three or more Persons involved. In *Gen 1:1*, this plural noun takes a singular verb, stressing at the same time both the unity of the Godhead, and its tri-une nature. (In the beginning God (plural) created (singular).)
2. God refers to Himself as “**US**”. Read *Gen 1:26,27; Gen 11:7*; and all of *Gen 18*.
3. Read carefully *Is 48:16*. It is a striking example of the tri-une Godhead.

None of these references in themselves would be sufficient to indicate that God is in three Persons; but knowing what the New Testament reveals about God, we can see in them their real significance.

THE TRI-UNE GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

1. *Mat 28:19* records Jesus speaking of the Name (singular) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. In the following we see demonstrated the Godhead as revealed in the New Testament:
 - a. There is only one God. Complete *Mk 12:29* here:
“Hear, O Israel; _____
_____”
 - b. The **Father** is God, *Jn 6:27; Mat 11:25*
The **Son** is God, *Jn 1:1; Jn 20:28; Jn 8:58*.
The **Holy Spirit** is God, *Mk 3:29; Ac 5:3,4*.
 - c. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct persons; i.e. they are not merely three ways that God presents Himself. Write out *Jn 14:26*. _____

 - d. The **Father** is a person, *Jn 15:9*
The **Son** is a person, *Mk 14:62*.
The **Holy Spirit** is a person, *Jn 14:17; Rom 8:26*.
 - e. The **Father** made the world, *Heb 1:2; 1Cor 8:6*.
The Son made the world, *Jn 1:3; Col 1:16*.
The Holy Spirit made the world, *Job 26:13; Gen1:2*.
 - f. The **Father** spoke by the prophets, *Heb 1:1*.
The **Son** spoke by the prophets, *1Pet 1:10,11*.
The **Holy Spirit** spoke by the prophets, *2Pet 1:21*.
 - g. The functions of:
Imparting life _____
Indwelling the Christian _____
Sanctification (separation from evil unto God) _____
_____ are ascribed sometimes to the Father,
sometimes to the Son, and sometimes to the Holy Spirit.