



Thursday Night Bible Study Outline, 08.21.2025 @ 7 P.M.

“L.I.F.E. In Christ”

Elder Steven Clough

The GOOD Shepherd & His Care for HIS Sheep

“Jesus and the Father TOGETHER are One GOD!”

God is Trinity

John 10:30-39

1. The **ONE** True God is now manifested as existing in more than one person: *According* to Jesus. vv. 30
 - A. Jesus is claiming to be ONE *Economically* with the Father: Working Collaboratively in **salvation**. John 5:1-17; 10:27-29
 - B. Jesus is claiming to be ONE *Essentially* with the Father: Distinct in Persons, share the same Divine **substance**. John 1:1, 14, 18; 5:17-20; 8:58; Eph. 1:17; 1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:29

The Trinity

The mystery and reality of the ONE True God, existing as three Divine and distinct persons in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; who are *Co-Equal* in Essence & Authority (Sharing the same substance), *Co-Eternal*, and *Co-Existent*; who’s persons are never mixed, confounded, or conflated. God as Triune is best described as being the One, eternal, uncaused, Divine Family with three members of that one family (Father/Son/Holy Spirit). Gen. 1:1, 26; 3:22; 11:7; Deut. 6:4; Ps. 110:1; Is. 48:16; Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 8:4; 1 Tim. 2:5

2. The **OFFENCE** due to unbelief and ignorance of what the scripture teaches: *Apologetics* from Psalms 86:2
 - A. They *Sylogistically* *Condemned* Jesus with a Blasphemy charge: without **examining** his claim biblically. vv. 31-33; John 5:17-18
 - B. Jesus *Scripturally* *Corrects* those who desired to kill him: by **expository** reasoning from the least to the greatest. vv. 34-36; Ps. 86:2
 - C. Jesus *Symbolically* *Calls* them to consider the miraculous works as proof for believing: **evangelically** calling them to faith in him as the Son of God, inseparably equal with the Father. John 5:36; 10:25

Jehovah’s Witnesses

(Denial of the Trinity, to include denying Jesus AND the Holy Spirit as God)

They deny Jesus to be God, but was Jehovah’s first created being (Arianism), a perfect man, and believed that Jesus was Michael the Archangel prior to his coming, and after his resurrection. They reject a trinitarian God, saying that the word “Trinity” is not within the bible. They deny the Holy Spirit as being a person, and therefore NOT divine, but is Jehovah’s active force or energy. They believe that Jesus died only to atone for the sin of Adam, and that when we die, our death atones for (pays the penalty for) our own sin. They reject the bodily resurrection of Jesus; saying it simply disappeared but claim him to have rose from the dead as a spirit and resumed being Michael the Archangel. They deny eternal punishment (annihilationism) but claim that if any are not a part of the Watchtower society, all will be subject to Armageddon.

Helpful Links for more Study:

1. <https://www.gotquestions.org/witnessing-Jehovahs-Witnesses.html>
2. <https://www.monergism.com/topics/cults-heresy-heretics/jehovahs-witnesses>

Mormonism

(Reject the eternity of Christ, seeing he is the Product of Divine Procreation)

1. **“Mormons believe Jesus was the spirit child of Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother.”**
2. **“Mormons believe Jesus became the Redeemer because he had a better strategy than Lucifer.”**
3. **“Mormons believe Jesus’s greatest atoning work was in Gethsemane, not on the cross.”**
4. **“Mormons believe in a historical Jesus, but not the biblical Jesus.”**

1. <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/mormons-jesus/> (Christian source)

2. <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/what-mormons-believe-about-jesus-christ> (Mormon source)

Several Heresies that Denied God as Triune

Excerpts from monergism.com

Modalism

(i.e. Sabellianism, Noetianism and Patripassianism)

... “taught that the three persons of the Trinity as different “modes” of the Godhead. Adherants believed that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not distinct personalities, but different modes of God's self-revelation. A typical modalist approach is to regard God as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Spirit in sanctification. In other words, God exists as Father, Son and Spirit in different eras, but never as triune. Stemming from Modalism, Patripassianism believed that the Father suffered as the Son.”

Tritheism

... “Tritheism confesses the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as three independent divine beings; three separate gods who share the 'same substance'. This is a common mistake because of misunderstanding of the use of the term 'persons' in defining the Trinity.”

Arianism

... “taught that the preexistent Christ was the first and greatest of God’s creatures but denied his fully divine status. The Arian controversy was of major importance in the development of Christology during the fourth century and was addressed definitely in the Nicene Creed.”

Docetism

... “taught that Jesus Christ as a purely divine being who only had the “appearance” of being human. Regarding his suffering, some versions taught that Jesus’ divinity abandoned or left him upon the cross while other claimed that he only appeared to suffer (much like he only appeared to be human).”

Ebionitism

...taught that while Jesus was endowed with particular charismatic gifts which distinguished him from other humans but nonetheless regarded Him as a purely human figure.

Macedonianism

...that that the Holy Spirit is a created being.

Adoptionism

... “taught that Jesus was born totally human and only later was “adopted” – either at his baptism or at his resurrection – by God in a special (i.e. divine) way.”

Partialism

... “taught that Father, Son and Holy Spirit together are components of the one God. This led them to believe that each of the persons of the Trinity is only part God, only becoming fully God when they come together.”