

# One God

Jeremiah 10:1-25; John 17:1-26 / Psalm 115:1-18

## I. Christians Serve the Living God

A. The Bible presents a single over-arching view of God. Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: (Deuteronomy 6:4)

B. The Christian God lives in a way that idols, human creations, do not. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: (Psalm 115:4-6)

C. Christianity inevitably collides with the products of human imagination and ingenuity, demanding exclusive allegiance to the God of the Bible. For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; (1 Thessalonians 1:9)

D. God is alive and through Him Christians have hope for life. For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; (John 5:26)

E. All reality, and the historical Christian message in particular, derives from the self-existent presence of God. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my name for ever, and this is my memorial unto all generations. (Exodus 3:13-15)

1. There is no reality apart from that which God made and manages. For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. (Acts 17:28)
2. All life has its source in God – magic, prejudice, superstition, and popular opinion do not change reality. I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; (1 Timothy 6:13)
3. New life for sinners has its source in God. And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; (Ephesians 2:1)
4. The hope of heaven has its source in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:4)

## II. The God of Scripture Is the True God

A. The living God makes things happen. But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. (Jeremiah 10:10)

B. Imitation gods, the candidates of unbelievers, do not perform well under pressure. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. (Jeremiah 10:11)

C. Believers do not deny that there are other Powers and Influences in the world, but these forces do not serve man's best interest. They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not. (Deuteronomy 32:17)

D. God humiliates and destroys idolaters and their idols. And they transgressed against the God of their fathers, and went a whoring after the gods of the people of the land, whom God destroyed before them. (1 Chronicles 5:25)

## III. There Is No Other God

A. God the Father makes exclusive claims for Himself. 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. (Isaiah 44:6) Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, (Isaiah 46:9)

B. Jesus made exclusive claims for God. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: (Mark 12:32)

C. The Biblical community makes exclusive claims for God. There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. (1 Samuel 2:2)

D. Though believers seek to live at peace with all people, the existence of the church implicitly denies the reality of all other religious claims. 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. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 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. (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

E. Believers cannot promote other gods or serve them. No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. (Matthew 6:24)

F. The doctrine of God's exclusive unity comes with a demanding context.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

(Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

G. Concentration on coming to know and serve the living and true God is the only reasonable way to live. I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (Romans 12:1)