

Paul, His Life and Teachings



Paul's Theology The Trinity – Part 2

Lesson 52

Biblical-Literacy.com

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Did you ever play?

Twenty Questions



Animal

Animal

Vegetable

Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

“Yes” or “No” answers only!

Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Q: “Is it an animal?”

Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Q: “Is it an animal?”

A: “No!”



Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Q: "Is it an animal?"

A: "No!"



Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Q: "Is it an animal?"

A: "No!"

Q: "Is it a mineral?"



Animal

Vegetable

Mineral

Q: "Is it an animal?"

A: "No!"

Q: "Is it a mineral?"

A: "No!"



Vegetable



Q: "Is it an animal?"

A: "No!"

Q: "Is it a mineral?"

A: "No!"



Q: "Is it an animal?"

A: "No!"

Q: "Is it a mineral?"

A: "No!"

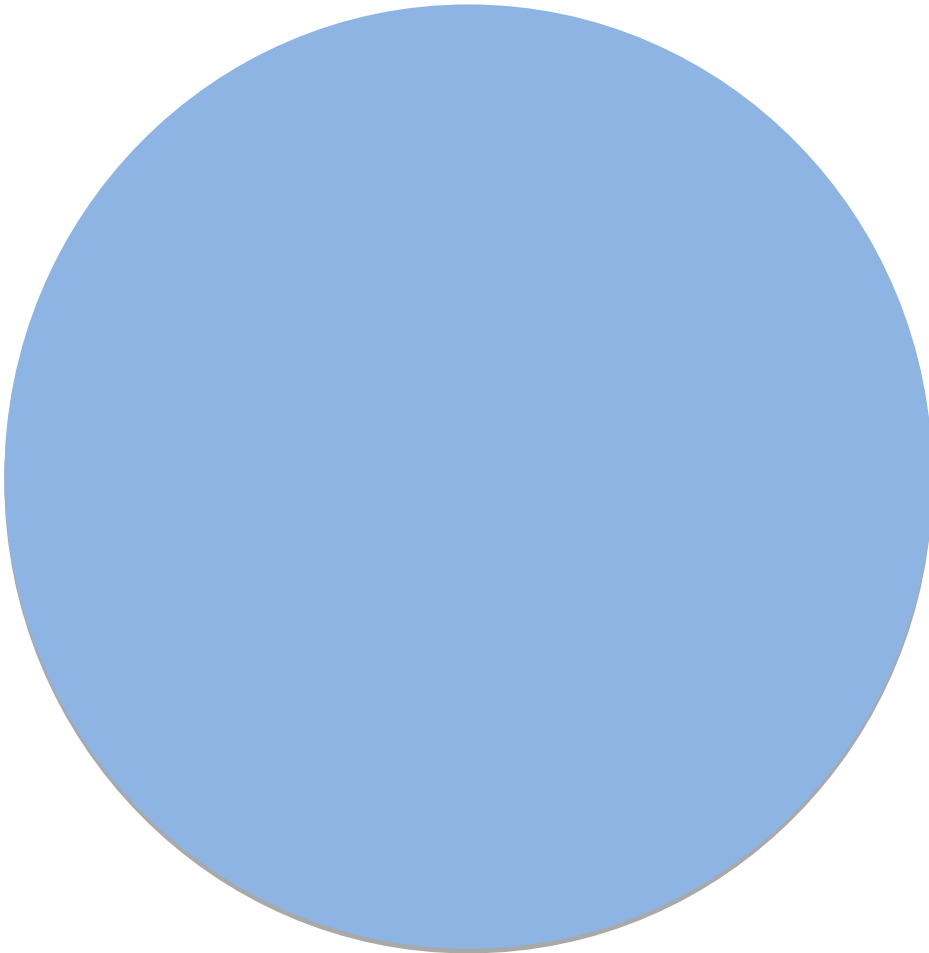
“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

**“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)**

**“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)**

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)



“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable

- Not green

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable



Is it a
Green
Bean?

- Not green

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable



Is it a
Green
Bean?

- Not green



“Any intelligent attempt to talk about God ... must begin and end with confession of the inconceivable majesty of God which transcends all our concepts”
- Wolfhart Pannenberg



Hmmm... “Trinity”
has a nice ring to
it!

Tertullian, born 160, converted by 197

Latin lesson for the day

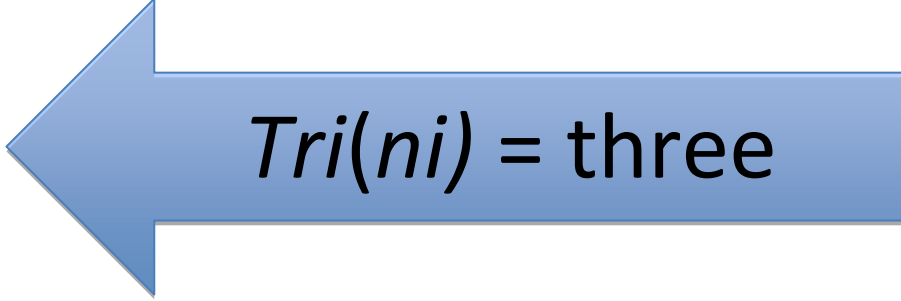
Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

Latin-
English
English-
Latin

Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

**Latin-
English**
**English-
Latin**



Tri(ni) = three

Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

**Latin-
English**
**English-
Latin**

Tri(ni) = three



Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

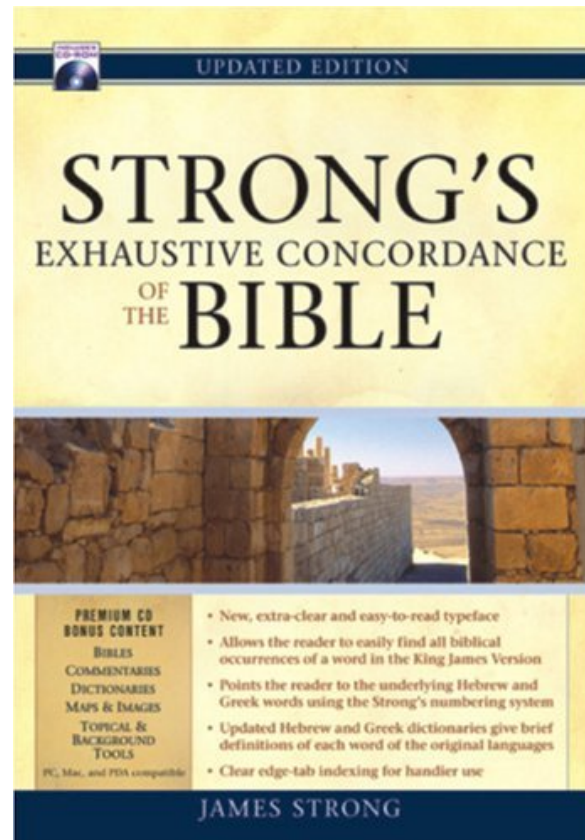
Latin-
English
English-
Latin

Tri(ni) = three

“Trinitas” = Trinity



So..... “Trinity” is not a word found in
the Bible

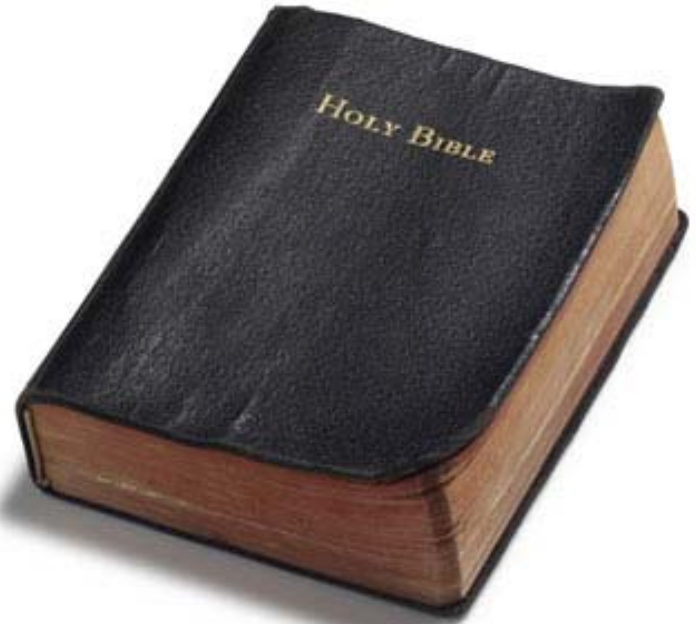




Who says God is three “persons”?

God in three persons

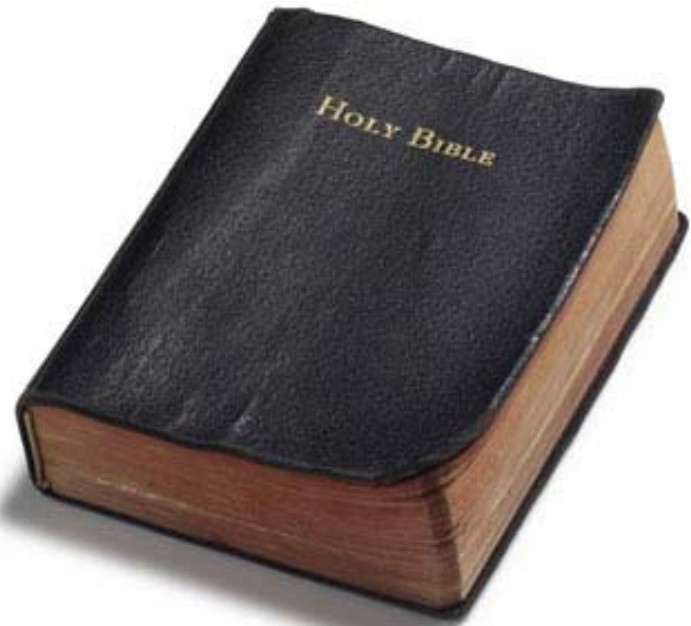
Blessed Trinity



Who says God is three “persons”?

God in three persons

Blessed Trinity



HINT: It's not in here!

Second Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

**Latin-
English**
**English-
Latin**

Second Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

**Latin-
English**
**English-
Latin**



Persona = mask

Second Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

**Latin-
English**
**English-
Latin**

Persona = mask

"Persona" for God

Second Latin lesson for the day

Cassell's
Latin
Dictionary

**Latin-
English**
**English-
Latin**

Persona = mask

"Persona" for God



Two Problems:

Two Problems:

- 1. How is God
“Three Persons”?**

Two Problems:

**1. How is God
“Three Persons”?**

**2. How is God
“One”?**

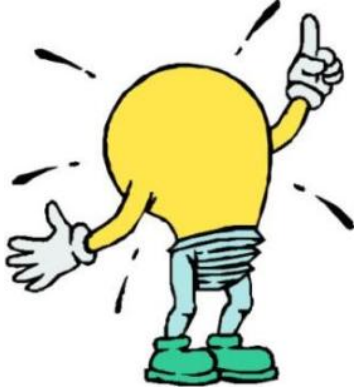
TWO GOALS TODAY

TWO GOALS TODAY

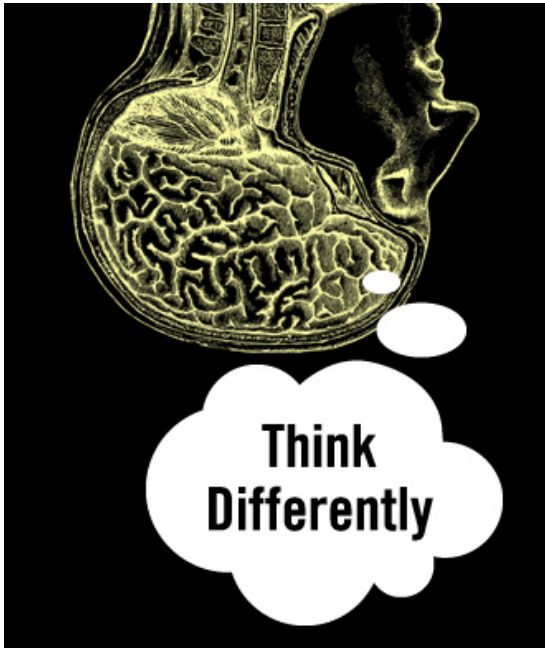


Better Understand the Trinity

TWO GOALS TODAY



Better Understand the Trinity



Change how we think about
God

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable

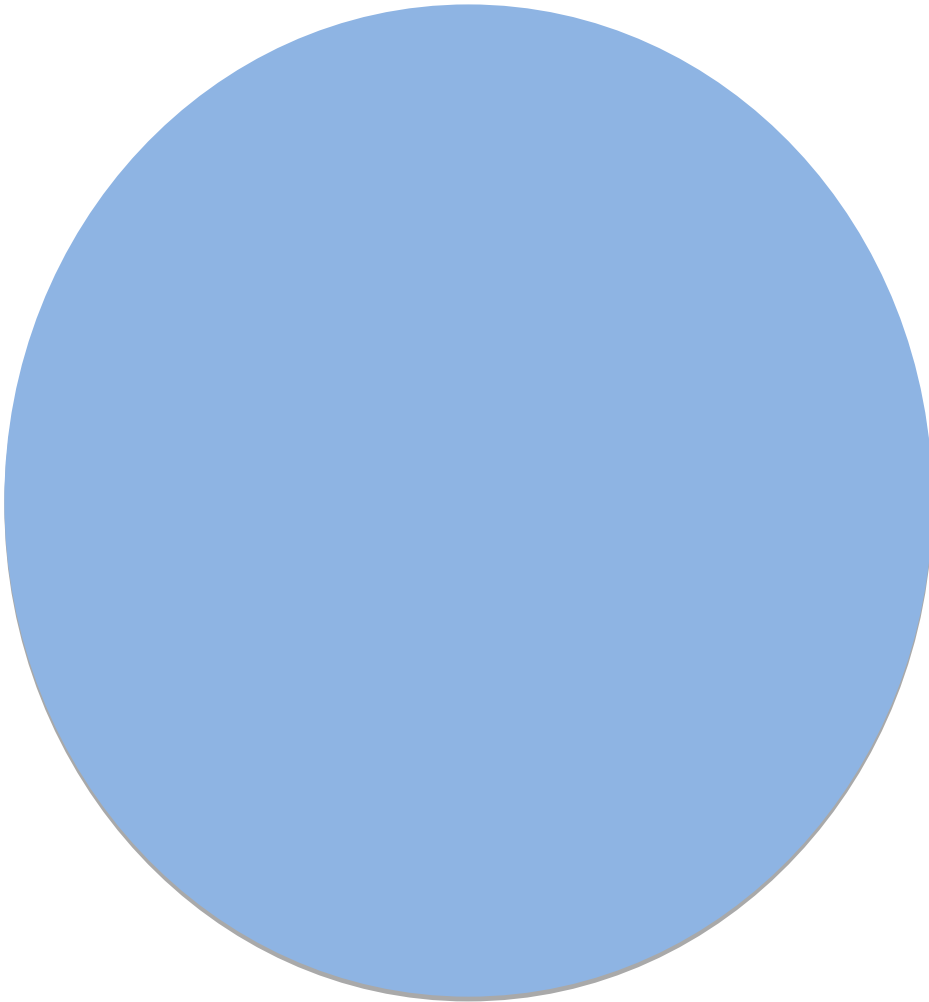


Is it a
Green
Bean?

- Not green

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology



Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

GOD IS:

**Positive
Theology**

**Negative
Theology**

GOD IS:

GOD IS NOT:

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

GOD IS:

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- The Father is God

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- The Father is God
- The Son is God

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods

Positive Theology

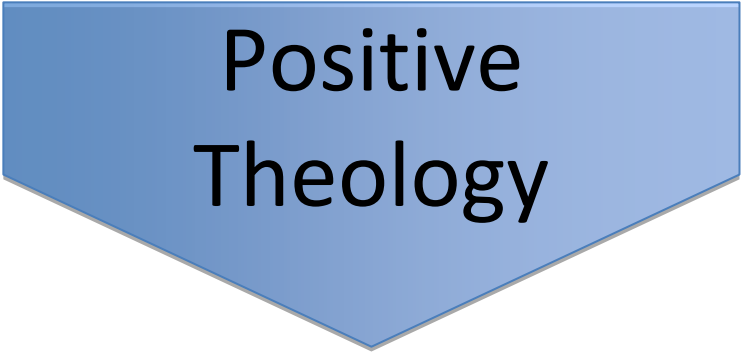
GOD IS:

- The Father is God
- The Son is God
- The Holy Spirit is God

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods



Positive
Theology



Negative
Theology

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

1. This approach teaches us because much of what we know about God is what he is NOT

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

1. This approach teaches
us because much of
what we know about
God is what he is NOT

EXAMPLE: God is not visible (“invisible”)

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

2. This approach teaches
leaves us with room for
awe, wonder, and
contemplation

Negative
Theology

2. This approach teaches
leaves us with room for
awe, wonder, and
contemplation

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable



Is it a
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Bean?

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“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

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“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable



- Not green

“Yes” Answers
(Positive Info.)

“No” Answers
(Negative Info.)

- Yes a vegetable



- Not green

“Yes” Answers (Positive Info.)

- Yes a vegetable



“No” Answers (Negative Info.)

- Not green

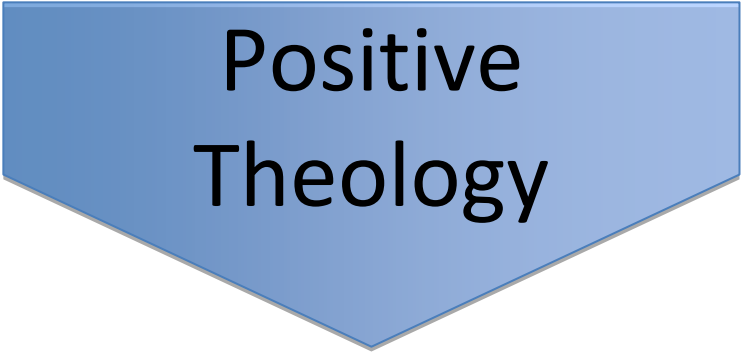
Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

GOD IS:

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods



Positive
Theology



Negative
Theology

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

3. Much of our
understanding of what
God is came from
pointing out the errors
on what God is NOT

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology



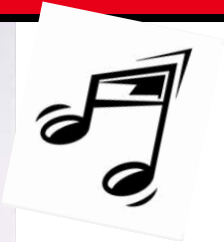
EPISODE 1



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EPISODE 1



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®



EPISODE 1

“Everybody Makes
Mistakes”

THE HISTORY CHANNEL®





THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Everybody Makes Mistakes”



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Everybody Makes Mistakes”

Is God 3“Entities”?



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Everybody Makes Mistakes”

Is God 3 “Entities”?

Is God 3 “Beings”?



“Everybody Makes Mistakes”

THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

Is God 3 “Entities”?

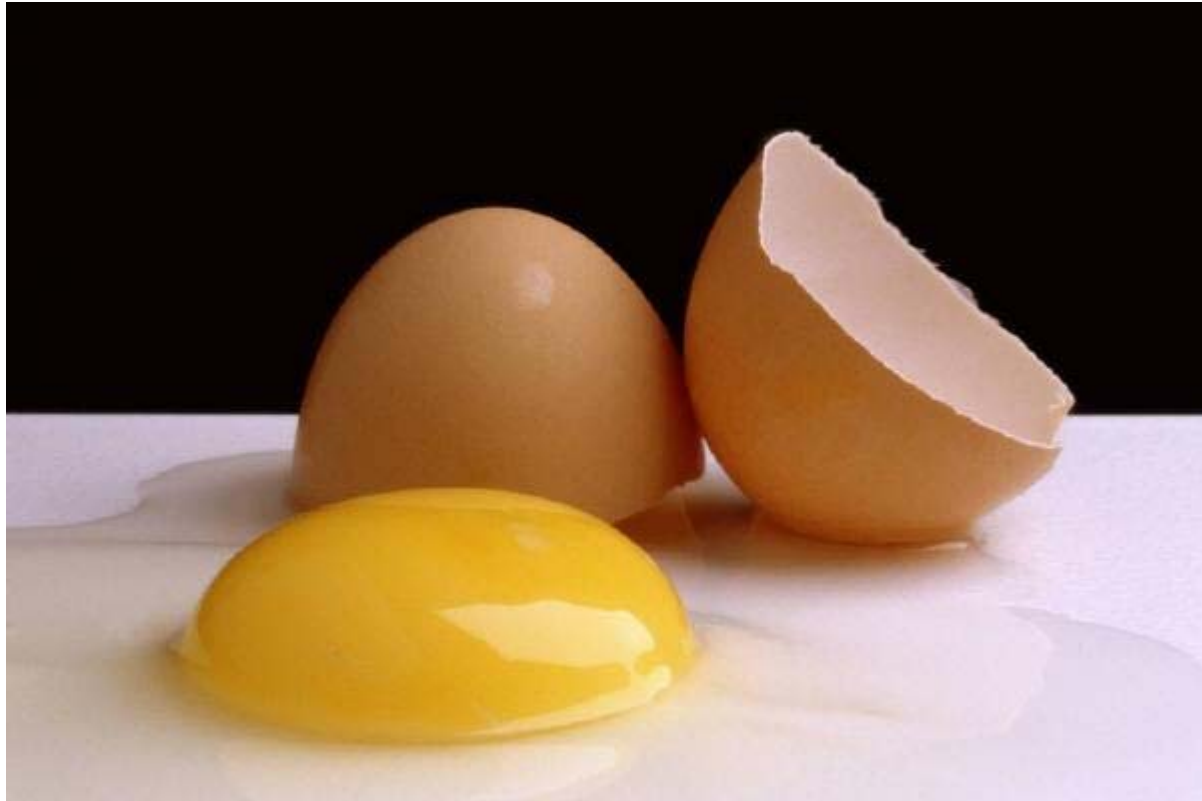
Is God 3 “Beings”?

Is God 3 “Personalities”?



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“Everybody Makes Mistakes”



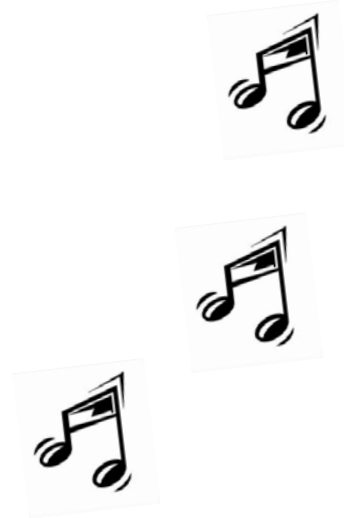
EPISODE 2



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EPISODE 2



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®



EPISODE 2

“Monarchianism”

THE HISTORY CHANNEL®





THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Monarchianism”



MONARCHIA is ONE RULER!



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Monarchianism”



MONARCHIA is ONE RULER!

MONARCHIANISM is ONE GOD!



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Monarchianism”

MONARCHIANISM is ONE GOD!



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Monarchianism”



The
“Father” in
heaven

MONARCHIANISM is ONE GOD!

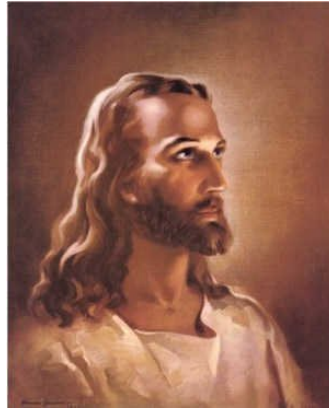


THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Monarchianism”



The
“Father” in
heaven



The “Son”
on earth

MONARCHIANISM is ONE GOD!

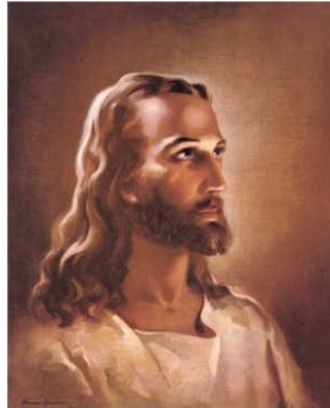


THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Monarchianism”



The
“Father” in
heaven



The “Son”
on earth



The “Holy
Spirit”
today

MONARCHIANISM is ONE GOD!

**Positive
Theology**

**Negative
Theology**

GOD IS:

GOD IS NOT:

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

GOD IS:

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods
-

Positive Theology

Negative Theology

GOD IS:

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods
- The same being in different forms



EPISODE 3

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EPISODE 3



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EPISODE 3

“Subordinationism”

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THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Subordinationism”



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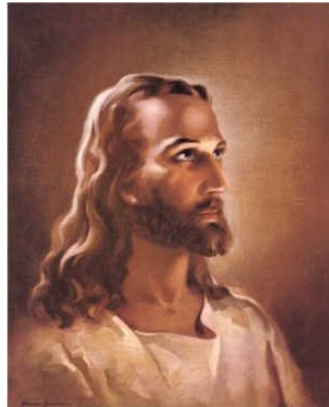
“Subordinationism”





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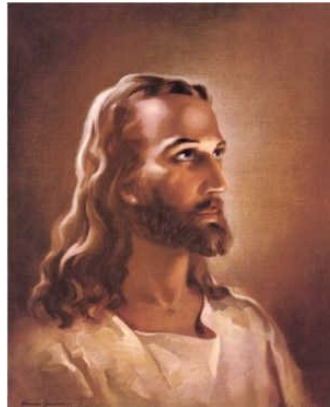
“Subordinationism”





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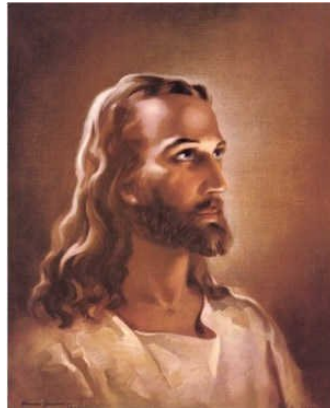
“Subordinationism”





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“Subordinationism”

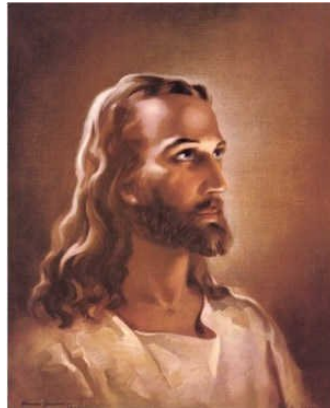


The “Holy Spirit” is Great!



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Subordinationism”



The “Son” Is
Greater

The “Holy
Spirit” is
Great!

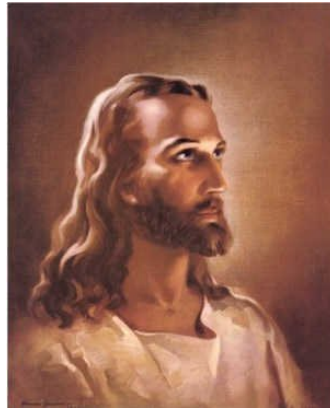


THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Subordinationism”



The
“Father” is
Greatest



The “Son” Is
Greater



The “Holy
Spirit” is
Great!



“Subordinationism”

THE HISTORY CHANNEL®



Council of Nicaea

Nicene Creed:

We believe in one God the Father Almighty... and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, that is, of the substance [*ek tes ousias*] of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of the same substance with the Father [*homoousion to patri*], through whom all things were made both in heaven and on earth; who for us men and our salvation descended, was incarnate, and was made man, suffered and rose again the third day, ascended into heaven and cometh to judge the living and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost.

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Nicene Creed:

Those who say: There was a time when He was not, and He was not before He was begotten; and that He was made out of nothing (*ex ouk onton*); or who maintain that He is of another hypostasis or another substance [than the Father], or that the Son of God is created, or mutable, or subject to change, [them] the Catholic Church anathematizes.

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mutable, or subject to change, [them] the
Catholic Church anathematizes.

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods
- The same being in different forms

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods
- The same being in different forms
- The Son was not created



EPISODE 4

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EPISODE 4



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EPISODE 4

“Tritheism”

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“Tritheism”

Treats God as a species!



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Tritheism”

Treats God as a species!



*The Bee Gees are all
Gibbs*



THE HISTORY CHANNEL®

“Tritheism”

Treats God as a species!



*The Bee Gees are all
Gibbs*

The Father, Son & Holy Spirit are all Gods

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods
- The same being in different forms
- The Son was not created

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

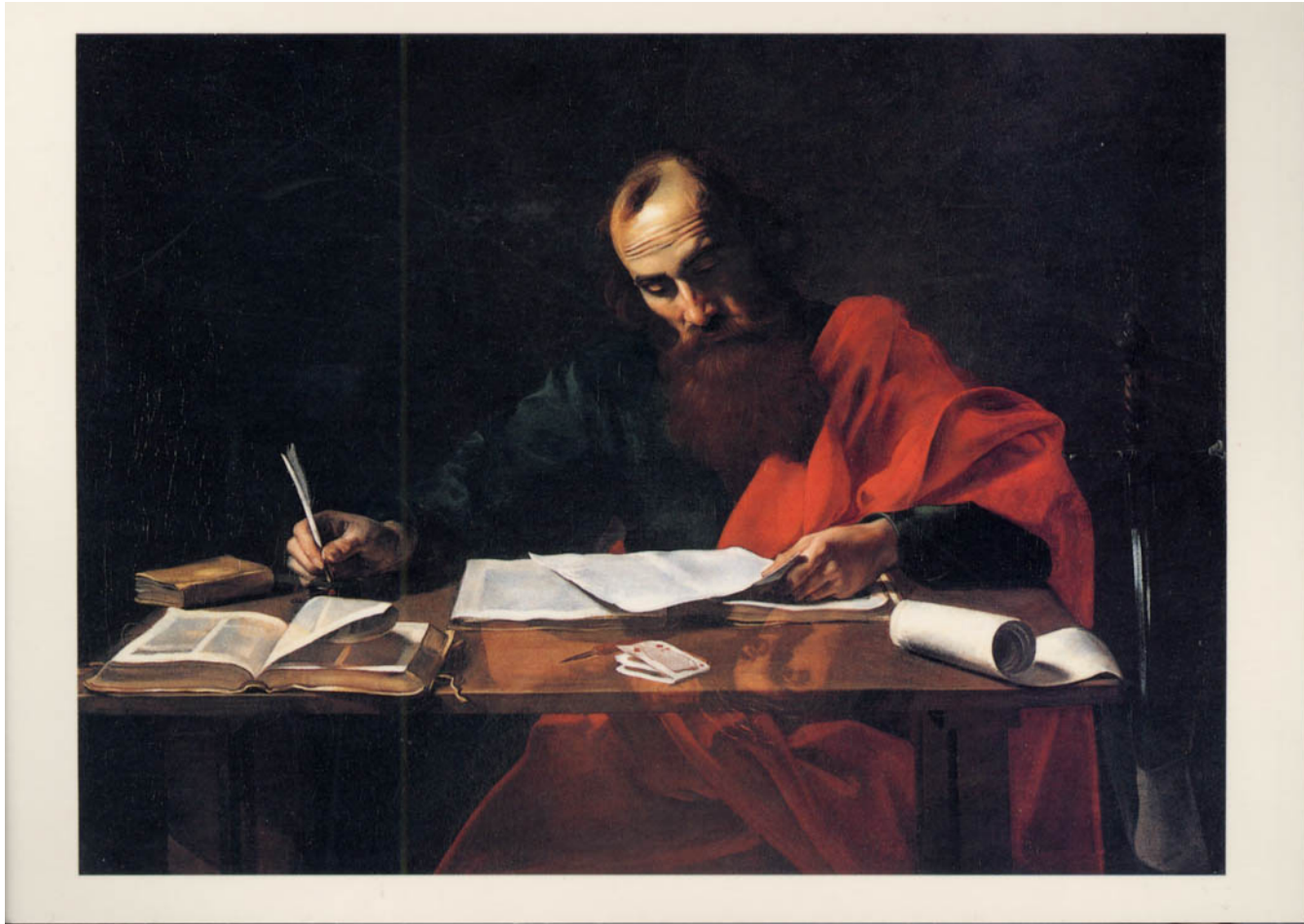
- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- There are not 3 Gods
- The same being in different forms
- The Son was not created
- God is NOT a species

Paul used Negative Theology





God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive
Theology

GOD IS:

Negative
Theology

GOD IS NOT:



God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Only Sovereign

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:



God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Only Sovereign
- King Of kings

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:



God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Only Sovereign
- King Of kings
- Lord of lords

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:



God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Only Sovereign
- King Of kings
- Lord of lords

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- Ever going to die



God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Only Sovereign
- King Of kings
- Lord of lords

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- Ever going to die
- Dwelling where people may approach



God “is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see” (1 Tim 6:15-16)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Only Sovereign
- King Of kings
- Lord of lords

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- Ever going to die
- Dwelling where people may approach
- God cannot be seen



God's "immeasurable power" raised Christ "from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph 1:19-21)

Positive
Theology

GOD IS:

Negative
Theology

GOD IS NOT:



God's "immeasurable power" raised Christ "from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph 1:19-21)

Positive
Theology

GOD IS:

Negative
Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- limited in power



God's "immeasurable power" raised Christ "from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph 1:19-21)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Christ is raised from the dead and seated with God

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- limited in power



God's "immeasurable power" raised Christ "from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph 1:19-21)

Positive Theology

GOD IS:

- Christ is raised from the dead and seated with God

Negative Theology

GOD IS NOT:

- limited in power
- Christ is not subordinate to anyone in position, stature or name

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

The Bottom Line

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

There are things we can say about God
affirmatively.

The Bottom Line

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

There are things we can say about God
affirmatively.

There are things we can say God is not

The Bottom Line

Positive
Theology

Negative
Theology

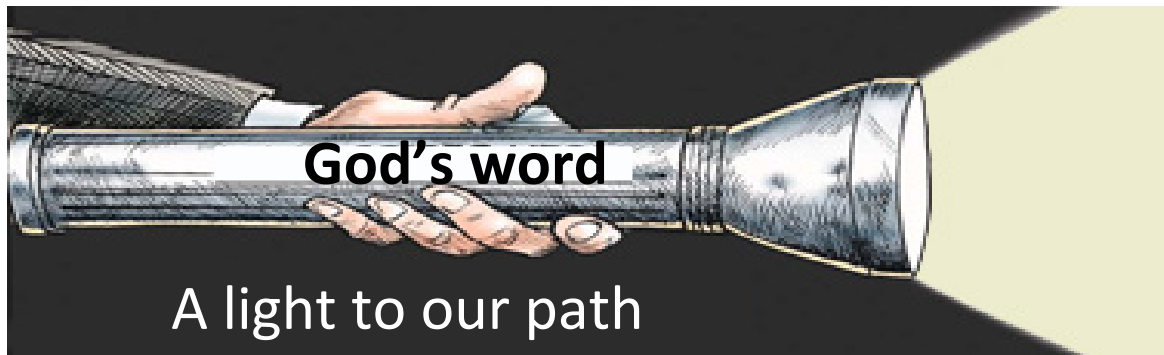
There are things we can say about God
affirmatively.

There are things we can say God is not
There is mystery, awe and wonder

The Bottom Line

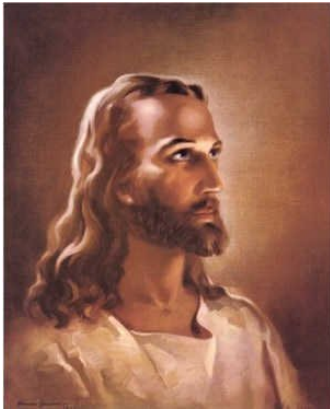


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- Wolfhart Pannenberg



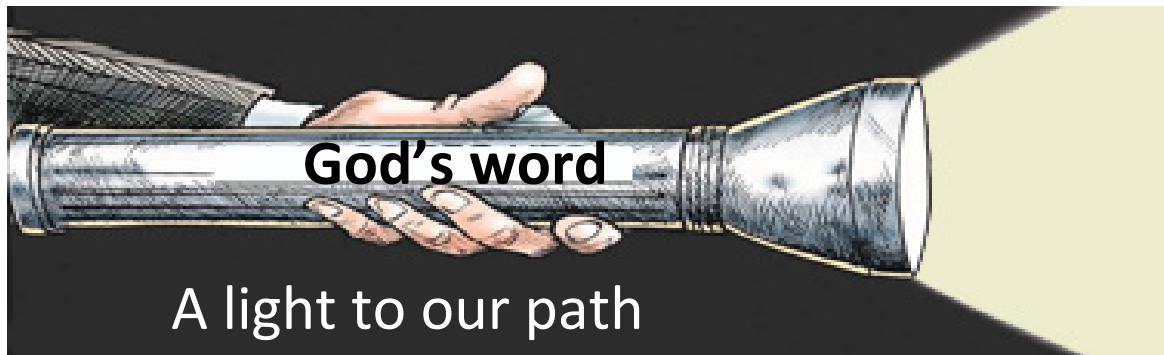
Points for Home

"No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known"
(Jn. 1:18)



See the Son, See the Father



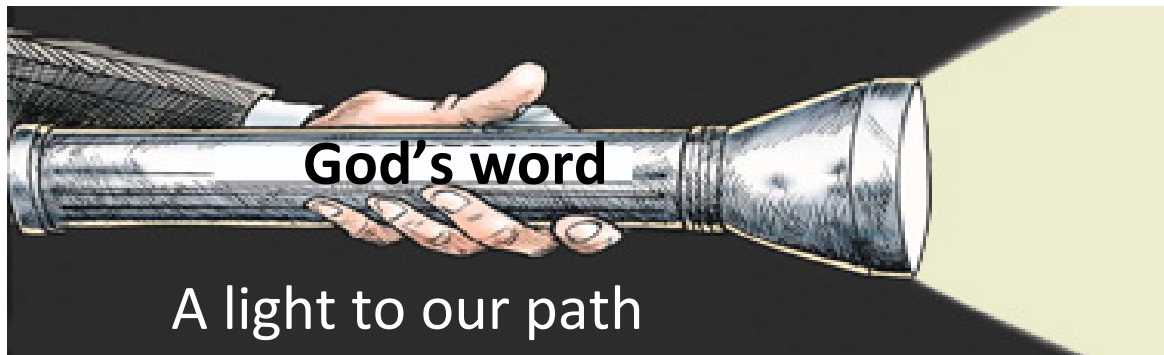


Points for Home

*“Making known to us the mystery of his will,
according to his purpose, which he set forth in
Christ”
(Eph. 1:9)*



Humbly bow and leave room
for the mysteries of God



Points for Home

“He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen. (1 Tim 6:15-16)”