

...and the Word was God

John 1:1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2. He was in the beginning with God.

3. All things came into being through Him, and not even one thing that was created came into being without Him.

Group discussion

GO!

“In John 17 Jesus prayed to the Father, “And this is eternal life, that they [Christ’s disciples] may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (verse 3). Jesus thus distinguishes between God the Father and Himself. They are not the same being. Nevertheless, They share perfect union and oneness. Continuing in this incredible prayer spoken shortly before His crucifixion, Christ said regarding His followers, “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one” (verse 11, NRSV). Earlier He had said, “I and My Father are one” (John 10:30).

You need to grasp this enormously important point: The Church is to be one just as God the Father and Jesus Christ are one. That’s quite a tall order! The various members should be unified with each other just as Christ and the Father are in perfect union. Although we have to realistically admit that this has rarely been the case in church history, God expects us to strive for that spiritual unity. The members of the true Church of God are all to be joined together by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 12:13)—living by that Spirit. It is every individual’s responsibility to seek out the organized fellowship that best represents the biblical model and teaching of the New Testament Church. We see, then, that the Father and Jesus Christ are also one in the same sense that Jesus prayed for the Church to be one—not one single being, but multiple beings who are one in purpose, belief, direction, faith, spirit and attitude. Consider the additional insight Jesus gives us in His prayer in John 17: “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one” (verses 20-23). This spiritual oneness, this unity between and among all truly converted Christians, can be accomplished only through God working in them. Their unity should reflect the perfect unity—the oneness—of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. Again, the Father and Christ are not a single entity but rather are one in the sense of being united or unified in perfect harmony.”

-Taken from: Is God a Trinity, (2011), United Church of God

Further discussion

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