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ONE. GOD.

Think you know who Jesus is? Thankfully every opinion must bow to the facts of the Bible. John's gospel demonstrates repeatedly how the words and works of Jesus dramatically declare His deity.

It comes up in John 10, when Jesus says, "***I AM the good shepherd***" and "***no one can snatch My sheep out of My hand.***" This led to one of the most provocative things Jesus ever said - John 10:30 - "***I and the Father are One.***" As soon as He said it, His hearers picked up stones to kill Him. Why? Verse 33 explains, "***for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.***"

Jesus had already claimed to be "***I AM***" in John 8:58. That's the unutterable name of God, revealed in Exodus 3:14. He's saying, "***I AM*** who I am and what I've always been and always will be: ***I AM.***" God exists outside of space, time, matter, and energy. God IS. And Jesus clearly declares that He is God.

No one can simply say Jesus was just a great teacher, or a great miracle-worker, or even the good shepherd. Neither Jesus nor Scripture gives that option. He claims to be God. Specifically, the Son of God, sent by God to speak God's words and do God's works. His miracles authenticate His claims.

How can we wrap our finite minds around such mind-boggling truths? God gave us the Bible and logic, both gifts of His creative power, as He intrudes into the world of mankind to demonstrate Himself to us. He reveals three essential truths about God, central to Christianity.

1- THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD. This is affirmed throughout the Bible. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6, "***The Lord our God is one.***" Isaiah 45 says "***I am the Lord and beside Me there is no god, the Savior.***" Judaism and Christianity both acknowledge the one true God of the Bible.

2- FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE GOD. One God, in three persons, each existing as the essence of God in perfect eternal unity. The triquetra symbol is a helpful illustration. So is an equilateral triangle. Each angle and side are equal and identical to the others, but not the same as the others. So it is with the three persons of the Trinity. Each as much God as the other. Co-equal, co-eternal, each possessing the same essence and identical attributes of God. Each one God.

3- FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT ARE DISTINCT PERSONS OF THE ONE GOD. God the Father is God. God the Son is God. God the Holy Spirit is God. But the Father is not the Son nor the Holy Spirit. The Son is not the Father nor the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not the Father nor the Son. Three divine persons in one divine triune entity, the Godhead. The same essence. One being. One. God.

That's how to determine who believes the Bible and who believes man-imagined theology. Our finite minds cannot comprehend infinite truth. But we can recognize and believe it, and begin to describe it. Because God is not beyond knowing, even though He is beyond understanding.

Cults get it wrong when they say God is one being playing three roles (*modalism*), or three gods acting as one (*tritheism*), or that Jesus was created or that He was an archangel. Islam claims one god, but Allah is a pagan moon-god. Islam rejects the one true God of the Bible. Islam misrepresents Christianity by saying God the Father and Mary produced Jesus, so they say Christians believe in three gods. Hinduism teaches millions of gods, with a trinity of three major gods. Satanism and the occult also have an unholy trinity. But these are all derived philosophies, not divine truth.

Only Christianity apprehends what the Bible truly teaches - that there is only one true triune God who exists as Father, Son, and Spirit, and is Creator and Redeemer and Judge. The Bible presents each person of the Godhead as essential in creation, as well as redemption and resurrection. The apostles Peter and Paul both specifically refer to Jesus as God and Savior (2 Peter 1:1 and Titus 2:13).

People thought Jesus was a mere man making Himself God, when in reality Jesus is God who made Himself a man! Fully divine, and fully human. That's the miracle we celebrate at Christmas, when our Creator came in a cradle to go the cross to obtain the crown of life. He is the gift of life, given to every one who believes in Jesus as Lord and Savior - the one God, and the one way to Heaven!