

Doctrine of God, pt. 2

1. Explain this statement: God is one being, but He exists in three persons.
 - Our language is too inadequate to express the divine reality.
 - The doctrine of the Trinity is the end result of a long process of thinking about the way in which God is present and active in the world.
 - “Divine essence” – all of God there is.
 - God is one essential being, but the “divine essence” exists in 3 modes or forms, each constituting a Person, yet in such a way that the divine essence is wholly present in each person.
 - 3 Personal self-distinctions within the one divine essence.
 - Scriptures
 - Genesis 1:1-3
 - Deut. 6:4
 - Mark 1:10-11
 - John 1:1-3, 14
 - Father – all the God there is, Yahweh, the great I AM.
 - Son – all the God we can know, Jesus Christ who reveals to us what God is like.
 - Spirit – All of God we experience personally, reveals to us Jesus Christ.
 - To be touched by God’s Spirit is to know Jesus Christ; to know Christ is to know Yahweh.

2. What is God’s overwhelming motivational force?
 - Kabōd – greatness, eminence, power and authority of God.
 - Appears as a light so brilliant that Yahweh himself cannot be seen.
 - No human being can withstand the full glory of God.
 - Glory in Jesus’ Transfiguration, John’s Revelation, Road to Damascus.
 - Exodus 33:18-23, 34:6-11
 - Our response to the glory of God –34:8 – worship
 - God acts on our behalf so that He will be glorified and we will know Him.
 - Ezekiel 36:17-23
 - God’s actions would bring honor and glory to His name, which was defamed by Israel.
 - God judged them and then showed mercy, showing his power and glory.
 - Then all the nations would know that the righteous and loving God of Israel was the only true God.
 - Their return would be based on the Lord’s compassion for His own holy name.
 - Israel didn’t deserve what God was going to give. It would be a gift of grace intended to increase God’s fame and glory.
 - God loves his glory! He is committed with all His infinite and eternal might to display that glory and to preserve the honor of His name.
 - God created humanity for His glory, Isaiah 43:7, 21
 - God redeems sinners for the praise of His glory, Eph. 1:5-6, Romans 3:26
 - God empowers Christians to live for His glory, 1 Cor. 10:31, 1Peter 4:11, Eph. 3:10
 - The Holy Spirit’s role is to burn in me what He has been burning with for all eternity: God’s love for God.
 - God desires for us to enjoy and long for His glory the way He does.

3. Name two ways God can glorify Himself in a person’s life.
 - If we as God’s creation live in faith and obedience to God’s word, then He will be able to bring glory to Himself through our lives. We will experience His protection and provision.

- If we turn from God and choose to sin, we suffer the consequences just like God said we would, and this proves that God's ways are right and our sinful ways are wrong. This glorifies God.
- God created us so that He will be glorified; this will happen one way or another.

4. What is the difference between God's *directive will* and His *permissive will*?

- God is provident and sovereign. He sustains and governs His creation.
- Colossians 1:17, Eph. 1:11
- God's directive will – what God brings to pass or causes to happen directly. Creation.
- God's permissive will – What God allows to happen. Sin, natural disasters, death.
 - Either directly or passively, God is sovereign over all that happens.
- It is God's directive will that we know Him in Jesus Christ, through the presence and activity of His Spirit, and bring Him glory.
- God's permissive will is temporary and is subordinate to His directive will.
 - Somehow the things that God allows to happen can cause us to know Him more and will bring to Him a greater glory.
 - These things will end one day at the Return, they are temporary.
- Free Will and God's will
 - God foreknows your decisions before you make them – what you will do, where you will go, etc.
 - But His foreknowledge does not interfere with your complete freedom to act.
 - Antinomy – an apparent contradiction between conclusions that seem equally logical, reasonable, or necessary. Sovereignty and free will