

“Blessing and honor and glory and power
be to Him who sits upon the throne,
and to the Lamb,
forever and ever!” (Revelation 5:13)

TWO DIVINE BEINGS

1. “Our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son” (1John 1:3, 1John 2:24).
2. All “the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in the Father and the Son” (Col. 2:2-3).
3. “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” (1Cor.1:3).
4. “I came down from heaven not to do my own will, but the will of Him that sent me” (John 6:38).

Do these verses speak of two beings, or three - two separate wills, or three?

*This study compiled by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, 1996
Scripture from the NKJV unless otherwise noted
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ONE FATHER

Matthew 23:9 [Christ speaking] “Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father,
He who is in heaven.”

Ephesians 4:6 “one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

THE FATHER GLORIFIED

Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Romans 15:6 “. . . that ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” KJV

Galatians 1:4-5 [Christ] “who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Ephesians 3: 14-15 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”

Philippians 2:11 “. . . and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 4:20 “Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 4:9-11 “Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.’”

In the Scriptures, there is no command to glorify the Holy Spirit, or to serve the spirit, or pray to the spirit, or to sing to the spirit. There is no example of such worship.

GIVING THANKS TO THE FATHER

in the name of Jesus

Matthew 11:25 “At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.”

John 11:41 “Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, ‘Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.’”

Ephesians 5:20 “. . . giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ . . .”

Colossians 1:3 “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,”

Colossians 1:12 “. . . giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

CHRIST ALSO - IS HONORED AND GLORIFIED

Revelation 5:8-12 “Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb ... Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

John 5:23 “. . . that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.”

Philippians 2:11 “. . . that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Hebrews 1:6 “But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”

Note: The Father brought His “firstborn” into the world.

2 Peter 3:18 “. . . but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”

Luke 24:50-52 “And He [the risen Christ] led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy . . .”

There is no Scriptural command to honor the Holy Spirit.

WE PRAY TO THE FATHER

in the name of His Son Jesus

Matthew 6:6 “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you” (NIV).

Luke 11:2 “So He said to them, ‘When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.’”

John 14:16 [Christ speaking] “And I will pray the Father”

Note: We pray in the Spirit, but are never instructed to pray to the Spirit.

THE FATHER CREATED ALL THINGS

through His Son

1 Corinthians 8:6 “... yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

Ephesians 3:14-15 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,”

Ephesians 3:9 “... and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;”

Hebrews 1:1-2, 8, 10 “God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.”

John 1:3 “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

John 1:10 “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.”

Colossians 1:12-16 “ ... giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.”

Proverbs 8:27-31 “When He prepared the heavens ... When He established the clouds above ... When He assigned to the sea its limit ... Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.”

In Proverbs Chapter Eight, “wisdom” is speaking. Wisdom was begotten, and acted as the “master craftsman” in the creation of all things. This is the Son of God speaking. He is the One who acted as the “master craftsman” - as the agent of the Father - in the creation of all things. And Jesus - as “wisdom” is confirmed in the Apostolic Writings. Jesus is called “the wisdom of God” (1Cor.1:24), and “wisdom from God” (1Cor. 1:30). Paul has drawn from Proverbs Chapter 8 to make this connection.

THE AGENT OF HIS FATHER

Galatians 1:4 (Jesus Christ) who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father.”

A picture emerges. God became “the Father” when He beget the Son - a second divine being exactly like Himself. This Son then became the agent of His Father, to carry out the will and plan of His Father in creation, in mediation, in reconciliation, in redemption, in judgment, in the execution of judgment, and in restoration.

The Father began and will remain as “head” of Christ (1Cor. 11:3) and God of Christ (Jn 20:17, Rom. 15:6, 2Cor. 1:3, 2Cor. 11:31, Eph. 1:3, Eph. 1:17, Col. 1:3, Heb. 1:9, 1Pet. 1:3, Rev. 1:6, Rev. 3:12). When the war with the Satan is finished, Jesus Christ will present to His Father the kingdom He has won. And then the Son will be subject to the Father for all eternity to come - that God may be all in all (1Cor. 15:24-28).

THE FATHER'S WILL - IS SUPREME

John 13:16-17 "A servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him."

The Father sent His son, therefore God the Father is greater than His son.

Ephesians 4:6 "... one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Luke 11:2 "So He said to them, 'When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'" (Matt. 6:10).

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

Matthew 12:50 "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother" (Mark 3:35).

Matthew 18:14 "Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."

Matthew 26:42 "Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.'"

Luke 22:42 "... saying, Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done."

Mark 14:36 "And He said, 'Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will.'"

John 4:34 "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me . . .'"

John 5:30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me."

Here again are two separate wills - thus two separate intelligent beings.

John 6:38-39 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day."

Hebrews 10:7 “Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come -- In the volume of the book it is written of Me -- To do Your will, O God.”

John 6:40 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Galatians 1:4 “ ... who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,”

Ephesians 1:11 “In Him [Christ] also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will [the Father],”

The entire first chapter of Ephesians is a praise to God the Father, Who foreordained, and purposed that we would someday be adopted as His sons and daughters, through Christ His son. He planned this before the earth was created. The creation of this earth, and the salvation of those who would accept His Son, was ultimately and originally the will, idea and plan of God Our Father.

Hebrews 13:20-21 “Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

The Son of God was sent - by His Father. During His incarnation, the Son of God was directed by His Father, who was always with Him. After His death, the Father resurrected His Son on the third day (1Peter 1:3, Gal 1:1). Even now, the Father works His will - in us - through Christ.

Revelation 4:11 [To the One who sits on the throne] “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

The Bible does not say that Christ came to do the will of the Holy Spirit. And Jesus most definitely said He did not come to do His own will.

HIS FATHER - HIS GOD

John 20:17 “Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.’”

Romans 15:6 “ ... that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,”

2 Corinthians 11:31 “The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying.”

Ephesians 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

Ephesians 1:17 “ ... that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,”

Colossians 1:3 “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,”

Hebrews 1:9 [speaking of Jesus Christ] “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness [the Holy Spirit] more than Your companions.”

Jesus said, “the LORD has anointed me” (Luke 4:18). Picture the baptism of Christ. The heavens are opened to Him, and a voice comes from Heaven saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:17, Matt 17:5, Mark 1:11, Luke 3:22). Peter tells us this was the voice of God the Father (2Pet. 1:17). Jesus is anointed by His Father, with the Father’s own Spirit. John and others are allowed to see this - in the form of a dove. Jesus said, “the Father who sent me, bears witness of me” (John 8:18).

NOTE: Only priests and kings were anointed.

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,”

Revelation 1:6 “... and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

Revelation 3:12 [Christ speaking] “He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. And I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.”

God beget a second divine being who was exactly like Himself. The divine being who existed first - the Father, is God and head, over the one who existed second. The Son of God was not created. He was begotten. God the Father then gave His only begotten Son.

WHO WAS THE “FATHER” OF JESUS CHRIST?

Matthew 1:18 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:20 “. . . that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.”

Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.””

It appears, the Holy Spirit was Jesus’ father. The Holy Spirit would then be the One who gave His only begotten Son” (Jn 3:16). He is “the invisible God”, and Jesus is “the image of the invisible God” (Ephesians 1:15). Jesus told His disciples, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father” (John 14:9).

SENT BY HIS FATHER

1 John 4:14 “And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.”

John 5:30 [Christ] “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me” (John 5:23, John 5:37).

John 5:37 [Christ] “And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form” (John 8:16).

John 6:39 [Christ] “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.”

John 6:44 [Christ] “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

John 6:57 [Christ] “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.”

John 8:16 [Christ] “And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.”

John 8:29 [Christ] “And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

John 8:42 “Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.’”

John 10:36 [Christ] “Do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God?’”

John 12:49 “For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.”

John 17:21 [Jesus last prayer to His Father] “... 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.”

John 17:25 “O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.”

John 20:21 “So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

*Seventeen times we read that God the Father sent Jesus, to be our Savior.
Our “God” is the One who sent Jesus.*

*We worship Jesus Christ because the Father has commanded us to do so.
We kneel before the throne of God. There is only one throne.*

When we bow before that throne, we are bowing before both Father and Son.

RAISED FROM DEATH BY HIS FATHER

Galatians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead,”

Ephesians 1:17-20 “that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.”

1Thessalonians 1:10 “... and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”

1 Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,” [See also Romans 6:9, Romans 7:4, Colossians 2:12]

Acts 3:15 “... and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses.” (Acts 4:10)

Acts 13:30 “But God raised Him from the dead.”

Romans 6:4 “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

God the Father raised Jesus from death. The spirit of God the Father, then “dwells in you”. The “Holy Spirit” then, is the Spirit of God our Father - not a third divine being. The Holy Spirit IS God the Father, who is “above all and through all and in you all” (Eph. 4:6).

ONE SHARED THRONE

“the throne of God and of the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1-3)

Revelation 7:10 “and crying out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’”

Revelation 22:3 “And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.”

Revelation 22:1 “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

Show me where God the Father shares His authority with a third divine being. He does not! The Father shares His throne and His authority with His only Son.

*“GOD” is the ONE to Whom “the throne” belongs.
“GOD” now shares His throne, and His authority WITH His begotten Son.*

Revelation 3:21 “To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

In the first apartment of the ancient Tabernacle, two stacks of sacred bread sat on one golden table - the “table of shewbread” (Exo. 25:25-30). This table was edged with a “crown” (like a “throne”). Why not three stacks of bread? Because the Son of God now shares His Father’s throne.

During the upcoming millennial reign of Messiah, Jesus will sit on His own throne - on the earth, while the Father’s throne will remain in Heaven. The New Jerusalem does not descend to the earth until the end of the millennial reign. After that City descends, “the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it” (Rev. 22: 1-3).

GREETINGS AND BENEDICTIONS

Romans 1:7 “To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 1:3 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Corinthians 1:2-3 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,”

Ephesians 1:2 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Ephesians 6:23 “Peace to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Philippians 1:2 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Colossians 1:2-3 “To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colossi: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,”

1 Thessalonians 1:1 “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 1:1-2 “Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 1:2 “To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Titus 1:4 “To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.”

Philemon 1:3 “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 John 1:3 “Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.”

Jude 1:1 “Jude, a bond servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:”

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 “Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good thing you do or say” (NET).

*Conclusion: **Thirteen times** Paul greeted the believers in the name of the Father and the Son. **Once** He prayed that the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Spirit would be with the followers of Christ (2Cor. 13:14).*

The weight is on the side of two divine beings - not three.

In the study titled “Difficult Passages”- we consider those texts which have been sited most often, to teach the doctrine of the Trinity - that “God” is three divine persons - Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Question: If “God” is three coequal divine persons, why would one need to “send” another? How could one be said to “give” another.

*We pray this study will prove a blessing.
Prophecy Viewpoint*

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