

Father of All; Ephesians 4:3-6

- I. Unity of the Spirit
 - A. One Body, one Spirit
 - B. One Hope, one Lord
 - C. One Faith, one Baptism
 - D. One Father
 1. Over all
 2. Through all
 3. In all
- II. Father of All
 - A. Throughout history mankind has been stuck on a plurality of gods
 - B. Making them up from things we didn't understand
 1. Ra the sun god (the heavens)
 2. Celebrations of the equinox (the seasons)
 3. Harvest festivals (nature)
 4. Fertility celebrations (childbirth)
 - C. We tried to humanize the things we didn't understand, but gave them divine powers
 1. Thor, the god of thunder
 2. Odin of Valhalla
 3. Loki the god of mischief
 4. Zeus and his lightning rod
 5. Poseidon of the oceans
 6. Hades of the underworld
 - D. But from the beginning it was not so
 1. Adam and Eve walked in the cool of the garden with the One Father
 2. Genesis 1:1; In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
 3. Now, it may get a little confusing here, because the word "God" in the Hebrew is plural
 4. Genesis 1:26; Then God said, "Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
 5. Genesis 1:2; The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.
 6. John 1:1-3; 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
 7. John 1:14; And the Word **became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 8. Matthew 28:19; Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**,
 9. Jesus further confuses the issue for us
 10. John 10:24-30; 24 So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." 25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. 27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my

hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 **I and the Father are one.**"

- E. Is God schizophrenic? One God with multiple personalities?
- F. Just how do you explain this?
- G. Our answer with our limited understanding has been the trinity
- H. And we see this in our list, "one Spirit, one Lord, One God;" except God has some extra qualifications, Father of all, over all, through all, and in all
- I. I don't know that I am smart enough to tackle the three persons of God, but I would be doing you a disservice if I got up here to preach about the One God and failed to mention these things
- J. However the Scripture does say "Father of all"
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 15:24–28; 24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 27 For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.
 - 2. And Paul confuses us one more time
 - 3. Romans 9:4–5; 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. 5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

III. Over, Through, In all

- A. The Supremacy of the Father
- B. Philippians 2:9–11; 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- C. The context here stresses the priority, supremacy, ultimacy of the Father
- D. Ephesians 1:3–10; 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.
- E. Over all - ruler, guardian, guide
 - 1. Acts 2:22–24; 22 "Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know — 23 this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. 24 God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

2. This is God's plan from the very beginning and everything that has been done has been in support of that plan
 3. He chose Abraham for the promise
 4. He saved Israel from famine by sending them to Egypt
 5. He saved Israel from slavery by sending them Moses... "a great deliverance"
 6. He saved Israel from extinction through Esther
 7. When the time was right, He sent His Son to save mankind from their sins
 8. Galatians 4:4-7; 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.
- F. Through all - we are His instruments
1. To continue to work God's plan
 2. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection were key to God's plan of redemption
 3. But God's plan is not complete
 4. When Jesus comes again He will receive to Himself those who are saved
 5. It is our job to get that word out
 6. Acts 9:15; But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.
 7. Those who have been called by the Gospel have become God's chosen people to pass this great saving knowledge on to everyone they meet.
 8. 1 Peter 2:9; But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
 9. "That you may proclaim" - right there is our calling as Christians, to extol the mighty works of God, "to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you"
 10. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- G. In all - filling, perfecting, dwelling
1. John 14:23; Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.
 2. Ephesians 2:18-22; 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- H. One God and Father who is over all, through all, and in all
- IV. Unity of the Spirit
- A. The "ones" of unity
 - B. Body, Spirit, Hope, Lord, Faith, Baptism, God
 - C. This is our unity in Christianity