



Sermon Series: 16 Fundamental Truths

Message Title: Truth #2 — The One True God

& Truth #3 — The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

Scriptures: Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matt. 28:19; Luke 3:22

What are the 16 Fundamental Truths?

#1. The Scriptures Inspired

#3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

#5. The Salvation of Man

#7. Baptism in the Holy Spirit

#8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

#9. Sanctification

#11. The Ministry

#13. The Blessed Hope

#15. The Final Judgment

#2. The One True God

#4. The Fall of Man

#6. The Ordinances of the Church

#10. The Church and Its Mission

#12. Divine Healing

#14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

#16. The New Heavens & New Earth

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths>

THIS WEEK WE ARE GOING TO FOCUS ON TRUTHS #2 & #3

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH #2

The ONE TRUE GOD

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4

Isaiah 43:10,11

Matthew 28:19

Luke 3:22

The Bible does not try to prove that God exists.

Rather, *it assumes his existence and describes numerous attributes and character traits that he possesses*. Many of these are unique to him as God—no other being has these traits—while other traits we see in human beings as a result of their being created in God's image.

UNIQUE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

(1) God is OMNIPRESENT—*that means he is present everywhere at the same time*. The Psalm writer states that no matter where we go, God is there (*Psalm 139:7-12; cf. Jeremiah 23:23-24; Acts 17:27-28*). This means that God sees and is aware of everything we do.

(2) God is OMNISCIENT—*that means he knows everything* (*Psalm 139:1-6; 147:5*); *he possesses complete and perfect knowledge of all things*. He knows not only our actions but also our thoughts (*1Samuel 16:7; 1Kings 8:39; Psalm 44:21; Jeremiah 17:9-10*). When the Bible speaks of

God's foreknowledge (*Isaiah 42:9; Acts 2:23; 1Peter 1:2*), it means that he knows all possibilities in any situation—what could have happened and what will happen. God is aware of everything that has taken place in the past and everything that will happen in the future. All the things God has destined (i.e., planned for the future) and prophesied have either been fulfilled or will yet be fulfilled with absolute certainty (*1Samuel 23:10-13; Jeremiah 38:17-20*). This does not suggest what scholars call “philosophical determinism”—that God causes everything to happen that he knows will happen, including our choices and actions. God has given us a free will to make our own decisions, which means that people are still responsible for their choices and the results of those choices. The fact that God knows everything does not mean that he is limited by his own foreknowledge. He remains free to alter his purposes in time and history, depending on what he wants to accomplish and what he knows is best (*Numbers 14:11-20; 2Kings 20:1-7*).

(3) God is **OMNIPOTENT**—that means he is all-powerful and has the highest authority over all things and all creatures (*Psalms 147:13-18; Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37*). In practical terms, God has the ability to do anything—nothing is impossible for God. This does not mean, however, that God uses all of his power and authority at all times. For example, God has the power to destroy all sin (which would require eliminating human imperfection), but he has chosen not to do so until the end of history (*1John 5:19*). This safeguards all of humankind's freedom to choose, including those who take the way of destruction and reject what is right if they so desire. In many cases, God limits his power by working through his faithful people only as they pray and depend on him (*2Corinthians 12:7-10*). In this respect, he exercises his power depending on each person's degree of availability and submission to him (*Ephesians 3:20*).

(4) God is **TRANSCENDENT**—that means he is different and independent from his creation (*Exodus 24:9-18; Isaiah 6:1-3; 40:12-26; 55:8-9*). The essence (i.e., core or most basic makeup) and nature of his being and existence are greater and higher—above and beyond—anything and everything he has created (*1Kings 8:27; Isaiah 66:1-2; Acts 17:24-25*). He himself is uncreated and exists apart from creation (*1Timothy 6:16*). Transcendence does not mean, however, that God is incapable of living among his people and interacting with them on a personal level (*Leviticus 26:11-12; Ezekiel 37:27; 43:7; 2Corinthians 6:16*).

(5) God is **ETERNAL**—that means he had no beginning and has no end (*Psalms 90:1-2; 102:12; Isaiah 57:15*). There was never a time, either in the past or the future, when God did not or will not exist. He is not bound by human time (*Psalms 90:4; 2Peter 3:8*). That is why he described himself by the title “I AM” (*Exodus 3:14; John 8:58*), expressing a continual, infinite (i.e., endless) and eternal existence.

(6) God is **UNCHANGABLE**—that means there is no change in God's attributes, in his perfection or in his purpose for humankind (*Numbers 23:19; Psalm 102:26-28; Isaiah 41:4; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 1:11-12; James 1:17*). This does not mean, however, that God never alters his temporary purposes in response to people's actions. That is to say, he lets us make choices and then works his

perfect plans through and around those choices. He may, for example, change his plan of judgment on people who have defied him if those people truly repent—admitting their sin, turning from their own way and submitting to God and his purposes (*John 3:6-10*). Also, he is free to respond to people's needs and prayers in the way and time he chooses. The Bible often speaks of God changing his mind or redirecting his plans as a result of godly, continued prayers (*Numbers 14:1-20; 2Kings 20:2-6; Isaiah 38:2-6; Luke 18:1-8*). In some cases, God states what will happen if people do not change what they are doing. If they respond positively, God will change his stated course of action. At other times, God desires to do certain things at one point but waits for faithful people to pray and make themselves available before he takes his desired course of action.

(7) God is **PERFECT & HOLY**—*that means he is pure and complete in character, totally without sin and absolutely right in everything he thinks and does* (*Leviticus 11:44-45; Psalm 85:13; Psalm 145:17; Matthew 5:48*). **It also means that he is separated from all evil.** Adam and Eve were created without sin (*Genesis 1:31*); but because of their free will (which was part of God's perfect creation, allowing people to choose whether to love and follow him), they had the ability to sin. God, however, cannot sin (*Numbers 23:19; 2Timothy 2:13; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18*). His holiness also includes his complete dedication to carrying out his plans and purposes—always for the highest good of humankind.

(8) God is **TRIUNE** (i.e., **three-in-One**)—*that means he is one God, a single Being* (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:21; 1Corinthians 8:5-6; Ephesians 4:6; 1Timothy 2:5*), **who has revealed himself in three distinct (not separate) but interrelated and completely unified persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit** (*Matthew 28:19; 2Corinthians 13:14; 1Peter 1:2*). Each person is fully divine (i.e., fully God) and equal with the other two; yet they are not three Gods, but One (*Matthew 3:17; Mark 1:11*).

Another way this concept of God has been described is “three in Person, One in essence.”

We must be careful not to misinterpret this as if the one God has simply revealed himself in three different “modes” or expressions at different times throughout history (as if God the Father in the OT was Jesus in the NT and is the Holy Spirit now). Through the centuries, such false teaching has brought division in the church. The correct teaching is that all three persons of the Godhead exist uniquely at the same time (Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 3:21-22 where all three are revealed in their full personhood and are active at the same time).

In theological terms, this concept of **One God** in three distinct, interrelated and unified persons is called **the Trinity**.

Though the concept of a “three-in-One” Trinity has no parallel or equivalent in the human world, it is absolutely Scriptural and essential to a proper understanding of the complex and multi-faceted nature of God.

CHARACTER OF GOD

Many characteristics of the one true God, particularly his character (**moral attributes**), are similar to human qualities.

However, the degree to which God possesses these traits is unmatched in any human. For example, even though both God and humans possess the ability to love, no human is capable of loving to the degree and depth that God does. Also, we must keep in mind that our ability to exercise these similar characteristics is related to our being created in God's image (*Genesis 1:26-27*).

In other words, we are like him; he is not like us.

(1) **God is GOOD** (*Psalms 25:8; 106:1; Mark 10:18*). ***All that God originally created was good because it was an extension of his own nature*** (*Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25, 31*). He continues to be good to his creation by caring and providing for all his creatures (*Psalms 104:10-28; 145:9*). He even provides for the ungodly—those who ignore, defy and reject him (*Matthew 5:45; Acts 14:17*). God is especially good to people who sincerely depend on him (*Psalms 145:18-20*).

(2) **God is LOVE** (*1John 4:8*). ***His love is a completely selfless love that embraces the entire world of sinful people*** (*John 3:16; Romans 5:8*). The greatest expression of that love was how **he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die for our sins**—to satisfy the complete penalty for our rebellion against God (*1John 4:9-10*) and repair our broken relationship with him. In addition, God has a special family-type love for those who personally accept Jesus' sacrifice for themselves, who are forgiven and restored to a right relationship with God (*John 16:27*).

(3) **God is MERCIFUL and GRACIOUS** (*Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 4:31; 2Chronicles 30:9; Psalms 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13*). ***Grace could be described as God giving us the benefits of salvation that we do not deserve. The definition of mercy is expressed as God saving us from the punishment our sin deserves.*** God does not reject and destroy humanity as our rebellion toward him deserves (*Psalms 103:10*). Instead, he offers forgiveness as a free gift that we receive by faith in Jesus Christ (*Psalms 103:11-12; Romans 6:23; 1Corinthians 1:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 2:11; 3:4-5*).

(4) **God is COMPASSIONATE** (*2Kings 13:23; Psalms 86:15; 111:4*). ***To be compassionate means to feel sorrow for someone else's suffering, with a desire and an effort to help. True compassion requires action. Out of his compassion for humanity, God provided the only effective means of forgiveness and salvation*** (*Psalms 78:38*) through the life, death and resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. In the same way, ***Jesus showed compassion*** for the crowds when he delivered his good news to the poor, healed the brokenhearted, announced the release of captives, gave sight to the blind and released people from their spiritual oppression (*Luke 4:18; Matthew 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34; Mark 1:41; Mark 6:34*).

(5) **God is PATIENT and SLOW to ANGER** (*Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Romans 2:4; 1Timothy 1:16*). ***God first demonstrated this character trait in the Garden of Eden*** after Adam and Eve defied his direct command not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. **God chose**

not to destroy the human race as he had a right to do (*Genesis 2:16-17*). Instead, **he continued forward in the plan he had already laid out to restore his relationship with humankind** (*1Peter 1:20; Revelation 13:8*). God was also patient in Noah's time, while the ark was being built (*1Peter 3:20*) and the rest of humanity (outside of Noah's family) was living in total rebellion against God. And God is still patient with the sinful human race. **The reason God is now holding back his judgment on the world is because he is patiently giving everyone the opportunity to repent** (i.e., to turn from their own sinful way and surrender their lives to God) and be saved (*2Peter 3:9*).

(6) **God is TRUTH** (*Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 31:5; Isaiah 65:16; John 3:33*). Jesus called himself "the truth" (*John 14:6*), and the Holy Spirit "leads into all truth" (*John 14:17; 1John 5:6*). Because God is completely trustworthy and true in all he says and does, his Word is also described as **truth** (*2Samuel 7:28; Psalm 119:43; Isaiah 45:19; John 17:17*). It reveals things as they really are and shows us the right way to do things. Therefore, the Bible teaches that God does not tolerate lies, dishonesty or deception of any kind (*Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18*). **God's character is the basis of all that is true and right. There is no other "truth" outside of God. There is no other "right way" apart from what God has determined is right.**

In fact, there is no other way to God the Father but **through his Son, Jesus** – "the way, the truth and the life" (*John 14:6*).

(7) **God is FAITHFUL** (*Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 7:9; Isaiah 49:7; Lamentations 3:23; Hebrews 10:23*). **We can trust God completely. He will do everything he has revealed in his Word, fulfilling both his promises and his warnings** (*Numbers 14:32-35; 2Samuel 7:28; Job 34:12; Acts 13:23, 32-33; 2Timothy 2:13*). **He will never fail his people or the nature of his character.** God's faithfulness should bring extraordinary comfort to those who trust him. But it should bring great fear of judgment to all who do not accept Jesus as the forgiver of their sins and leader of their lives (*Hebrews 6:4-8; 10:26-31*).

(8) **God is JUST** (*Deuteronomy 32:4; 1John 1:9*). **This means that God keeps in balance the moral order of the universe and is totally right in the way he treats and deals with humankind** (*Nehemiah 9:33; Daniel 9:14*). God's perfect justice is the reason he cannot look away and excuse sin. **Sin is "breaking God's law"** (*1John 3:4*) and so completely opposed to his perfect nature that it requires the most extreme penalty: death (*Romans 5:12*). It is a penalty that humankind has earned, and it must be paid.

But God himself mercifully chose to provide the perfect payment for that penalty through his Son, Jesus. Jesus now provides forgiveness and spiritual freedom for those who trust him (*Romans 6:23; Genesis 2:16-17*).

Still, God is angry at sin because of his love for righteousness (*Romans 3:5-6; Judges 10:7*). In the end, he will also show his wrath (i.e., his justified anger, punishment, judgment) against every form of **wickedness** (*Romans 1:18*), especially **idolatry** (which involves worshiping or giving priority to

anything in place of God, *1Kings 14:9, 15, 22*), **unbelief** (*Psalm 78:21-22; John 3:36*) and **unjust treatment of other people** (*Isaiah 10:1-4; Amos 2:6-7*).

Jesus Christ, who is called the “Righteous One” (*Acts 3:14; 7:52; 22:14*), also loves righteousness, justice, and hates evil (*Mark 3:5; Romans 1:18, Hebrews 1:9*). Keep in mind that God’s justice does not contradict his love. ***In fact, it was to satisfy his perfect justice that he sent Jesus into the world as his perfect gift of love*** (*John 3:16; 1John 4:9-10*) ***and as his sacrifice for sin on our behalf*** (*Isaiah 53:5-6; Romans 4:25; 1Peter 3:18*). His acts of justice and love (working together) provided the only way to restore us to a right relationship with God (*2Corinthians 5:18-21*).

God’s final and complete revelation of himself is through his Son, Jesus Christ (*John 1:18; Hebrews 1:14*), and his Word (*John 1:1, 14*, which describe Jesus as the living Word of God).

That is to say, ***if we want to fully understand the “personality,” character and nature of God***, we must look at what the Word of God reveals about Jesus because “in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body” (*Colossians 2:9*).

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTH # 3

THE DEITY of the LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. The Scriptures declare:

VIRGIN BIRTH

Isaiah 7:14 — Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, ***the virgin shall conceive*** and bear a ***son***, and shall call his name ***Immanuel*** (“*God with us*”).

Matthew 1:23 — “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

Luke 1:30-33 — 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Luke 1:35 — 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

SINLESS LIFE

Hebrews 7:26 — For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

1 Peter 2:22-23 — 22 He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. 23 When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

MIRACLES

Acts 2:22 — “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—”

Acts 10:37-38 — 37 you yourselves know what happened throughout all Judea, beginning from Galilee after the baptism that John proclaimed: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

SUBSTITUTIONARY WORK on the CROSS

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 — 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 — 20 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

BODILY RESURRECTION from the DEAD

Matthew 28:6-7 — 6 “He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.”

Luke 24:38-39 — 38 And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

EXALTATION to the RIGHT HAND of GOD

Acts 1:9 — And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

Acts 1:11 — and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Acts 2:32-33 — 32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. 33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.

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.

Hebrews 1:3-4 — 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT???

To **LOVE HIM** we must **KNOW HIM**, HIS WORD **REVEALS HIMSELF** to US

- #1. The Scriptures Inspired
- #2. The One True God
- #3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

DEUTERONOMY 6:4-7 — 4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

GOING DEEPER w/Pastor Christian WEDNESDAY @7PM on ZOOM!

NEXT WEEK: Truth #4 **The FALL of MAN**, Truth #5 **The SALVATION of MAN**,
& Truth #6 **The ORDINANCES of the CHURCH**