

A Message To Return
To the Original Faith

Jason DeMars



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Greetings to all those reading this who are desiring to know God more fully through his Word. We are living in such a dark age both in the West and the East. There are very few people who are really hungry to be fed the word of God. Many are hungry to just feed their flesh and to grow in the things of the world. They want a better situation for their human life instead of wanting to do the perfect will of God in their human life. Jesus said, "For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it." (Matthew 16:25 KJV) Our first priority should be our walk with God and our hunger and thirst for him.

A Message For Our Day

The message for our day is what the message for every day should be, return to the Bible. God speaks to his church in every generation. "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation." (Hebrews 3:15 KJV) After the death of the apostles the church began to slowly fall away from the original faith. God never speaks to us separate from the Scriptures. The absolute for the church was always to be Jesus Christ and the message that was sent through his apostles. (Read Ephesians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 3:11) The foundation of the church is the revelation of Jesus Christ which was given to us through his apostles. When the church departs from that foundation it is the work of the Holy Spirit in every age to bring us back to that.

Documenting the Fall of the Church

"The doctrine of the Trinity did not form part of the Apostles' preachings, as this is reported in the New Testament."¹

When studying church history it is quite clear that there was a gradual shift away from dynamic Hebrew biblical thought to static Greek philosophical thought. There was also a departure from biblical instruction. The term Trinity is never used in the Bible and neither is "three eternal persons." It is clear from a careful study of Scripture that Jesus and the apostles did not depart from simple Jewish monotheism, God is one. For them this was inviolable and according to Jesus it remained the greatest commandment, "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord." The apostle Paul defines the Christian belief in 1 Corinthians 8:6, "But

¹ International Encyclopaedia, First Edition, Vol. 18, p. 226.

to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.”

The church left these biblical and apostolic confessions and began to try explain the word of God using extra-biblical terminology and Greek philosophy. Let’s examine the gradual departure from the apostolic faith.

Because the Trinity is such an important part of later Christian doctrine, it is striking that the term does not appear in the New Testament. Likewise, the developed concept of three coequal partners in the Godhead found in later creedal formulations cannot be clearly detected within the confines of the canon.²

Sometime during the years 147 to 161 Justin Martyr confesses that he believes the Word of John 1:1 is a "second God"³. The terminology “second God” would never be acceptable to any Jewish believer. This was not later accepted by the church, but it shows the departure that was taking place. Then around the year 200 Tertullian started to use the word trinity in connection with God, the term was borrowed from pagan doctrine that spoke of a Father-Son-Mother deity. At this point in time there were no theologians that taught three co-equal and co-eternal persons. They all believed that there was a time that the Son was born, the Logos came forth from God just prior to creation. Then around the year 230 Origen began to teach that the Son was eternal. Then in 325 at the Council of Nicea the church officially recognized that the Son was a second subsistence and of one being with the Father. Then around 381 at the Council of Constantinople the Holy Spirit was officially recognized as a third person.

The adoption of a non-biblical phrase at Nicea constituted a landmark in the growth of dogma; the Trinity is true, since the Church — the universal Church speaking by its Bishops — says so, though the Bible does not! We have a formula, but what does that formula contain? No child of the Church dare seek to answer.⁴

At this time the Cappadocian fathers’ became the pre-eminent theologians of the time. One of them, Gregory of Nazianzus, in his writing described God as one species and the three persons of “God” just as Peter, James and John were three persons of “humanity.” The church at this time had fallen into polytheism. Later Reformers like John Calvin argued that the church formulated a non-biblical doctrine in order to defend biblical doctrine against heresy. In seeking to defend biblical doctrine against heresy the church created a new heresy itself.

² “Trinity,” in *The Oxford Companion to the Bible*, Oxford University Press, 1993, p. 782.

³ Justin maintains the Logos as a Second God yet his belief like the rest of the apologists is that the Logos issued forth from God before creation and is subordinate to the Father.

⁴ “Dogma, Dogmatic Theology,” in *Encyclopedia*

Timeline

- circa. 155 - Justin Martin says the Word of John 1:1 is a second God
- 200 - Tertullian first borrows the term Trinity from pagan belief
- 230 - Origen first calls Jesus the eternal Son
- 325 - Council of Nicea recognizes Son as second “person” and “one being” with the Father
- 381 - Council of Constantinople recognizes the Holy Spirit as co-equal and co-eternal with Father and Son

Other False Doctrines

During the council of Nicea three bishops were elevated to higher authority in their regions, the bishop of Rome, Alexandria and Antioch were all elevated to being patriarchs of the church. The bishop of Jerusalem was given honorary rights as a patriarch. At the Council of Constantinople the Bishop of Rome was already recognized as the preeminent Bishop in all of Christianity and since Constantinople was the new seat of the Roman Empire the Bishop of Constantinople was now recognized as the second most preeminent Bishop of the Church.

There is no basis in the Bible for this idea of a certain bishop being the chief bishop over other bishops. In fact in the Bible Paul appointed multiple bishops for each and every church he planted. These bishops had to be elders in order to be appointed. The bishops (elders) had no jurisdiction or authority over any other church than their local one that they attended.

In 431 the Council of Ephesus officially recognized that Mary was the mother of God. First, these councils were ordained by men, often political men. ***Second, their results verified and validated the doctrinal developments of the church.***

Baptism

The mode of baptism is very important. As we can all agree it was a part of the process of salvation in the life of a believer. “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:15-16) If we do not baptize according to the means that Jesus commanded and the apostles enacted, then our

baptism is not considered a true Christian baptism. No matter how sincere we are in our confession, if we are not obeying the Word of Truth, we are corrupt and obeying a lie.

The word baptism itself means immersion and its historic usage was found from the process of pickling. Vegetables would be immersed in a vinegar solution and the result would be a transformation in the vegetable, both in the flavor and the texture.

It is clear to be considered a biblical baptism a person has to be completely immersed in water. This was the way baptisms were performed in Jewish history and up to this day converts to Judaism are required to be fully immersed in living water, that is water from a stream or a spring.

In Matthew 28:19 Jesus told his disciples to, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." However, as we read through the instances in the book of Acts we read that no one was baptized by the apostles in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. -Acts 2:38

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. - Acts 8:12

(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) -Acts 8:16

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. -Acts 10:48

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. -Acts 19:5

Is this a contradiction in the Bible? Absolutely not. What the apostles did in the book of Acts was a fulfillment of what Jesus commanded before his ascension. Think about it this way. Jesus said baptize in the NAME. The word NAME Matthew 28:19 is singular. Then he proceeds to state three common or generic names, Father, Son and Spirit. A singular noun coupled with three nouns does not make sense unless there is another explanation. NAME is singular and Father, Son and Spirit are three names. Therefore, we can see Jesus is pointing to something else. In the previous verse Jesus says, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matthew 28:18.

After this command is given every apostles baptizes new converts in the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is ONE NAME whereas Father, Son and Spirit are not really proper names at all, they are common names or titles. So the NAME of the Father, Son and Spirit is the Lord Jesus Christ, as the Bible tells us he is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), the express image of God's essence (Hebrews 1:3) and in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). Jesus Christ embodies all that God is so to baptize in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is to baptize into the very essence and presence of all that God is. In the Bible the NAME of a person is the embodiment of all that person is.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. -Colossians 3:17

Paul commands us to do whatever we do in word or deed in the name of Jesus Christ. Why then do most all denominational churches baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? They have gone away from the Bible and have taught their own doctrines.

For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. - Galatians 3:27

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? -Romans 6:3

Paul is not saying people were baptized into Father, Son and Holy Spirit, he says we are baptized into Christ or baptized into Jesus Christ. The biblical mode of baptism is to be immersed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you have been baptized any other way it is imperative for you to be baptized according to true Christian baptism. If you have been baptized a different way, though sincere, you have been baptized according to false doctrine and you need to be baptized again.

It has been customary to trace the institution of the practice to the Words of Christ in Matthew 28:19, but the authenticity of this passage has been challenged on historical as well as textual grounds. It must be acknowledged that the formula of the threefold name, which is here enjoined, does not appear to have been used by the primitive church, which so far as our information goes, baptized 'in' or 'into' the Name of Jesus, or Jesus Christ, or the Lord Jesus, without any reference to the Father or the Spirit. (Dictionary of the Bible, p. 88).

The original form of words were into the Name of Jesus Christ or Lord Jesus. Baptism into Trinity was a later development. (Dictionary of the Bible, Vol. I, p. 241).

Canney Encyclopaedia: "The early church always baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus until the development of the Trinity; afterward they were baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost" (p. 53).

Encyclopedia of Religions: "Persons were baptized at first in the Name of Jesus Christ, or 'in the Name of the Lord Jesus.' Afterwards, with the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, they were baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost" (p. 53).

Hastings Encyclopedia of Religion: "Christian baptism was administered by using the words 'in the Name of Jesus.' The use of a Trinity formula of any sort was not suggested in the early Church history. Baptism was always in the Name of the Lord Jesus until the time of Justin Martyr when the Triune formula was used" (Vol. 2, p. 377-378, 389.)

These are just a few references to baptism by historians and Bible dictionaries. Let's return to the original faith, get baptized and baptize in the name of Jesus Christ according to the practice of the apostles in the Bible.

The Godhead

Over the course of 300 plus years the Church developed the doctrine of the Trinity, what is referred to now as one God existing eternally in three persons. Trinitarians certainly confess that three persons in one essence is belief in one God. But mere words are not enough. The idea of "persons" plural, all of them are fully God, leads to a belief in three gods. Every Trinitarian disputes this, but think about it this way.

Peter, James and John are all human. Each of them individually is a human. Does it make sense to say they are one human because they belong to the same species? According to the Trinitarian creeds Father, Son and Spirit are one God because they belong to the same species (Greek-ousia), God. It is nonsense, Peter, James and John are three humans not one human. Three persons who are all God is three gods no matter what the Trinitarian would like to say about it.

G.H.W. Lampe wrote in his book *God as Spirit*, "a unity of human persons in a 'social' Trinity in which three persons, in the full 'psychological' sense of 'persons', are bound together in mutual love...implies the existence of three divine centres of consciousness- in other words, three Gods."⁵ This view of a social Trinity is quite different than the apostolic writings or even the writings of the apologists.

⁵ G.W.H. Lampe, *God as Spirit*, Oxford, 1977, p.222.

Edmund J. Fortman, in speaking of the church historian J.N.D. Kelly, writes: "Kelly studies the Apostolic Fathers, the Apologists, Irenaeus and Tertullian and Origen, as well as the Nicene crisis, theology and aftermath. In the Apostolic Fathers he finds no sign of a Trinitarian doctrine."⁶ As we demonstrated previously there was a gradual development of this doctrine once the church changed hands from being led by the apostles under the Holy Spirit into the hands of bishops from a Greek background. These Greek bishops sought to make Christianity appealing to the Gentile mind and so using philosophy they slowly developed the doctrine of the Trinity of persons.

The True Nature of God

The Bible consistently emphasizes that there is one God. Thousands of times it uses a singular personal pronoun when referring to Almighty God, he, him, I, me, my, etc. God is one individual being, there are not three persons who are all God (three gods). The faith of Judaism is that God is a single, unified being. They reject the doctrine of the Trinity and refer to it as polytheism. Jesus upheld the Jewish belief in one God when asked by a scribe what the greatest commandment is.

Mar 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? Mar 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

If God is three persons why does he say this through the prophet Isaiah:

Isa 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

If three persons participated in creation one of those persons cannot say that he did it alone and by himself. One person can say I did that myself and I did it alone. If Father, Son and Spirit are three eternal persons can they ever say that they were alone at any time?

This is the English Amplified Bible's translation of Galatians 3:20

Now a go-between (intermediary) has to do with and implies more than one party [there can be no mediator with just one person]. Yet God is [only] one Person.

The Bible here states that God is only one Person. Look more closely at the verse in the original language. It is speaking of the need for a mediator. It says a mediator does not

⁶ Edmund J. Fortman, *The Theology of God: Commentary*, Milwaukee, 1968, p.88.

step in between to solve a problem for one person, but it solves a problem for more than one person and then the scripture says, but God is one, that is, it implies that God is one person. If Father, Son and Spirit are three persons then why does Paul ignore that truth by writing this verse?

In John 4:24 Jesus states that God is a Spirit. This is an answer to a question? What is God? God is a Spirit. It means he is not made up of flesh and bones. (Luke 24:39) God's existence, his being, his essence is made up of Spirit.

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Timothy 1:17)

- God is invisible (Colossians 1:15, John 1:18, 1 Timothy 1:17)
- God is immortal (1 Timothy 1:17)
- God is eternal (1 Timothy 1:17)
- God is omniscient (1 Timothy 1:17)
- God is omnipresent (Acts 17:28)
- God is omnipotent (Revelation 19:6)

These are attributes of his being and what he is made up of is Spirit. In Matthew 3:16 the Spirit of God descends to dwell in Jesus Christ. In John 14:10 Jesus says the Father dwells in him. In John 4:23-24 he states that the Father seeks such to worship him for God is a Spirit. What else could the Father be than a Spirit?

God is one being who is a Spirit and Paul says that in Him we live and move and have our existence. God is so great and so awesome that all of creation exists within Him.

LOGOS

In the beginning was the Word (Logos) and the Word was with God and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

The Greek word is Logos. It is a word that John took from Greek Philosophy in order to relate this Biblical truth. Logos means reason or thought expressed. It carries with it both the thought and the expression of that thought. The Word was God expresses the fact that this is the one true God. This does not diminish the unity of the one God who is Spirit. I want to turn back to the book of Proverbs when Wisdom is speaking. These verses are spoken by wisdom or as the Jewish commentators refer to this as Wisdom personified. These verses state that wisdom is a female, but remember, this is a personification.

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; (Proverbs 8:22-30 KJV)

So before creation took place wisdom was brought forth. The word brought forth in Hebrew means to twist or whirl, to bear or bring forth. God from his very being brought forth Wisdom.

Wisdom was:

1. possessed by God in the beginning
2. brought forth before the earth was created
3. there when God prepared the heavens
4. delighted in by God

Based upon these verses we can say sometime just before creation the Logos went from God. In John 1:1 he says that the Logos was with God. This is precisely what is said in the book of Proverbs, the Logos went out from God and so was distinct from his eternal invisible Spirit being, but this Logos was God himself.

Jean Danielou speaking of 2nd and 3rd century Christian writers: "The same theme takes pride of place in them all, namely the inescapable association of the generation of the Word, pre-existent as the immanent thought of God, with the creation of the cosmos."⁷

Tatian, one of these writers from the 2nd Century states, "And by [God's] simple will the Logos springs forth: and...becomes the first-begotten work of the Father. Him (the Logos) we know to be the beginning of the world. But He came into being by participation, not by abscission [i.e., being cut off-as in a separate hypostasis]; for what is cut off is separated from the original substance...I myself, for instance, talk, and you hear; yet certainly I who converse do not become destitute of speech (logos) by the

⁷ Jean Danielou, (History, Vol. II), p. 365.

transmission of speed, but by the utterance of my voice I endeavour to reduce to order the unarranged matter [of internal thought].⁸

The Logos is the visible expression of God. Remember, God is a Spirit, he is invisible and he wishes to relate personally to his creation. In order to do that he sent forth his wisdom from his own being and placed his own presence in that wisdom in order to reveal himself. He chose to limit himself to a form that he could be related to in. He still exists as the God that covers the universe.

There are various expressions used regarding the Logos. It is referred to as the glory of God - a supernatural light.

Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. (Exodus 40:34 KJV)

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. (Luke 2:9 KJV)

The Logos is referred to as the Angel of His presence or the angel of The Lord.

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. (Isaiah 63:9 KJV)

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. (Exodus 3:2 KJV)

God revealed himself in a form that man could relate to and understand. As we related to you previously, through church history, the Logos developed and changed in thought from being;

1. that which went forth from God and manifested in a form that could be related to
2. a second God
3. the eternal Son and second person of the Trinity

We sometimes refer to the Logos as the Son because it came forth from God in the beginning. The Logos is the prefiguration of the Son of God. The Logos speaks of the Son of God before his birth.

⁸ Tatian, "Address 5, The Anti-Nicene Fathers 2:67).

Who is Jesus Christ?

I want to demonstrate who Jesus is from the Bible not using philosophy or theological terminology.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:15, 16 KJV)

Here Peter answers the question and states that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. This is his identity and who he is. Let's look and determine what these terms mean. First we'll address what it means to be the Son of God.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:34, 35 KJV)

This is the beginning of Jesus Christ. Gabriel tells Mary that Jesus will be the Son of God because the Holy Spirit will overshadow you, that is God himself will come to you and create within you a tiny embryo. The miraculous birth is the source of Jesus' Sonship. He is not the Son of God because he is a second person of the Trinity. He is the Son of God because the Holy Spirit created him in the womb of a virgin girl.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, (Galatians 4:4 KJV)

Jesus was sent forth or dispatched in the fulness of time, this carries with it the thought that he was waiting in the mind and heart of God to be sent. Then it says "made" of a woman, the word in the Greek means to come into being or existence. Jesus came into existence through a woman. The Bible does not say he came into existence before time, but in the fulness of time, under the law.

The birth of Jesus designated him as the Son of God.

What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ? The word Christ means anointed one. It signifies he is chosen for a specific and exalted task. It also means that he is empowered to do that task.

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; (Isaiah 61:1 KJV)

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. (Acts 10:38 KJV)

Jesus was anointed with the Spirit of Yahweh to heal the sick and preach the good news. He is also anointed to one day be King of Israel in Jerusalem. Was he simply anointed with the Spirit of Yahweh in a manner just like the prophets of old? The answer is no.

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. (John 3:34 ESV)

Measure means an allotted portion, this means that Jesus received the Spirit of God without merely an allotted portion, he received the fullness of the Spirit. Notice what Paul writes.

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. (Colossians 2:9 KJV)

All the fullness of the Deity dwells bodily in Jesus. Jesus is called the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15) and the expression image of his being (Hebrews 1:3). When Jesus was on earth and they watched his life they could say I am looking at God. This is exactly what Jesus told Philip.

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. (John 14:8-10 ESV)

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Corinthians 4:6 ESV)

The word that is translated as face is prosopon in Greek and it means countenance, aspect or appearance. The glory of God (Logos) is revealed in the appearance of Jesus Christ. John 1:14 states that the Logos was made flesh and tabernacled among us and we beheld his glory. The picture is of the glory of Yahweh entering into the Tabernacle in the wilderness. The life of Jesus Christ was a manifestation of Yahweh's glory entering the Tabernacle. In 1 John 1:1-3 he states that we handled the logos with our hands.

Biblical facts about Jesus:

- was a man distinct from God (1 Timothy 2:5 ie-mediator between "God" and men)
- had his own will (Matthew 26:39)
- was given all power in heaven and earth by God (Matthew 28:18)
- was loved by the Father (John 3:35)
- had all things given to him by the Father (John 3:35)
- was made Lord and Christ by God (Acts 2:36)
- this man was the visible form of God (Philippians 2:6)

One God, the Father

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3 ESV)

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:6 ESV)

one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:6 ESV)

Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.'" (John 8:54 ESV)

that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, (Ephesians 1:17 ESV)

Over and over again the Scripture connects the Father with being the one true God. The Father is the Godhead, he is the one true and living God. He has also revealed himself through the Son and as the Spirit. The Son is the image of God, the visible expression and manifestation of God. Without the Son we would have no way of knowing God.

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. (Matthew 11:27 ESV)

The Son reveals the essence and nature of the Father. The Bible says that the Spirit proceeds, issues forth or projects from the Father. John 4:24 states that God is Spirit so that when the Holy Spirit comes to live in believers it is clear that the Spirit issues forth from the Father. The Father is the source of the Spirit that comes to live in us.

Father, Son and Spirit are not three persons or three gods. The Father is an invisible Spirit that covers all space and time, the Son came forth from God in the beginning and is his very wisdom and visible manifestation and the Spirit is the very life and being of God living in and working among individual believers. Back to our study on history, Augustine did not espouse to the Cappadocian model that God is like three men who share the same human essence instead he compared God to memory, understanding and will which pertain to one personality.

Jesus Christ is God

The Bible clearly identifies Jesus as God. He is not only a man, he is the God-Man. Let's review several Scriptures that teach us this.

I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken; Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.

(John 10:30-38)

In this section of John 10 Jesus is speaking at Solomon's porch in the Temple Mount area. Many Jews gathered around him to listen to speak. They asked him plainly, are you the Christ? He basically responded to them and said I'm showing you daily that I am by the works that I am doing and you don't believe it. He said the reason you don't believe it is because you are not my sheep. If you were you would hear my voice. He tells them that no one can take his sheep away from him and that his Father is greater than all and no one can take them out of his hand and that he and the Father are one. The Jews got angry with Jesus and were ready to stone him because they considered his statement blasphemy and the blasphemy was not merely claiming to be the Christ. Instead they were angered because Jesus was telling them he was on the same level (nature) as God. Jesus answered them with a quote from Psalm 82:6. He affirmed that he was claiming to be the Son of God

It is certain that the Jews had in mind (and still do) that he was claiming as the Emperors and Pharaohs of the past to be God. However, Emperors and Pharaohs believed in many gods, but here the Jews had in mind that they believed in just one God. The claim is that as the Son of God (the human being) he was God in flesh. The one God of Israel had come down to dwell in flesh.

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.
(John 8:58)

This claim is not merely that he was in the mind of God and foreordained to be born, to suffer for our sins and to reign. Instead this is a claim to be the bearer or carrier of the divine name. The I AM that met Moses in the burning bush, the God of the Old Testament. He was claiming to be Almighty God.

Jesus also claimed to have power to forgive sins and this is something only God can do (Matthew 9:2). The Bible is clear that Jesus Christ is God, it affirms and teaches his deity.

Jesus Only?

Out of ignorance people will confuse this viewpoint with Jesus only doctrine. Jesus only doctrine states the only difference between Father, Son and Spirit are simply the titles. God merely created a body that he lived in called the Son. But according to the Bible the Son is a real, living human being that had his own will and had to submit it to God.

Jesus only also believe that the Logos was in the mind of God until the birth of Jesus. As we read from Proverbs, the Logos was brought forth before creation and was the first of God's works.

God in Simplicity

Theologians over the centuries have tried to explain God philosophically using technical terminology only reserved for a few elites. Whereas the believers of the Bible were simple, uneducated people who simply believed God and followed his word. God is not who we reason him out to be, rather, he is who he reveals himself to be. God is dynamic, not static, that is, he is in motion, working, revealing and manifesting himself. God is one and he unfolded his own being thus revealing himself in various ways and manners throughout salvation history. Jesus is the Son of God, everything that God is is revealed through Jesus Christ. God is a Spirit and he works in and among his people, the Spirit proceeded from the Father. Let's leave it at the simplicity of the word of God. There is one God and he reveals himself through three specific roles that he unfolded over salvation history, the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

There is much more to cover, but we'll leave it at that in this booklet, if you have any more questions feel free to write us.

Mystery Babylon

The original gospel was pure and complete as Jesus gave it to his apostles...Error results from changing things...Walter Baur...argued, that heresy precedes orthodoxy [in that] the original Christianity was of a form later labeled heretical by the great Church, as it began to clarify its belief and to impose norms of orthodoxy.⁹

Basically, Mr. Hall is telling us that the church changed the doctrine of the apostles and now embraced a completely different form of Christianity. They created God and the practices of the church in their own image. This is the ultimate form of unfaithfulness. The Bible says that people would have a “form of godliness” but deny the power thereof.¹⁰ The book of Hosea illustrates a point we need to make very clearly. Hosea was commanded to marry a woman who was a prostitute. He had children with her and she fled from him back to the life of a prostitute. The Scriptures demonstrate that this is precisely what Israel had done to God. God redeemed and married Israel, but she became unfaithful with gods of her own creation.

This is precisely what the early church did and carried on through history. The Bible in Ephesians 5:23-33 speaks of the church as the Bride of Christ. We find in the book of Revelation that a great prostitute is described.

So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. Revelation 17:3-5

Martin Luther writes in his letter entitled “Babylonian Captivity of the Church,” “I now know of a certainty that the papacy is the kingdom of Babylon.” “Many Protestant reformers, including Martin Luther, John Calvin, Thomas Cranmer, John Thomas, John Knox, and Cotton Mather, felt the early church had been led into apostasy by the Papacy and identified it as the Antichrist.”¹¹

This prostitute also had children and those children are called Harlots and Abominations of the earth. As we mentioned previously, “At the time of the Reformation, the

⁹ Stuart Hall, *Doctrine And Practice In The Early Church*, London, 1991, p.36.

¹⁰ 2 Timothy 3:5

¹¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Apostasy

Protestant Church took over the doctrine of the Trinity without serious examination.”¹² Since both the Orthodox and the Protestant churches have continued in the same false doctrine, creating a god in their own image, they can be considered churches that are unfaithful to God, prostitutes. We are not here intending to say that every person attending these churches are prostitutes that are lost and going to hell, but rather the system itself is a prostitute against God. The people who hear the message of the hour in those systems must flee them. Speaking of Babylon the Great the book of Revelation states, “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.” (Revelation 18:4) Come out of those prostitute systems and follow Jesus Christ. We are not asking you to join another system, but to come out of those systems, fellowship with like-minded believers and follow the word of God as it was originally delivered by the apostles.

Why Come Out?

The Bible says to come out of Babylon otherwise you become a partaker of her sins. That is you have been identified with an organization that has left the original teachings of the Bible. Anything that has changed from the original is a perversion or a corruption. When you hear the call to flee mystery Babylon and you decide to reject that call from God it becomes sin to you.

A Bride For Christ

Before the foundation of the world we were chosen in Christ as his Bride.¹³ When God made Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:26-27 he made them one being. God made Adam both male and female according to the Scriptures.¹⁴ Their spirits were together in the same being. Then in Genesis 2 God made Adam from the dust of the earth and later separated Eve from Adam’s side. She was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh because she was a part of him. Before the foundation of the world the life of the Bride of Christ was a part of Christ. She was in him and then at the cross they pierced his side

¹² New International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, Vol. 1, p. 396.

¹³ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (Ephesians 1:4)

¹³ For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Ephesians 5:31-32)

¹⁴ So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:27)

when water and blood came forth from him. Christ's wife was taken from his side at Calvary and is during the church age is in the process of being formed.

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present *you* as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

-2 Corinthians 11:2-3

So we, the church, were engaged to Christ as a chaste virgin, but Paul was afraid that another man would get to us before Christ would, just as the serpent got to Eve before Adam did. And he compares the Serpent's relationship to Eve with our relationship with our revelation of the simplicity of Christ. So if our minds become corrupted from the simplicity of Christ it means we are no longer a virgin and as Gomer become an unclean prostitute to her husband Hosea so would the church (or elements that are supposed to be the church) become a prostitute to her husband, Christ.

We witnessed through history that the church had its mind corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. They left the simple teachings of the apostles of Jesus and developed their own doctrines that they believed more clearly explained the Bible. In the book of Acts the church baptized new believers in the name of Jesus Christ, but as time went on they began to baptize new believers and infants in the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They also began to separate Father, Son and Spirit into completely distinct persons, as we studied so that we arrive at a social Trinity of three persons which is no different than three gods. They elevated the offices of bishops to being one bishop over several local churches then took the bishops of Rome and Antioch and made them patriarchs of the church. The church had been beguiled by the serpent and their minds were corrupted from the simplicity in Christ.

The entity that was supposed to be a virgin Bride for Christ became a prostitute. Yet, even during the time that the church was being perverted God had reserved a remnant for himself that did not corrupt themselves with false doctrine.

Reformation

Even though we are saved and born of the Spirit of God we still need to examine ourselves. The church needs to continually go through this process of examining and reforming ourselves back to the word of God. We must examine our practices and our doctrines and line ourselves up with the apostolic teachings in the Scriptures.

What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only? If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

-1 Corinthians 14:36-37

Paul is writing to the Corinthians and letting them know where the word of God comes from. It does not come from the church, it comes from men that are called directly by God, the apostles. And by implication he is telling them that the church must conform to

the apostles words and teachings or they are not spiritual people. The church must confirm to the Bible.

When we tell you to come out out of Mystery Babylon, the Great Whore and her harlot children we are not telling you to form another organization or join our organization because we don't have one. We are letting you know to do exactly what the Bible said, "come out of her my people and be not partakers of her sins." Get in contact with the person that gave you this booklet and they can direct you on how to become a part of a local church that is following the message of the hour.

What is the Message?

The message is calling a people out of denominations and back to the Bible. The local churches that are planted around the world are following the word of God and are not a part of denominational system. It is imperative that we follow the Bible and bring ourselves to be in line with the original teachings of the New Testament. There will be a pure virgin Bride that will be ready to become the wife of Christ. He will have a people that are following the pure word and that won't have minds that are corrupted from the simplicity of Christ. Will you come out of those systems and become a part of the Bride?

It's Time for You to Decide

There are several additional booklets that can be obtained that were written by Jason DeMars. To order them go to <http://contendingforthemessage.com/store/>

Holiness Unto the Lord

In this book I have an in-depth study of Christian modesty according to the Bible, addressing many objections and providing scriptural and historical evidence defending the position of the message regarding it.

Amazing Gift

This is a booklet that is evangelistic in nature. It presents the Gospel and addresses several objections against it that we face in the Western Culture.

The Apostolic Message

In this book I examine what the apostles preached in the book of Acts to determine both their doctrine and salvational message. While modern Christianity has arrived at various creeds that express what a Christian must believe, let's examine the undiluted Gospel as it was preached and proclaimed by the apostles in the book of Acts.