

The True God

Theme: The true God who should be known and worshipped according to the Bible is the Father who created all things.

Objectives

1. Convince the candidate for baptism to have faith in God, the Creator of all things.
2. Correct his commonly held but false belief concerning the true God.

Summary

The Iglesia ni Cristo believes in the teaching taught by the bible that the father who created all things is the only true God. There are no three persons in one God: thus, we should reject the belief in the so-called Trinity. The Bible also prohibits worship of images or idolatry.

Man should not be content with knowing God. He should also enhance his relationship with God and walk in His ways.

Introduction

Almost all religions have as their objective to serve and worship God. But who is that God whom man should serve and worship? Who among the "gods" being worshipped today is the true God? Why is it so important for us to know who the true God is? The reason is that if the God worshiped and served by man is not the true God then all of his sacrifices and services will be in vain or useless. That is why we must first know who the true God we ought to worship and serve.

Presentation

- Q. According to Christ, who is the God that should be known by men?
A. The only true God John 17:3

3And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Who is the God that should be known by men? According to our Lord Jesus Christ, "*the only true God*". **What should we notice from the verse that I've just read?** According to Jesus, "*that they may know You, the only true God*", if our Lord Jesus Christ is the true god then He would have said, "*that they may know Me, the only true God*". He did not even say, "*that they may know You, Me, and the Holy Spirit as the only true God*". But, He was so emphatic to say, "*that they may know You, the only true God*".

The next question obviously is, **who was Jesus talking to when He said, "You, the only true God", who was He talking to?** ... (I read verse 3 let's go up to verse 1 ...)

- Q. Whom does our Lord Jesus Christ refer to as the only true God?
A. The Father alone John 17:1

1Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

The Father in heaven, the creator of all things. Therefore, it is a doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ or a Christian doctrine that there is only one God. **Who is He?** The Father in heaven.

But, when our Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and the preaching of the gospel was entrusted to the Apostles...

Q. Who is the only true God introduced by the Apostles?

A. The Father from whom are all things...I Cor. 8:6

6yet 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.

The Father from whom are all things, this is also the true God introduced by our Lord Jesus Christ. **What should we notice now?** Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles were in one accord or in unity to prove that there is only one God, the Father in heaven.

CONCLUSION: Therefore, whoever teaches that there are other gods aside from the Father in heaven, that contradicts the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and of His Apostles. That is the reason why, we, members of the Church of Christ do not uphold the teaching of others about that so-called Trinity. What is that belief in the Trinity? The belief that in one God there are three persons (the God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit). What should be done in this kind of belief in the Trinity? It should be renounced or rejected. **Why? ...**

Q. Which teaching of the Bible is violated by the doctrine that there are three persons in one God?

A. He is one God – there is no other God besides Him Isa. 45:21

21Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

The teaching of our Lord God concerning Himself. **What did our Lord God say?** He said, “*there is no other God besides Me*”.

Therefore, the teaching of our Lord Jesus Christ and of His Apostles that there is only one God and that is the Father in heaven that is the same teaching of our Lord God Himself. And that is why we should denounce or reject the belief in the Trinity. So,

Q. What is the nature of the true God who should be worshipped according to Christ?

A. Spirit John 4:24

24God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

Christ said, “*God is spirit*”.

Q. What does it mean that God is a spirit? By the way, what is a spirit?

A. Without flesh and bones

(no material form) Luke 24:39

(This verse that I will read was an instance when our Lord Jesus Christ showed up to His disciples after He was resurrected, here in Luke 24:39 ...)

39Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

What is a spirit? According to our Lord Jesus Christ, “*a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have*”. **What should we notice from what our Lord Jesus Christ said?** Jesus has flesh and bones, while God who is a spirit, does not have flesh and bones. **What does this mean?** God has no material form, or God cannot be seen. So, when our Lord Jesus Christ said to His apostles, “Handle me

so that you may know that I am not a spirit, but a man like you, though a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have.”

(or touch me) and see" **what does it only mean?** Our Lord Jesus Christ can be seen; therefore, He is different from God, who has no material form or cannot be seen.

And if it's true that Jesus is God, then this is the right opportunity for Him to say to His apostles that He is God. **But, was this what our Lord Jesus Christ taught?** No. **Why?** Because our Lord Jesus Christ is different from the true God.

And because God is spirit, which has no material form or cannot be seen, (the question is this...) **can we make pictures or graven images out of the true God?** Absolutely No. Therefore...

- Q. Can images graven by man be considered the true God?
A. No, in fact images for worship
are forbidden by God Acts 17:29

29Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

No, in fact images for worship are forbidden by our Lord God. **What is the proof for that?** According to Apostle Paul, *just "to think that the Divine Nature (of God) is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising" is already prohibited by our Lord God*, much more if man does a graven image out of God and after doing it he will bow down before it and worship it.

CONCLUSION: Thus, man should not worship God through idols or graven images because this is strictly prohibited by our Lord God.

- Q. What is the correct way of worshipping the true God?
A. In spirit and in truth John 4:23

23But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

According to our Lord Jesus Christ, *"the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth".*

- Q. How is worship of God in spirit and in truth done?
A. Worship His name – do His will Matt. 6:9-10

9In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.

10Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

How is worship of God in spirit? According to our Lord Jesus Christ, *"Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name"*. **What does this mean?** We should exalt or praise the name of our Father in heaven. **In what way we can do that?** We can do that through our prayers. **What else?** We also worship God in spirit if we offer hymns of praises for the glory of His wonderful name.

How about in truth? How is worship of God in truth? According to our Lord Jesus Christ, *"Your will be done"*. What is the equivalent of what our Lord Jesus Christ has said? We should obey the will or the commandment of our Lord God.

Hence, the proper way of worshiping the true God is to exalt or praise His name and to obey His commandments and not through idols or graven images.

ARGUMENT: Now, though there are many people believes that God truly exists, there are also others who do not believe that there is God. This kind of people, who is considered as Agnostics or Atheists say, "If we cannot see God with our own eyes then God does not exist". "To see is to believe", "Seeing is believing", according to them.

Proofs

- Q. How do we know now that God truly exists when we cannot see Him with our own eyes?
A. Manifested through His power which is evident in the things that He has made ... Rom. 1:19-20

¹⁹because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

²⁰For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Because God cannot be seen, can that be already a valid reason for man to prove that there is no God? No. **Why?** Because according to Apostle Paul, "what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them". **What is that?** That God is spirit and cannot be seen. **What else did Apostle Paul say?** "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse".

Hence, though we do not see God (because He is spirit) we can surely prove that there is God. **Why?** Because He is manifested through His power which is evident in the things that He has made.

- Q. Why is God manifested in the power of His works or of the things He did?
What is one of the characteristics of our Lord God?
A. Because He is Almighty Gen. 17:1

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless."

What is one of the characteristics of our Lord God? God is Almighty. **What does this imply?** God is powerful. And that is why God is manifested through His power.

NOTE: Thus, it is not needed for us to see God in His nature of being for us to be sure that indeed there is God. It is already enough for us to see the things He made or created for us to know that God truly exists.

- Q. What are some of the things created by God, which manifest His power and wisdom?
A. The heavens and the firmament Ps. 19:1-4

¹The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ²Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³There is no speech nor language. Where their voice is not heard. ⁴Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun,

According to Prophet David, "*the heavens...and the firmament*". **What can we see in the heavens created by God?** There is the sun, the moon, the billions of stars, and the planets. **What can we observe about these things?** They move across the heavens not in a disorderly, hit-or-miss manner but harmoniously in their respective orbits with amazing precision. **What do these things only prove us?** The manifestation of the infinite power of our Lord God.

- Q. What else are some of God's creations?
A. The life and breath of man Job 12:7-10

⁷"But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; And the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ⁸Or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; And the fish of the sea will explain to you. ⁹Who among all

these does not know That the hand of the LORD has done this,¹⁰In whose hand is the life of every living thing, And the breath of all mankind?

According to what I have read, “*the beasts (or the animals) ... the birds of the air...the fish of the sea...and the life and breath of all mankind*”. **What did our Lord God say about His creations?** He said, “*ask them and they will tell you*”, “*speak to them and they will teach you*”. **What is the equivalent of this?** It means let us examine all these things, let us study and observe them. **Why?** Because they are teaching us something. **What do these things we see prove us?** That there is someone who made them. **Who created all these things we see?** None other than our Almighty God.

ARGUMENT: But there are others who say, “*all things are not really created by our Lord God but were only spontaneously generated as a result of natural processes*”. Is it correct to have that kind of thinking? No.

- Q. Why is it wrong to believe that all things were spontaneously generated as a result of natural processes?
 A. Every house has a builder Heb. 3:4

⁴For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.

Because according to Apostle Paul, “*For every house is built by someone*”. **Is this true or False?** True. Isn't for example, when you go to a farthest region or to a most isolated area and there you see for example, a small structure of house, isn't what You will have in mind is this, that place was once a habitation of man or that someone built that house. **Why?** Because it will be impossible to have that small structure of house built without a builder, so, much more all the things in the world. Will it be right to say, “No one made all these things”? No. **Why?** Because there is someone who made all these things, who? According to Apostle Paul, “*He who built all things is God*”.

Now, **how about the world we live in?**

- Q. Who made the earth where we live?
 A. It is God who made the Earth as our habituation Isa. 45:18

¹⁸For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: “I am the LORD, and there is no other.”

None other than, our Almighty God.

CONCLUSION: Therefore, all the things in this world and those we see in the heavens prove that indeed there is God. Hence, the belief that all things were only spontaneously generated as a result of natural processes is **not true**.

And because there is God...

Obligation

- Q. What is the obligation of all men to God?
 A. To serve and know Him Ps. 100:2-3

²Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing.

³Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

- Q. How can we know God according to the Bible?
 A. By keeping His commandments I John 2:3

3Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

- Q. What else is the obligation of all who know God?
A. Worship Him Ps. 95:6-7

6Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

7For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.
Today, if you will hear His voice:

CONCLUSION: Therefore, to worship God is man's greatest obligation. We should not neglect this. Thus, you should start attending the worship services of the Iglesia ni Cristo. What else you have to remember? Whenever you attend worship service, turn your attendance card. If you attend the worship service in another locale, ask for a certificate of attendance from the secretary designated to give these certificates.

Now, I will ask you this question, (please answer) "Do you promise to give primary importance to the worship of God? That except for physical inability, you will not miss such worship services? (What is your answer, brothers and sisters?)".

- Q. What is God's warning to those who refuse to know and obey Him?
A. He will inflict vengeance on them
on the day of Christ's
second coming II Thess. 1:8-9

8in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

He will inflict vengeance on them. **When?** On the day of Christ's second coming or in the day of Judgment. **How will they be punished by our Lord God?** It says, they "*shall be punished by everlasting destruction*". **Where will it be?** In the lake of fire or in hell.

Conclusion

The Church of Christ believes in the teaching of the Bible that the Father Who created all things is the only true God. The belief in the so-called Trinity, the doctrine that teaches that there are three persons in one God has no biblical basis; hence, it should be renounced. The Bible also prohibits worship of images or idolatry. But knowledge of God should not stop here. Man should develop his relationship with God and walk in His ways.