

## US, We, Three

*Then God said, “Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness....” (Genesis 1:26, emp. JDS).*

The debate about the person of God will never cease, in part because many would prefer to ignore the Scriptures and their implications. Take, for example, His triune nature. Many would correctly contend that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 12:29) but erroneously infer that this “oneness” excludes three entities. It is a debate that was still alive and well during Christ’s sojourn in Jewish Palestine as He posed this complex problem to religious leaders grappling with the concept of their Messiah coming in the flesh. *“For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The Lord said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son?”* (Mark 12:36-27). With that question, there was an embarrassing silence... and His detractors slinked away (Matthew 22:46).

Consider the following texts.

In **Matthew 3:16-17**, Jesus was coming up out of Jordan’s baptismal waters (Son, v. 16) and the Spirit of God descended like a dove (Spirit, v. 16) when a voice came from Heaven (Father, v. 17). To assert that God cannot be three in one is to deny that Jesus and the Spirit are Divine. In similar fashion, in **Matthew 28:19**, disciples of Christ are told to baptize *“in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”* If these are one in the same, Scripture is redundant. At Christ’s beginnings on earth, **Luke 1:35** clearly distinguishes the three personalities of the one God in predicting the birth of Christ: the *“Holy Spirit”* (Spirit) would *“come upon”* Mary, by the power of *“the Highest”* (Father) to produce *“that Holy One”* called *“the Son of God”* (Son). In Christ’s departure, **John 14:26** leaves the disciples with comfort from *“the Helper, the Holy Spirit,”* *“whom the Father”* would send, *“in my (Jesus’) name”* (Son) to bring to remembrance everything that Jesus said while on earth.

No one argues full and complete knowledge on this topic but unless one is willing to accuse God of being afflicted with Multiple Personality Disorder or a touch of schizophrenia, the concept of three distinct personalities, all possessing the characteristics of the One God, is the only reasonable conclusion remaining.