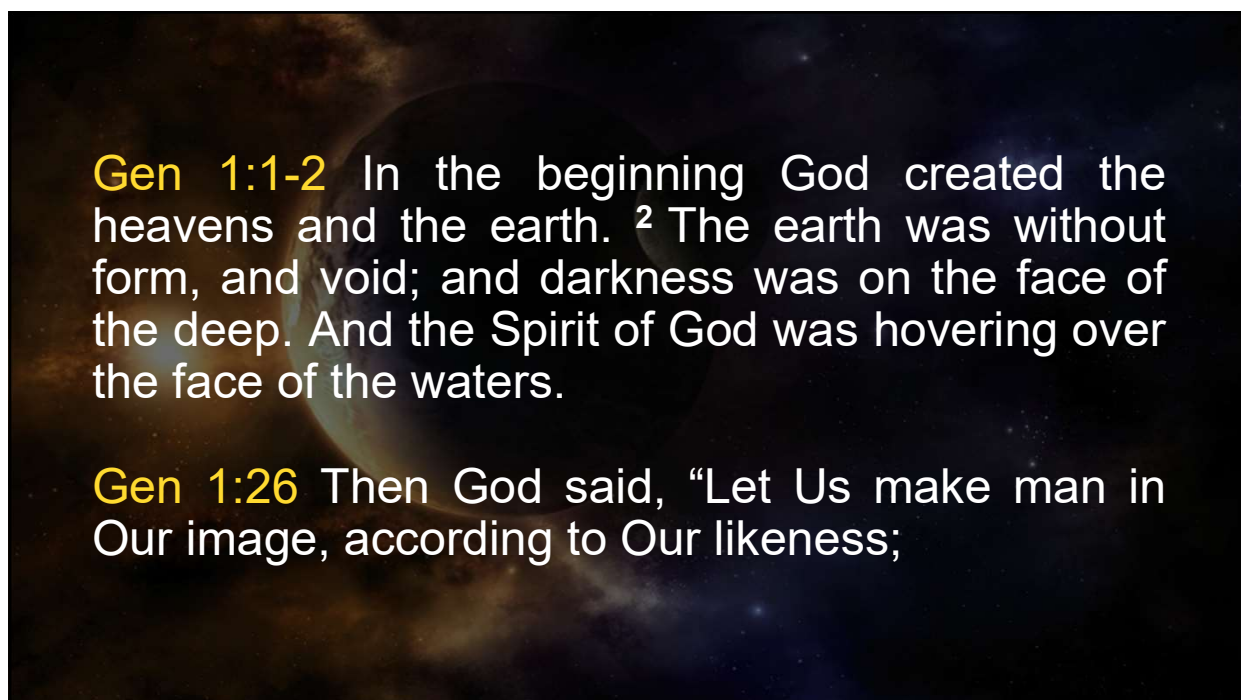
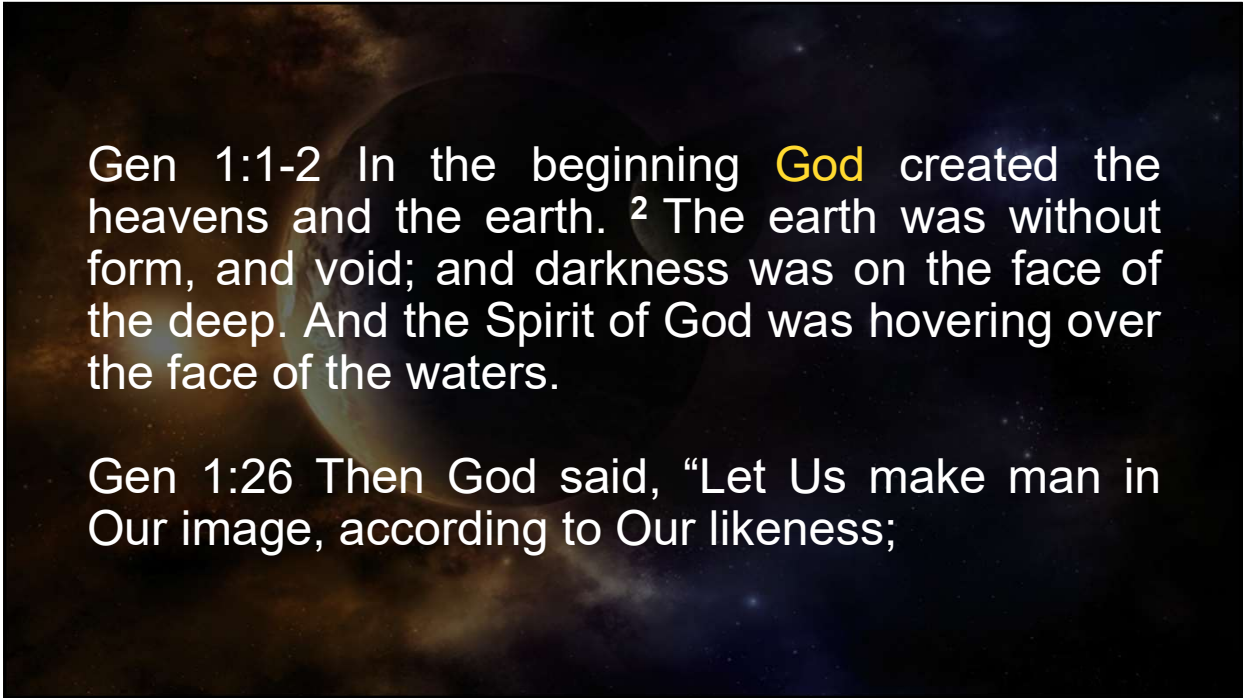




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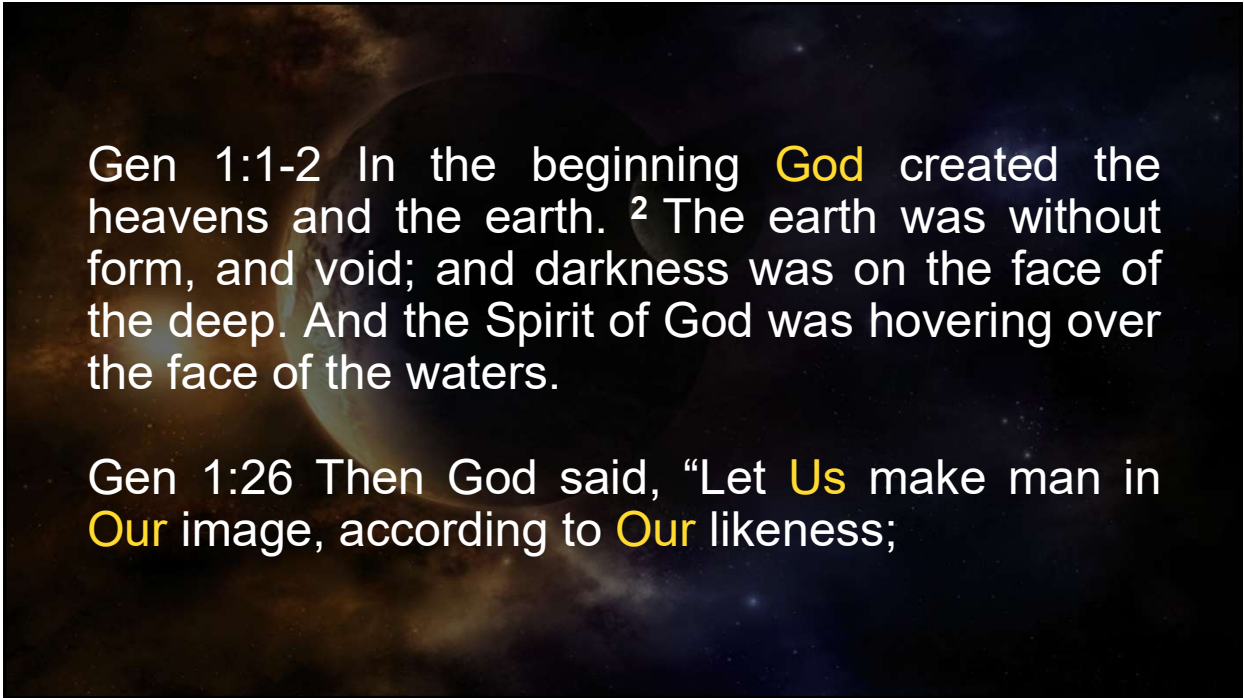
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Gen 1:1-2 In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

3



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4

## All three members of the Godhead are present in creation:

### The Father:

**Ps 148:5** Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.

**Rev 4:9,11** Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ... <sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

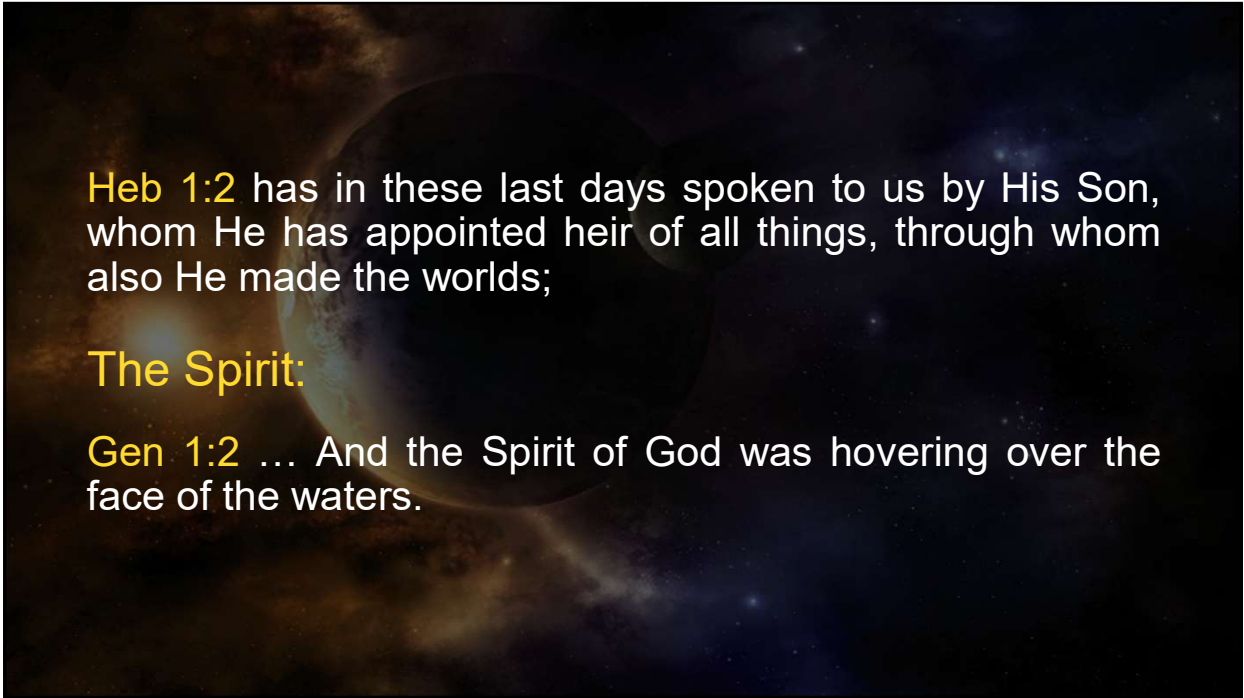
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### The Son:

**Jn 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

**Col 1:16** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

6



Heb 1:2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

The Spirit:

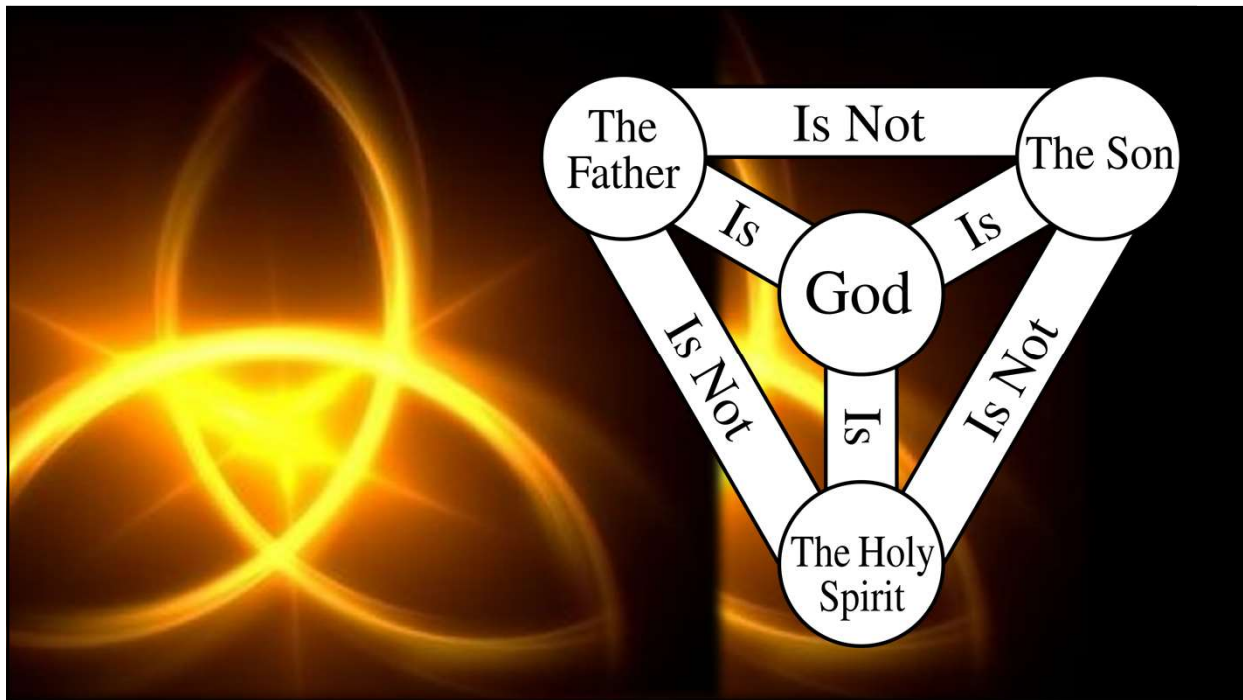
Gen 1:2 ... And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

7



8





9

**God: Elohim – the name of God that stresses His majesty and omnipotence.**

- The “im” ending is the Hebrew plural ending
- Elohim can actually mean “gods” and is sometimes translated that way when being used to refer to the many gods of the heathen.
- Here it is used in the singular, the first of over 2000 such times it is used this way.

10

- Thus, Elohim is a plural name with a singular meaning when used of God.
- It is a “uni-plural” noun suggesting the uni-plurality of the Godhead. God is one, yet three persons.

**Rom 1:20** 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,

**Col 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

11

“The name Elohim suggests that God is both one God, yet more than one. Though it does not specify that God is a trinity, the fact that the product of His creative activity was a tri-universe does at least strongly suggest this possibility. A trinity, or tri-unity is not the same as a triad (in which there are three distinct and separate components comprising a system), but rather is a continuum in which each component is itself coexistent and coterminous with the whole. That is, the universe is not *part* space, *part* time, and *part* matter, but rather *all* space, *all* time, and *all* matter, and so is the true tri-unity.” Henry Morris

12



**Deut 6:4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:”

**Gen 1:26** Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

**Matt 28:19** “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”


13

David K. Bernard, pastor of New Life United Pentecostal Church, in his book, *The Oneness of God*:

“A popular explanation of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost is that there is one God who has revealed Himself as Father in Creation, Son in redemption, and Holy Ghost in regeneration. We cannot confine God to three or any other number of specific roles and titles.”




14



“I’m not sure that we can totally hold God to a numerical system,...we have one God but He is Father in creation, Son in redemption, and Holy Spirit in regeneration...”

TD Jakes


15



“I believe in one God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe these three have distinct and separate functions – so separate each has individual attributes, yet are one. I do not believe in three Gods. I look forward to the day when Christians do not judge one another by the diversity of our associates, nor the distinctives of semantics.”

16






Rather by the love of Christ we reflect, the integrity of our personal convictions, and the sweet fruit of both in our lives. There are a few things I would die for; a few more I would argue strongly; after that I am too busy trying to preach the Gospel to split hairs."

17

"We must scale the language barrier of the cults." Walter Martin



18

## 1. Should we discuss “controversial” issues like this or just let them go?

**Jude 3** “...you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

19

## 2. The Bible teaches that we are:

- Adopted by the Father: Rom 8:15-17
- Placed into Christ: 1 Cor 12:13, Rom 8:1
- Sealed & filled with the Spirit: Eph 1:13-14, 5:18

20



3. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> century, orthodox Christians rejected modalism (also known as Sabellianism, after Sabellius, its most influential teacher) as a denial of the faith.

- The early church father, Athanasius, fought against the modalists, establishing the doctrine of the Trinity as a fundamental doctrine of the church.
- Early in the twentieth century when Oneness Pentecostalism reared its head, the Assemblies of God rejected it as heresy.

21

## Statements of the Church throughout history:

Westminster Shorter Catechism: “There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.”

22



Athanasian Creed: "... we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity; neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance [essence]. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate, and the Holy Ghost uncreate ... The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals, but one eternal ... So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God ... the unity in Trinity and the Trinity in unity is to be worshipped."

23

SBC: "There is one and only one living and true God. ...The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being."

24

4. Oneness believers have historically labeled the Trinity a pagan doctrine and counted Trinitarian believers as lost.

25

## 5. The Bible clearly speaks of the Godhead.

**Rom 1:20** 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,

**Col 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

26



## 6. The Bible teaches the Trinity.

**2 Cor 13:14** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Eph 2:18** For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

**Eph 2:18,22** For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. ... <sup>22</sup>in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

27

**Phil 3:3** For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

**1 Tim 3:16** And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory.

**Heb 9:14** how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

28



**1 Pet 1:2** elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

**1 Jn 5:7** For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

**Jude 20-21** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, <sup>21</sup>keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

29

## 7. If there is no Trinity:

- Jesus makes no sense.

**Matt 28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

**Lk 10:22** “All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

30

**Jn 3:16** “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Jn 5:22** Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son,

**Jn 16:7** But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

**Jn 17:3-5** Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

31

- The Bible makes no sense.

**2 Cor 1:21-22** Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup>set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

**2 Cor 13:14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Eph 1:13-14** And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup>who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

32





**Matt 3:17** When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup>And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

33

- The Gospel becomes subjective.
  - The Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is Michael, the archangel.
  - The Mormons believe that Jesus is the spirit child of Elohim, the brother of Michael, Lucifer, & all of us.
  - Modalism becomes the rule.

34



“The Trinity: Within the one Being that is God, there exist eternally three coequal and coeternal Persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.”

James R. White, *Loving the Trinity*



35

Try to completely explain the Trinity and you will lose your mind. Deny the Trinity and you will lose your soul.

36