

## Elders' Essentials for Edgar Christian Church -- 2012

### Who is God?

- ❖ The Lord, He is God -- Psalm 90:1-2
- ❖ God is:
  - Alive
  - In charge
  - Omnipotent (Psalm 97:1-6, 2 Corinthians 12:9)
  - Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7, Deuteronomy 31:6)
  - Omniscient (Acts 1:7, Romans 11:33-36, Psalm 139)
- ❖ Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:22, John 1:29-34
- ❖ All Scripture is inspired by God and given as a guide to mankind -- 2 Timothy 3:16-17

### How do we know God is real?

- ❖ Prophecy fulfilled 100% -- Matthew 2:5-6
- ❖ Accuracy of Bible to ancient manuscripts
  - Sixty percent of Matthew are quotes from the mouth of Jesus
  - John saw Jesus reign
  - 24633 manuscripts to support New Testament; other variations little to no manuscripts
  - Steady usage of references in churches since about 70 A.D.
  - Accuracy of manuscripts were always checked against letters received from apostles
- ❖ History (*Archaeology*) supports Scripture
  - Oral tradition familiar to the church and written accounts and letters they had received directly from apostles. Early church fathers quoted early Bible scripture as authoritative in their writing.
- ❖ Cultures recognize a Supreme Being (*Christianity knows it is God*)
- ❖ The very fact some attempt to aggressively disprove His existence is in fact an argument for His existence. Exodus 19:16
- ❖ Evidence of Creation -- Psalm 19:1-2, Romans 1:20
- ❖ Testimony of Jesus -- Matthew 19:4

**God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit** – In religious terminology, this is the Trinity

**The Father is recognized as God (1 Peter 1:2) and is all the fullness of the Godhead invisible (John 1:18).**

**The Son is recognized as God (Hebrews 1:8) and is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested in the flesh (John 1:14).**

- ❖ Born of a virgin -- Matthew 1:22-23
- ❖ Took human form -- John 1:14, Philippians 2:5-8
- ❖ Death, burial, resurrection (*resurrection not questioned until all eyewitnesses died*) -- John 19:33-37, 40-42, 20:1-9
- ❖ Lives today -- Hebrews 7:24
- ❖ Lord over all -- Ephesians 4:5, 1 Corinthians 10:26, Philippians 2:11
- ❖ Mediator -- 1 Timothy 2:5, Hebrews 9:15, 12:24
- ❖ Messiah -- John 1:41, John 4:25-26
- ❖ Savior -- Isaiah 53:1, Luke 2:11, Titus 2:13, Jude 25, John 4:42
- ❖ Miracles -- Three kinds: Healing, Showing Power over Nature, Raising the Dead

**The Holy Spirit is recognized as God (Acts 5:3-4) and is all the fullness of the Godhead acting upon man, convicting him of sin (John 16:7-11) and guiding the believer into all truth (John 16:12-15).**

- ❖ ***Present from the beginning***
  - Genesis 1:2, Ephesians 4:4-6
- ❖ ***The Holy Spirit is a distinct person within the Trinity, not a force, a thing, or an it.***
  - The Holy Spirit has intellect – 1 Corinthians 2:10
  - The Holy Spirit has knowledge – 1 Corinthians 2:11
  - The Holy Spirit has emotions – Ephesians 4:30
  - The Holy Spirit has his own will and makes decisions – Acts 16:6
  - The Holy Spirit loves – Romans 15:30
- ❖ ***God's gift of His Holy Spirit***
  - To the apostles – Acts 2:3-4
  - To those who are baptized – John 1:33, Acts 19:2, Acts 2:38-39

❖ ***Purpose of the Holy Spirit for me:***

- God's Representative – John 14:26
- Believer's Guide – John 16:13-15
- Believer's Defense – Luke 12:11-12
- Believer's Strength – Ephesians 3:16-21

❖ ***Fruit of the Holy Spirit*** – Galatians 5:22-23

❖ ***Gifts of the Holy Spirit*** – 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12:1-8

❖ ***Sins against the Holy Spirit***

- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit – Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29

We cannot focus on the Holy Spirit too much. Why? What is the Holy Spirit's mission? To reveal Jesus. What is Jesus' mission...to reveal the Father. What about the Father...to send Jesus and the Holy Spirit so we can come to Him. Perfect Harmony. They never had a crisis management meeting in heaven. They never tried to sit down and work things out. They never had a power struggle amongst themselves.

**The doctrine of the Trinity is not explicit in the Old Testament, but rather implied, "Then God said, Let Us make man..." (Genesis 1:26).**

**The doctrine of the Trinity is revealed in the New Testament.** In Matthew 3:16-17, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 3:22, John 1:29-34 we have Christ being baptized in water, the Father speaking from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. We are baptized in the "name (not names) of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19-20).

**Even creation implies the doctrine of the Trinity.** In creation, we have space, matter, and time in one creation. In space, we have length, breadth, and height in one space. In matter, we have energy, motion, and phenomenon in one substance. In time, we have past, present, and future in one time. In man, we have body, soul, and spirit in one man. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

**Satan tries to mimic the Holy Trinity.** (Revelation 13)

**Sin (Separation from God)**

❖ **The origin of sin** – Jude 1:6

- **The origin of sin is one of the mysteries of the Bible.** Deuteronomy 29:29.
- **It's origin is one of the "secret things" that will remain wrapped in obscurity.**

❖ **What is sin?**

- **Lawlessness** – 1 John 3:4
- **Falling short of God's glory** – Romans 3:23
- **Revolting against God** – Isaiah 1:2
- **Unbelief (It makes God a liar)** – 1 John 5:10
- **Going your own way, planning your own life according to your own will, not God's** – Isaiah 53:6
- **Unrighteousness** – 1 John 5:17

❖ **How sin entered into the world** – Romans 5:12

❖ **The results of sin** – Ephesians 2:1-2

- **The wages of sin is spiritual death** – Isaiah 59:1-2
- **The wages of sin is physical death** – Genesis 3:17-19
- **The wages of sin is eternal death** – Luke 16:26, Revelation 20:14-15

❖ **God's remedy for sin** – 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 20:31

**Believers Response to what God has done** – John 3:16

***Becoming a Christian***

- ❖ Hear the Word -- John 5:24, Romans 10:14-17
- ❖ Believe (*Recognize your lost estate*) -- Luke 12:20-21, Romans 3:23, Luke 16:19-31, 1 John 5:10, John 14:6, Romans 10:9
- ❖ Repent of sins -- Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19-20, 2:38
- ❖ Confess Jesus is Lord -- Matthew 10:32, Philippians 2:9-11, Romans 10:9
- ❖ Be baptized by immersion -- Acts 2:38, Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 3:21-22, Acts 8:36-39
- ❖ Live the Christian life -- 1 Corinthians 10:31-33, John 13:34-35, Galatians 6:9-10

### ***Fellowship of Believers -- Acts 2:42***

- ❖ Apostles teaching (as given by Jesus)
- ❖ Fellowship of believers (any gathering of believers for worship)
  - Hebrews 10:25 (not gathering together deprives you of other Christian's gifts)
  - 2 Timothy 2:15 – Can't evangelize the world alone. Support from the group is necessary.
  - Protect us from being swayed away from God. (We support each other)
  - We need people – mentioned many times by Paul – The church is all about relationships to God and to each other.
- ❖ Breaking of bread (communion)
- ❖ Prayer (important to Christian life)

### ***Great Commission (Marching orders) -- Matthew 28:18-20***

- ❖ *Make Disciples of all nations*
  - **Go**
    1. Need is great -- Luke 10:2
    2. Time is now -- Matthew 9:37, 2 Corinthians 6:2
  - **Baptize**
    1. In the name of the 1) Father, 2) Son, 3) Holy Spirit -- Matthew 28:19-20
  - **Teach**
    1. Obedience to all God commands
      - Love God -- Matthew 22:37-38
      - Love your neighbor -- Matthew 22:39-40
- ❖ *All these lead to God's Promise*
  - ***"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20***