

Theology Simply Explained — WSC5 “The One, True, Triune God”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 5—especially explaining how the only God there can be is the Triune God Who has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ.

Q5. Are there more Gods than one? ***There is but one only, the living and true God.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Catechism question this week is, Number five, are there more gods than one? And the answer is There is about one, only the living and true god. This is of course at the heart. Of all reality, all truth. And therefore the true religion. We can see in the creation, That there is one creator from whom and through whom and to whom are all things that which Man.

Could see and which god had made known even in our hearts. He made known to us and made it observable in the creation. Um, Is the great reality and yet we in our sin Have pushed down on the truth of that reality. It was the first temptation of the devil that there could be another who is like god in himself as opposed to being like god as those created to image him.

And no good and evil and the way that god knows good and evil. In terms of, Um, identifying that which is good is consistent with me and my desires and that which is evil is that which is opposite to me and to my desires, there's only one, who knows?

Good and evil and that way and that is the living god. Satan fell by. The conceit the pride that he could be another, who is like god and that which he with which he tinted the man and the woman. Was the same thing, the woman of course, being deceived thinking that this is what it means to be made in God's image, and the man not being deceived desiring for himself.

That same place. Which the devil had originally arrogated to himself. And so, Romans, 1 tells us That although we knew god in our first father, Adam, and every one of us ever since have not glorified him as god or given. Thanks. And one of the great consequences then of the gos gospel, that takes place in the next 10 chapters.

Of the book of romans is to come to the conclusion at the end of Romans chapter 11. Of the glory of god from him and through him. And to him are all things to him. Be the glory forever. Amen! And so it's not surprising that when God takes for himself a people In the covenant of grace.

Under the administration that came through Moses, one of the great declarations around witches entered is here israel. Yahweh are god. Yahweh is one, he is the god who is and there is no other There is one only the living and true god. And he is the god who had taken for himself a people.

Whom he gathered as his firstborn son out of the land of egypt that they might serve him, and that they might be a light unto the nations and the ones through whom god was known through whom the Messiah would come. Have through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed, which is what the rest of that final sermon of Moses that has come to us by the spirit as the book of Deuteronomy.

That is what the rest of the book of Deuteronomy teaches. Well then it is also in a surprise that when God gathers to himself the gospel church With the messiah, having come and his spirit. Having been poured out upon all the nations now and gathering from all the nations to himself a church in the lord, jesus christ that the lord would recognize would.

Um, the lord jesus would announce. That. He is the one true god. He declares all authority and heaven and earth has been given to him. That which does not belong to the devil. Although the devil is given a subordinate authority. That is the penalty of man on the earth.

The devil of course has never had any authority in heaven. And so that which the devil had offered christ illegitimately. That he might have it by worshiping. Anyone other than god? Um, The lord jesus has all authority on earth by having worshiped god in accordance with his human nature perfectly.

Having worshiped and served and obeyed, only the true, and living god having done that in our place that we, that he might be our righteousness. And so all authority and earth has been given to him. He is the stone cut without hands. That becomes a great amount and as great as the whole earth, Had to whom all the kingdoms of the world and their glory belong.

And he is also the one to whom all authority in heaven belongs because he has not just an adopted firstborn son. The way israel was he is the only begotten son. And, When he when he gathers all nations to himself, as he said, he would do. He said, i, when i am lifted up, we'll gather all nations to myself.

He is receiving that which is due is his due on earth and that which is his by right by the right of his person as the second person of the godhead and the right of his being. As very god, a very god in heaven, all authority. In heaven is his.

And so even in his human nature, as he is about at that time in matthew 28 to ascend into heaven, Everyone, he ascends into heaven, even in his human nature. He takes his seat on the throne. And so, there is a man. Now, He has a divine person. He is god, but he has not just very god, a very god.

He's also very man, a very man, and he sits on the throne of heaven. Heaven is ruled by a man. Seraphim, hide their faces from a man. And we are united to him, he took on that humanity, hebrews tells us that we might be, we who are human, might be united to him.

And so, if ephesians tells us that we are seated with him in the heavenly places and so great. Is the exaltation that has come to man? In the exaltation of christ that we are. Then baptized into the one name singular of the living god, as jesus declares all authority in heaven and earth has been given unto him and he holds fourth the completeness.

Of his deity. He then announces that not only is all authority in heaven and on earth given to himself as god. But we, then our baptized Not into Moses, not into john the baptizer. We are baptized into the name singular. Of the living god and the name that he gives us for the living God at that point is father, son.

And holy spirit. So that it is true. That. No one had known god at any time until christ himself. Came to be known by faith. Now, that's an amazing thing to say. When you think about the different ways that god had revealed himself, At different times, he said, of moses.

That he spoke to Moses face to face, he said of abraham, that abraham was the friend of god. There was the appearance Uh, whatever that appearance looked like of god, on the mountain, with the elders. Of israel on the mountain who saw the lord and they ate and drank on the mountain, there was that display that

god made of himself.

After Moses had interceded for Israel. After the calf incident, and God had, Uh, conceded to Moses's request and hidden him in the cleft of the rock and made his glory to pass by and allowed, Moses to see the trailing of that glory there. Is that glory that Moses?

Uh, saw and interacted with in the tent of meeting. That was so great that it made him to radiate in a way that terrified others when Moses came out of the tent of meeting there. Is that glory that is announced multiple times to Israel. You shall see the glory of the Lord today.

In Leviticus chapter 9, when the way into the tabernacle has been opened by the sacrificial Uh, system and the priests have been ordained. And their Lord's displays his glory and multiple ways and the people shout and fall on their faces. But then John comes along and he says, Despite all of the other ways.

That God had revealed his glory in such intensity. You think of Isaiah in chapter 6, Describing the vision in which he had seen the Lord upon his throne high and lifted up. Despite all of the ways that God had communicated something about himself, No one. Had seen him. At any time.

It was finally. In the coming of the Son. Who did not have anything in his physical appearance, that would come into us. As Isaiah tells us, It was finally in the coming of the Son. That God fully revealed himself. No one has seen God. At any time, the only begotten who is in the bosom of the Father he has. And there are different translations, exegeses of him.

Fully revealed. Completely. Explained. And that's why when the word became flesh and to out among us and tabernacle among us that was the tabernacle moment. Of greatest glory. Because those who saw him by faith, beheld his glory, as of the only begotten of the Father full of steadfast, love and faithfulness.

The very thing that God had announced about himself on the mountain when he revealed himself and declared his name to Moses. But now, Jesus has come. The fulfillment of that revelation as different as a 3D real life interaction with a person versus a 2D light pencil sketch on a flat piece of paper.

So different is the glory of knowing Jesus by the faith beholding, his glory by spirit, given faith knowing his character and in knowing his character knowing the living God himself. And so there is one true. And living God who has always been trying. He has always been, of course, from all eternity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And who intentionally reserves? The full revelation of himself. For when his Son becomes flesh. And tabernacles among us. And that is one of the great things that is declared to us. In the baptism on earth that the Lord Jesus has commanded for his church. You know, we have said many times the great Christian baptism.

Is when the Son. Pours out the Spirit, who is the Father's Spirit and who is the Son's Spirit? That is the great question. Baptism to pouring out of the Holy Spirit, but Christian water baptism. Has been given to us by the Lord Jesus. For among other things. One of the great purposes for which he is given it to us as to announce to us that the one Living and true, God.

Whom to deny is to be under wrath. And whom to know. And to glorify. And to give thanks to him. Is a consequence and a consequence of salvation and the blessedness into which salvation brings us. That to know him is to know, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Particularly. In the Son himself.

To whom all authority in heaven, and on earth has been given. And it is in recognition of this. On the last day, that those who have been saved will with Unimaginable joy. Confess. And confess with their mouths. That Jesus Christ, is Yahweh. To the praise of God, the Father. That is as the name that is above every name not only on earth and under the earth.

But his is the name that is above every name in heaven Yahweh. And, Eventually, everyone will be trinitarian. Because every knee will bow. And every tongue will confess. And it will either be with that unimaginable joy. Of someone who knows. That Jesus is God, and this has become their great hope.

That God himself has come as Christ. To save us. Or it will be with unimaginable horror. That the God, who created all things. They have denied and rejected. And so the his glory will express itself upon them forever. And of course, his glory will express itself upon them in wrath.

And there are those who For him. The wrath comes because they did not know God. But second Thessalonians one also describes. That wrath as coming on those who do not obey the gospel. The good news that Jesus is the living. God, the good news that God has triune and has given all that he has to give his Son.

To be our savior and his Spirit. To be with us and dwell in us as the Spirit, of his Son, who is sent forth into our hearts, And there will be that horror on the last day. Which will be especially for those who have heard of Christ. But they did not obey the gospel and there he is.

God, the Son. And all his glory. Um, And we will know the invisible God Father Son and Holy Spirit in. The one in which he has made himself visible. God, the Son incarnate. And so, Are there more gods than one? The answer, of course is there is but one Only.

The living and true God. And this is, What we have come to know most fully. In the Lord, Jesus Christ.