

BC Article 1 – I Believe in God

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: We will begin a **systematic study of the Scriptures** as outlined in the Belgic Confession of Faith. The Belgic Confession was written in 1561 by Guido De Bres in the south of The Netherlands. It is 1 of the 3 Forms of Unity, forming the foundations of the Reformed churches. It was written during a time of severe persecution of Christians by Roman Catholics. De Bres was murdered by the Roman Catholics. He was publicly hanged for teaching these truths.

Today we will begin the most exciting doctrines of the whole Bible – the doctrine of the nature of God – and what your response ought to be. Sadly, this doctrine is often attacked by non-Christians and often ignored by Christians. Both rob themselves. But it must not be so with you.

Our headings are:

Is there only one God?

What is this one God like?

How are you to Respond to this one God?

Is There only one God?

We all believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths that there is a **single** and **simple spiritual** being, whom we call God

1. Your God is single. There are no other real gods...and no one can demonstrate表明 his power or reality. The Bible teaches that Allah is not real. Buddha is not real. Vishnu is not real. Siva is not real. Yahweh is real.

Isaiah 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; **Besides Me there is no God.**

Look at the Shema Israel:

Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the **LORD is one!**

Though, demons, pretending to be gods, can do powerful things, they are limited by God. And when it comes to idols偶像 they cannot move.

Is this an intolerant view? Yes. God is not tolerant of other gods. Do you see why this is exciting? You are serving in one true God. Everyone else has a counterfeit假冒 god. You are privileged. You are blessed. Let this bubble in your heart.

1Corinthians 8:4...concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing ...and that there is no other God but one. 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), 6 yet for us there is one God...

2. Your God is Simple簡一, not made up of many parts. You are made of many parts, not God. This means he is dependent on no one. There can be no contradiction in one! Your hands depend on your eye...and your brain...and your shoulder. But God does not depend upon anyone or anything

else.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator中保between God and men...

3. Your God is a Spirit. He does not have a body. What about Jesus-he was a man, wasn't he? Jesus only took on a human body in the act of redeeming his people. He is a spiritual being. His Divinity was not mixed with his human flesh.

John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

What is this one God like?

-and that He is eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, immutable, infinite, almighty, perfectly wise, just, good, and the overflowing fountain of all good.

1. Your God is eternal. This means he has no beginning or end.

Isaiah 40:28 - Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary...

Which relationship you know can be like this? Even marriages, to the farthest end, end when one person dies. But your God is forever. The one you need for eternity is the only one who is eternal. Excited?

2. Your God is incomprehensible不可思议. No one can fully understand God – as God reminded Job long ago.

Job 11:7,9 "Can you search (understand) out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty? [The] measure [of God] is longer than the earth And broader than the sea.

But there are many things you can know about God. And this is the point. Though God is incomprehensible in the extent of his being, **yet you get to know much about him.** See what this is exciting? This is much more than getting to know the details of some famous actor or sportsman who will do little or nothing for you!

3. Your God is invisible. This means God cannot be seen except to the limited extent he reveals himself to you.

John 4:24 - "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

But you are able to know him...feel him...experience him...talk to him...listen to him... Isn't this an awesome privilege? His invisibility shows he is not limited by time or space!

4. Your God is immutable不变– **he cannot change.** This is a difficult concept in a world where change is the norm准则.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow (hint) of turning.

God doesn't change his promises or his mind, unlike your husband after you get married, or a boss who promised a promotion or a raise in pay and then failed to deliver. **God's immutability might confuse people because it looks as if God changes his mind.** But God uses conditions. For

example, he might say: "I will destroy Nineveh in 40 days." But the condition is that if man "repents" then God would not do it.

5. Your God is infinite. This means God has no limitations.

Job 26:14 Indeed these are the mere edges of His ways, And how small a whisper we hear of Him! But the thunder of His power who can understand?"

Man can only know the outskirts of God's ability. And this one, this infinite one, is your Father! If you think your father was great for being able to buy you things...or help you...think about your heavenly Father. And your father might have wanted to do more for you, but couldn't. **That will make you put your hand over your mouth.**

6. Your God is almighty. He is the Lord of Hosts – or Armies. God is able to do anything he wants and he delights to do good for his children – so you do not need to worry about anything. You are safe.

Isaiah 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

Genesis 17:1 - When 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.

And he has conquered your greatest enemy already – death! He did this in Jesus Christ. Arminians see God as impotent无能为力, that he is somehow stuck. But they need to know that unless God pulls man to himself, man would not be able to come and be saved. You didn't win against the Devil because you destroyed him.

7. Your God is perfectly wise. He never "grew" in wisdom. While God's wisdom is often used in relation to his creation, you also know that he knows what is best for you in every situation. You don't have to bite your fingernails or worry.

Romans 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

You know how difficult it is for you to know which job to take -because you aren't perfectly wise, or how to discipline your children to get to their heart, or how pick a spouse, because you can't tell which one is most valuable. But you know that you can get his wisdom! God is the source. He tells you how to be saved, sanctified, and glorified.

8. Your God is just. This is a terror to the non-Christian who cannot escape his judgment. This makes him afraid. God is not some kind of old grandpa who will give you whatever you want.

Nehemiah 9:33 However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly在一切临到我们身上的事上, 你都是公义的; 因为你所行的是信实的, 我们所行的是邪恶的

But for the Christian, there is joy because you know that your justice was put on Christ and you are 100% in the clear. All charges against you have been dropped. You are a free man!

9. Your God is good and the source of all good to his children in abundance. Good can only come from God or from those whom God affects. And since he is your Father through Christ, you can expect to get those good things from him. God is not good to those who are outside of his family.

Psalm 119:68 - You are good, and do good; Teach me Your statutes律例

And he knows when to give you what is good for you and he knows to say 'no' when he needs to. So while God is distinct and strong in his character, yet he is loving, close, and caring to his children. More, he uses his characteristics to bless and protect his children. You see, it is not just who God is, but it is who God is in my circumstances! Just as he helped David, he will help me. So do you have troubles? God is with you...not just as a companion, but as a helper as well. But his ultimate goodness was sending his Son to the cross to save you. What joy!

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

How are you to respond to this one God?

We all believe with the heart and confess with the mouth

1. You must believe in your God with all your heart, soul, and mind. This is not simply an intellectual assent that something is true. Rather, this is speaking of a heartfelt trust 从内心深处的信靠 that something is true based on knowledge of God and assurance in God. You can simply say that this means you must **have faith in God.**

2. You must confess your God publicly. It is not enough to have faith. There are no secret Christians. But the true Christian doesn't have to be forced to do this! He knows God's goodness and wants to boast about it.

3. You must live for this one true God— you work and worship him. This means you are not be afraid or ashamed to live as a Christian even in the most hostile environment.

James 2:17 Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

4. Be prepared to suffer for believing the truth about God from inside and outside of the church.

From the outside:

You may lose friends...but they are not worth keeping if they dislike you serving God.

You maybe mocked嘲笑 by those of other religions and the lame-stream press.

You may be killed for confessing that there is no God but Jehovah God and that all other gods are idols or representation of demons. And more and more Christians are being called to prove they believe in this one true God by giving their lives for him!

From the inside:

Because there are churches where they have a low view of God and a high view of man, you might have to consider looking for a better place to worship if you are in such a church. If a church teaches that God's hands are tied, this is an abominable可恶 thing. You see, if you have a low view or understanding of God, you will never work or worship him like you should.

Conclusion:

There is only one true God. He is eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, immutable, infinite, almighty, perfectly wise, just, good, and the overflowing fountain of all good.

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. You are the child of this magnificent and magnanimous God. Get excited if you aren't.

2. You must publicly confess that this one God is true, you must love him, and you must worship for his greatness and for his goodness to you. There is no room for secret love of God; you can't secretly love God. He wants you to let the world know that you belong to him – even as a woman shows off her wedding ring and wants the world to see and speaks of her husband's love. How much more God's love!

If you are not a Christian, God is real – though you may not think so. He is great and he is good. You are robbing yourself of the benefits of knowing the greatness and goodness of God. You can't enjoy the peace he gives...peace of the soul. Further, God will make you confess that he is the one true God, full of greatness and power, with force if you are not willingly confess this. Do what is right today and recognize God for his greatness and goodness of sending Jesus Christ to die on the cross for sinners.