

THE PORTRAIT OF GOD: 2004 National Conference Message #10

The Lord Our God, is One: The Simplicity of God

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Scripture indicates that God is not composed of parts and is not divisible. This attribute of God has traditionally been referred to as God's "simplicity." In this lecture, Sinclair Ferguson will explain the meaning and implications of this doctrine.

He begins reading Exodus 3. Why?

1. The Simplicity of God
 - a.
2. God's Simplicity is almost beyond our ability to Grasp.
3. Definition? Reference to this attribute throughout History. Something so stunning, so singular, to say that God is pure spirit, without body, parts or passions." "God is without origin. With Composition. Without Becoming. HE IS; HE IS ALL HE IS. Still God reveals Himself to us as the Three-fold members of the Trinity. Tri-personal God. Not just the Unmoved Mover.
4. How has this been revealed? To Moses at the Burning Bush. The God of time and eternity: "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." To care for and rescue His own. Who shall I say sent me? I AM WHO I AM. Any further description... diminishes God's pure self.
5. God in the bush... not of the bush, nor consumes the bush. In no wise dependent on the creation.
6. The Simplicity of God. He's not a compound of anything else. Pure Self... Godness!
7. The Simplicity of God and His Attributes
 - a. Attributes and God are not separate things. One and the same... He is His attributes. Not that God has goodness and holiness... He is these!
 - b. Simplicity is not separating... even as his attributes are one w/ each other. Each describing the nature of Godness!
 - c. God in Himself is too much. Not see my face...my glory. NO. Even angels cannot see God unfiltered. Only see filtered through redemption. God dwells in unapproachable Light. I Timothy 6:16
8. The Simplicity of God and His Trinity
 - a. God Simplicity is revealed in the Tri-Unity, Mutuality of existence

- b. All that He does, He does as Triune
 - c. In the Olivet Discourse Jesus speaks of His relationship to the Father and the Spirit. At His arrest. I AM HE. All fall before His ineffable glory. And will! Jesus' cry on the cross... My God, My God... unity, yet, separation. Almost exhausts self at the edge of His existence... almost separates the inseparable. That's how the Gospel works. Disintegrates our sin through the suffering of Christ. Isaiah 6. Undone by the presence of God
9. The Simplicity of God and His Worship
- a. We really are just talking about God.
 - b. How wonderful is grace and mercy of God. Makes us who were unacceptable, incapable of coming near... brought near through Christ!