

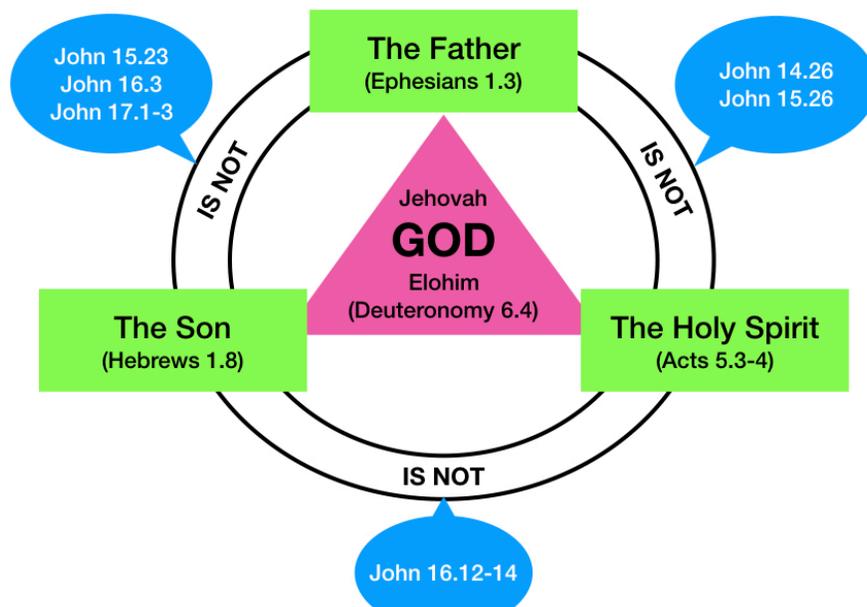
Godhead Class

November/December 2018

December 2: Roles within the Godhead

Our studies to this point have revealed that there are three persons who equally share in the designation "God" – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As distinct persons, they have differing roles and functions; these different roles, being fulfilled together, produce the unity described by Moses in Deuteronomy 6.4.

There are a number of biblical texts we can reference which help us to understand the different roles (and distinct personhood) of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. John's gospel account of Jesus traveling with His apostles to the Garden of Gethsemane (John 14-17) provides a clear presentation of the separate roles and personhood of the Godhead.



SEPARATE ROLES IN THE GODHEAD FROM JOHN 14-17

Scripture is quite clear that the 3 members of the Godhead have distinct, yet complementary, roles. However, we can better understand the Godhead by understanding these roles.

While they are divine, both the Son and the Holy Spirit have willingly submitted themselves to the Father's will (Son - Philippians 2.4-8; Holy Spirit - John 14.26). Willing submission, as we have noted previously, does not rob an individual of personhood or significance (cf. Ephesians 5 husband/wife, church/Christ relationship). The role of the Son during the incarnation was, ultimately, His atoning death (John 2.18ff; John 8.29). He functions now as our mediator and High Priest (1 Timothy 2.5; Hebrews 4.14-16). The role of the Holy Spirit has been primarily with regard to the revelation of God's will (1 Corinthians 2.10ff; Ephesians 3.5; 5.18; 2 Peter 1.20f). The role of the Father is the role of headship and authority (1 Cor. 11.3; Matthew 28.18). He is the One to whom our prayers are directed (1 Tim. 2.1-5) and the One who will bring life on earth to an end (Matthew 24.35f).

- 1) Find a passage (we haven't referenced yet) which treats any two members of the Godhead as separate persons: _____

- 2) Why is it incorrect to view the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three manifestations of the same person? Practically, what harm is done by not recognizing three persons in the Godhead? _____

- 3) Understanding the primary role of the Holy Spirit, how does this help us interpret a passage like Romans 8.26? _____
