

TRIUNE GOD

The LORD Our God

Assumption: God is Creator.

- See Isaiah 40:28.
- So then divine status is determined primarily by identity (WHO God is), not nature (WHAT qualities make up God).

The Shema: “Hear, O Israel: THE LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deut. 6:4).

- The LORD = Yahweh (meaning “I am”, see Ex. 3:14).
- God = Elohim (generic Hebrew term for God or gods).
- SO THEN...the LORD (His name) is God (His identity), much as Ryan (my name) is human (my identity).

The Shema in the New Testament: “...yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, & one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist” (1 Cor. 8:6).

- Lord = Jesus Christ (Greek term *kurios*, equivalent to Hebrew Yahweh)
- God = The Father (Greek term *theos*, equivalent to Hebrew term Elohim)

How could Jesus be divine if the Shema claimed that “the LORD is one”?

According to the apostle Paul, the Triunity of God is not adding to the Shema but is discovered within the Shema. Namely, the Father is seen as God, and Jesus is seen as the LORD. But this can get confusing.

- Who is Yahweh? In reality, Father, Son, & Spirit.
- Is Jesus God? Yes, but the Father is ascribed as God in Paul’s writing.

So the point is not to SEPARATE the Father from the Son (much as we cannot separate the LORD from God), but this is the apostle Paul’s genius way of UNITING yet simultaneously distinguishing the Father and the Son. So then, Jesus is not adding to the Shema but is discovered within it. Indeed, the LORD is God, and He is one!

The Name(s) of God

Let us put my proposal to the test. **Reading through 1 Thessalonians**, write down every verse that references *God* or *Lord*. We'll consider the Spirit another time. Each time you read of *God* or *Lord*, ask if this is referencing the Father or the Son.

For example,

1 Thess. 1:3: "...remembering before our God & Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

God = Father

Lord = Jesus Christ

The Triune God in 1 Thessalonians	
God	Lord