

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH CHAPTER 2 – OF GOD, AND OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Section 1. There is but one only¹ living and true God² who is infinite in being and perfection³, a most pure spirit⁴, invisible⁵, without body, parts⁶, or passions⁷;

immutable⁸, immense⁹, eternal¹⁰, incomprehensible¹¹, almighty¹², most wise¹³, most holy¹⁴, most free¹⁵, most absolute¹⁶;

working all things according to the counsel of His own immutable and most righteous will¹⁷, for His own glory¹⁸;

most loving¹⁹, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin²⁰;

the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him²¹;

and withal, most just, and terrible in His judgments²², hating all sin²³, and who will by no means clear the guilty.²⁴

¹ *ESV Deuteronomy 6:4. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ^{ESV 1 Corinthians 8:4. Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one" . . . yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.}*

² *ESV 1 Thessalonians 1:9. For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. ^{ESV Jeremiah 10:10. But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.}*

³ *ESV Job 11:7. Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty? It is higher than heaven- what can you do? Deeper than Sheol- what can you know? Its measure is longer than the earth and broader than the sea. ^{ESV Job 26:14. Behold, these are but the outskirts of his ways, and how small a whisper do we hear of him! But the thunder of his power who can understand?}*

⁴ *ESV John 4:24. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.*

⁵ *ESV 1 Timothy 1:17. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

⁶ *ESV Deuteronomy 4:15-16. Therefore watch yourselves very carefully. Since you saw no form on the day that the LORD spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire. Beware lest you act corruptly by making a carved image for yourselves, in the form of any figure, the likeness of male or female. ^{ESV John 4:24. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. ^{ESV Luke 24:39. See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.}}*

⁷ *ESV Acts 14:11, 15. And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" . . . But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.*

⁸ *ESV James 1:17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

ESV Malachi 3:6. For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.

⁹ *ESV 1 Kings 8:27. But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house that I have built! ^{ESV Jeremiah 23:23. Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD.}*

¹⁰ *ESV Psalm 90:2. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. ^{ESV 1 Timothy 1:17. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.}*

¹¹ *ESV Psalm 145:3. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.*

¹² *ESV Genesis 17:1. When Abram was ninety-nine years old the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ^{ESV Revelation 4:8. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,}*

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"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

¹³ *ESV Romans 16:27. to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

¹⁴ *ESV Isaiah 6:3. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"* *ESV Revelation 4:8. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

¹⁵ *ESV Psalm 115:3. Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.*

¹⁶ *ESV Exodus 3:14. God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

¹⁷ *ESV Ephesians 1:11. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will.*

¹⁸ *ESV Proverbs 16:4. The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.* *ESV Romans 11:36. For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.*

¹⁹ *ESV 1 John 4:8, 16. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.*

²⁰ *ESV Exodus 34:6. The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

²¹ *ESV Hebrews 11:6. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*

²² *ESV Nehemiah 9:32. Now, therefore, our God, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love, let not all the hardship seem little to you that has come upon us, upon our kings, our princes, our priests, our prophets, our fathers, and all your people, since the time of the kings of Assyria until this day. Yet you have been righteous in all*

that has come upon us, for you have dealt faithfully and we have acted wickedly.

²³ *ESV Psalm 5:5. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.*

²⁴ *ESV Nahum 1:2-3. The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty. His way is in whirlwind and storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.* *ESV Exodus 34:7. Keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."*

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Section 2. God has all life²⁵, glory²⁶, goodness²⁷, blessedness²⁸, in and of Himself; and is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creatures which He has made²⁹, nor deriving any glory from them³⁰, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them.

He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things³¹; and has most sovereign dominion over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatsoever Himself pleases.³²

In His sight all things are open and manifest³³, His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature³⁴, so as nothing is to Him contingent, or uncertain.³⁵

He is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands.³⁶

To Him is due from angels and men, and every other creature, whatsoever worship, service, or obedience He is pleased to require of them.³⁷

²⁵ *ESV* John 5:26. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.

²⁶ *ESV* Acts 7:2. And Stephen said: "Brothers and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Haran,"

²⁷ *ESV* Psalm 119:68. You are good and do good; teach me your statutes.

²⁸ *ESV* 1 Timothy 6:15. Which he will display at the proper time- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. *ESV* Romans 9:5. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

²⁹ *ESV* Acts 17:24. The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

³⁰ *ESV* Job 22:2-3. Can a man be profitable to God? Surely he who is wise is profitable to himself. Is it any

pleasure to the Almighty if you are in the right, or is it gain to him if you make your ways blameless?

³¹ *ESV* Romans 11:36. For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

³² *ESV* Revelation 4:11. Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. *ESV* 1 Timothy 6:15. Which he will display at the proper time- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. *ESV* Daniel 4:25, 35. That you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will . . . all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"

³³ *ESV* Hebrews 4:13. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

³⁴ *ESV* Romans 11:33. Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? *ESV* Psalm 147:5. Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

³⁵ *ESV* Acts 15:18. Known from of old. *ESV* Ezekiel 11:5. And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and he said to me, "Say, Thus says the LORD: So you think, O house of Israel. For I know the things that come into your mind."

³⁶ *ESV* Psalm 145:17. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works. *ESV* Romans 7:12. So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

³⁷ *ESV* Revelation 5:12-14. Saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

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Section 3. In the unity of the Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.³⁸

The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father;³⁹ the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.⁴⁰

³⁸ *ESV Matthew 3:16-17. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."* ^{ESV 28:19. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.} ^{ESV 2 Corinthians 13:14. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.}

³⁹ *ESV John 1:14, 18. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

⁴⁰ *ESV John 15:26. But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. Galatians 4:6. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. Considering people today and how they think about God, which of the following comes closet to describing the view of an average America?

- They think of God as He describes Himself in Scripture.
- They think of God the way they perceive Him to be in their own thoughts.

2. What is the image of God that our popular culture presents today? What characterizes God according to this view?

3. Reviewing the WCF list of the attributes of God, which are hard for people today to accept as being characteristics of God? Why?

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4. Would you say that many persons today prefer to have a God they can make demands upon rather than a God who makes demands on them – to serve them rather than to a God they can serve?

- A God that makes demands on them and that they are responsible to serve.*
- A God that they can make demands upon and that will serve them.*

5. What does the WCF mean to convey in stating that God doesn't have "passions"? (Check one or more as the correct answer):

- God does not experience mood swings*
- God does not become depressed*
- God does not lose His temper*
- God has no emotions*
- God doesn't like "chick flicks"*

6. Is any one attribute of God more definitive of God than another? And thus more important than the others?

- Yes and if so, which _____.*
- No, all God's attributes are characteristic of God.*

7. What do you think about asking or answering questions like, "What's your favorite attribute of God? What do you like about God? What do you like and not like about God?"

8. Some have said that God exists for Himself but we exist for Him. If God alone is self-existent (and obviously He is), what does that say about our relationship to Him?

9. Review the list of the attributes of God and then write down ways that we *CANNOT* be like God and ways that we *CAN* resemble God (in a lesser sense):

ways we *CANNOT* be like God:

ways we *CAN* resemble God (in a lesser sense):

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10. How can it be said that Jesus is both eternal and fully God on the one hand and yet “begotten” of the Father” on the other hand? (Section Three)

11. The Bible says that “God is love.” If love requires a being to love, how could God be love before He created angels or men?

12. Can Jesus Christ be God and also be created by God? Is there a time when Christ was not and came into being?

Question 1

- Yes*
- No*

Question 2:

- Yes*
- No*

13. Keep in mind that God is Tri-personal, One Being *and* Three Persons. Regarding the biblical teaching concerning the godhead, the Trinity, which statement should be considered as true (mark as many as are true):

- The Father, Son and Spirit are one God and thus one being.*
- The Father, Son and Spirit are three separate equal beings with one purpose*
- The Father, Son and Spirit are equal in being*
- Regarding His Being, the Father is greater than the Son*
- The Father, Son and Spirit are three separate persons and yet One God*
- Regarding their Persons, the Father is greater than the Son in the sense of the role that the Father has in the godhead in relationship to the Son*
- The Father, Son and Spirit can be said to be three different roles (rather than three separate persons) that the One God plays*

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14. Someone can deny the Trinity, believe that Jesus is the first created being through whom God created all else and be considered a Christian:

- Yes
- No

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: List three attributes of Christ that you will ponder and keep before you in the coming weeks

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

MEMORIZE THIS VERSE: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14 (NASU).*

LOOK UP AND READ THESE VERSES: *Psalm 110; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Luke 10:21-22; Acts 2:33; Ephesians 2:18*

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HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

By Reginald Heber and John B. Dykes

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim
falling down before Thee
Who was, and is
and evermore shall be

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy
There is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love, and purity

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy Name
In earth, and sky, and sea;
Holy, holy, holy
Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons
Blessed Trinity!

COME, THOU ALMIGHTY KING

By Charles Wesley

Come, Thou Almighty King
Help us Thy Name to sing
Help us to praise!
Father all glorious, over all victorious
Come and reign over us
Ancient of Days!

Come, Thou incarnate Word
Gird on Thy mighty sword
Our prayer attend!
Come, and Thy people bless
And give Thy Word success
Spirit of holiness
On us descend!

Come, Holy Comforter
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour
Thou Who almighty art
Now rule in every heart
And ne'er from us depart
Spirit of power!

To Thee, great One in Three
Eternal praises be
Hence, evermore
Thy sovereign majesty
May we in glory see
And to eternity
Love and adore!

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