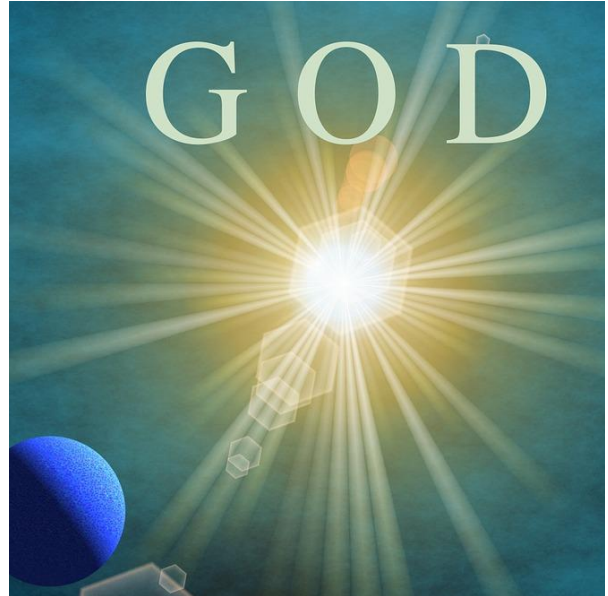


The Apostles' Creed In God

January 15, 2023—Sermon Discussion Guide

This phrase is very short and very simple. I believe **in God**. There are many people around the world that believe in a god or many gods. There are also many who believe in our God, Yahweh, Allah. But Christians see God differently than Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and others who profess belief in God. Let's examine more closely the characteristics of our God.

Just from personal experience or knowledge how do you think God is different for Christians than it is for other religions? List some differences here:



Attributes of God

What do you currently believe about God? Fill out the chart below listing His attributes, His character, and His relationship with you.

Attributes of God	Character of God	My relationship with God

Share your answers with others in your group and add to your chart if you agree with their answers.

Who does God say He is?

Read Exodus 3:13-15. Here God is revealing himself to Moses at the burning bush. "I AM" in Hebrew is usually translated as Yahweh or Jehovah. "I AM" is one of several Hebrew names for God.

- What does God say his name is? What does that mean to you?
- What does the name "I AM" suggest about God's relationship to time, space, and power?

Read Exodus 34:1-10. Here we find Moses meeting God on Mt. Sinai.

- How does God describe himself?
- How does their conversation affect Moses?
- Imagine yourself in Moses' shoes. What would you think about God's revelation—what he says and how he presents himself?

Personal study: Investigate more about God's nature using the following passages: Exodus 20:5-7, Numbers 14:18, 2 Chronicles 30:9, Nehemiah 9:32-35, Psalms 86:15, and Romans 2:2-11.

The Trinity

God has 3 names—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In Matthew 28:19, Jesus directs his disciples to baptize in the name of all three. But how can that be? What does the Trinity mean?

Tritheism believes that there are three separate gods who are not one. They work together but are not one singular god.

Unitarianism believes that there is one god who is not three. Jesus is not God. The Holy Spirit is not God.

"Both are wrong," states Packer in his book, [Affirming the Apostles' Creed](#). He explains that God is simultaneously singular and plural. If your head is spinning, that's ok. This is a very tough concept to truly grasp. God is way too big for us to wrap our minds around Him. However, as Christians, we accept this truth as the foundation on which we build our faith in Christ's gospel. At Woodside we use 2 Corinthians 13:14 as our benediction every Sunday declaring the importance of the Trinity in our faith.

Read Ephesians 1:1-14.

- What does Paul write about the role of each member of the Trinity?
- How does the singular and plural nature of God help you in your worship life and in your personal life?
- If a new Christian asked you to explain the Trinity to them, what would you say?

Personal Study: Read John 1:1-18. How does John reveal the nature of God in these verses?

My take away: Write a list of the characteristics of God for which you are grateful. Lift up a prayer of praise and thanksgiving for who God is to you.
