

**Date** : 2 June 2024  
**Theme** : Evidence of faith  
**Topic** : How can we know which is the true God?  
**Key Verse** : *...Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is One... Deuteronomy 6:4*  
*...This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent... John 17:3*

## Introduction

In our discussion on the One true God, especially in a pluralistic society like Singapore, we are used to our society having *...many gods and many lords... 1 Corinthians 8:5*, just as there were in the ancient world. In fact, the worship of many ancient deities is being revived in the New Age movement today.

We know that the Bible has stated very clearly in *Deuteronomy 6:4... The LORD is one (= only, alone)*. The verse means Yahweh alone is God!

## What is the problem when Christians are unclear who is the One true God?

The word *one* is not just a statement on monotheism but a statement about our relationship with God. He alone is our God, whom we are to worship with all our heart, soul and strength *Deuteronomy 6:5*. If we are to love God with such devotion, we must be certain who He is – God alone, for there is no other.

God had always wanted to be God alone among His people, but He never was – the people always had other gods in the picture. If Christians are not settled in their minds about whether the God they worship is the One True God, how will they live out this conviction with singleness of heart, soul and strength?

## What are common objections to accepting the truth of the One true God?

- Matter of sincerity...*what matters is one's sincerity; the truth is within. No person's enlightenment is more valid than another's...as long as your particular version does not infringe on anyone else's...*
- Cultural differences  
If God so loved the world, He would not reveal Himself to only one group of people on earth, but to all because a Being, like God, would go beyond cultural differences. (Allah, Buddha, Krishna, each is a God to a different cultural group). We should put aside our different interpretations of Him and live and learn from each other.
- Personal choice  
*...I prefer lots of gods and goddesses, a full-fledged buffet menu. People need variety. Your god encourages monotheism... good for you.*

Add to the above is our society's version of tolerance and you will see why a Christian's commitment to the God of the bible does not align with the mindset of inclusivity that our modern culture applauds.

## Conversations on the One true God

The Christian, who has turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, may feel inadequate to give a reasonable answer of his choice. How does he share with a friend about his journey of confronting and questioning his assumptions and past beliefs?  
*...Is this idol (belief system, choice, etc) that I'm holding in my hand a lie?... Isaiah 44:20 nlt*

I like to suggest some questions to generate a friendly heart-to-heart chat, without insisting that you have all the answers and that others are wrong. As *1 Peter 3:15* says we are to give our answers...*with gentleness and respect...*

## 1. What do you expect a true God to be?

### a) His expected Nature

That is, characteristics, distinctive qualities, attributes of such a Deity to be creditable, worthy of your seeking Him.

#### **S.K.I.E.S**

- **S**urpasser (All-Powerful)
  - Creative Power – Designer, Maker, Creator (of all spirits, angels)
  - Sustaining Power – fine tuning and control
  - Owner of heaven and earth
- **K**nowledge of all things
  - past, present and future
  - secrets of the universe
  - hearts of man
- **I**ndependent of other beings (does not need our help to accomplish anything)
- **E**ternal – Has no beginning or ending
- **S**upreme Authority
  - Highest Judge. Everyone, including angelic beings, must give account to Him.

### b) His expected Character

- Faithful – able and willing to keep His Word
- Great – in power, wisdom
- Holy – rejects evil, morally pure
- Loving – God is love; good
- Perfect – in all His works (cannot be improved upon)

### c) His expected Actions

- Communicates with man
  - His written message. Which book?
  - How can we conclude that the Bible is His Word to man?
- Prophecies through prophets in written form, confirms them through historical records.
- Visits His creation to show Himself.

## 2. How do we conclude that the God of the Bible is the true God?

- Can we know God personally?
  - Paul (in Greece) saw an altar, dedicated to the *unknown God*
  - John records...*No one has seen God at any time. The only Begotten Son... He has declared Him... John 1:18*
- Ultimately you can only get to know Him by faith. Since faith needs a basis, a foundation, a Rock, God must show us through evidence of faith.

## 3. How does the One true God reveal Himself?

### A) He must identify Himself by a written record

The question is which record? There are many books making such claims. Assuming that the Bible is His revelation to mankind, what would be the evidences we should expect?

The true God must communicate to us through a book. He must have...

#### a) The story of the world, beginning to the end.

The bible is the only book that tells the beginning and the end of our earth / universe.

b) Knowledge of time

- We expect Him to know major events which will happen in the world way ahead of time, that means centuries ahead and these events must be confirmed exactly as predicted in recorded history. For example, the God of the bible predicted about world empires. In 600BC, Daniel prophesied about world empires from his time stretching 600 years, ie. the Babylonian, Persian, Greek and Roman empires. (Also, an interesting detail of a Greek woman who would end up as the Queen of Egypt; we now know to be Cleopatra).
- Hundreds of prophecies were verifiable with recorded history.  
Ancient kings employ historians to keep records.

c) Perfect 100% accuracy in all His predictions.

B) He must reveal Himself for human eyes to see

a) A love for the whole world caused God to reveal Himself in human form. Details had to be clearly spelled out in a way to prevent deceptions and imitations. Details of Jesus' year of birth, birthplace, sacrificial death, burial, resurrection, ascension were all clearly written down four thousand years before Jesus came to earth.

b) Jesus has come to reveal Himself as the Creator of all things.

- Jesus said ... *You have seen Me, you have seen the Father...*
- John said this about Jesus ... *All things were made by Him.*  
No one else apart from Jesus has made the claim to be Creator God.

C) The true God has given His Spirit. When we call on Jesus' Name, the Holy Spirit will reveal Him to us. Jesus said ... *The Spirit of truth... will tell you (reveal) things to come...* John 16:13

**APPLICATION**

- Using the mind-map, carry out a conversation to present today's topic to 2 pre-believers.  
Topic of conversation: In the profusion of god names, how to identify which is the true God?