

# ANCIENT LOVE

## See With New Eyes, Session 2

BEFORE ALL OF CREATION, for eternal ages past, God existed as a triune fellowship of other-centered love. The God whom Scripture calls “the Ancient of Days” is a God of ancient love. To the question, “What was God doing before humans and angels existed?” Scripture answers, “God is love.” Love is the fundamental essence of the divine identity.

### THE INFINITE BEFORE

*All of reality can be divided into two parts—eternity past and eternity future. God alone occupied eternity past, while we are invited to occupy eternity future.*

**Psalm 90:2**—Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

**Colossians 1:16-17**—<sup>16</sup>By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup>And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

**Titus 1:2**— . . . before time began.

**Daniel 7:9**— . . .the Ancient of Days. . .

### ELOHIM—THE PLURALITY OF GOD

*God is love, and love is other-centered. Therefore, God must be more than a solitary self. In order for love to exist, there must be some other to love. God, then, by definition, is composed of both self and other.*

**Genesis 1:1**—In the beginning God. . .

**Genesis 1:26-27**—<sup>26</sup>Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”. . . <sup>27</sup>So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**1 John 4:8**—God is love.

**1 Corinthians 13:4-5**—Love...does not seek its own.

NIV— . . . is not self-seeking.

**1 John 3:16**—By this we know (the meaning of) love, because He laid down His life for us.

**John 1:1**—In the beginning...God was...with God.

~NOTES~

“God” in Genesis 1:1 is *Elohim* in Hebrew, which is a proper name as a plural noun, indicating that God a plurality of personhood, not a singularity of personhood.

Jesus is God, but not all there is of God. The Father is God, but not all there is of God. The Holy Spirit is God, but not all there is of God.

## THE ONENESS OF GOD

*When the Bible says that there is one God—monotheism—it means that God is a relational unit of social oneness. In other words, God is a unity of three who are one by virtue of their perfect, seamless, utterly other-centered love.*

**Deuteronomy 6:4**—Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!

**John 10:30**—I and My Father are one.

**1 John 5:7**—For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

**Genesis 2:24**—For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

## GOD DELIGHTING IN GOD—AN ETERNAL FRIENDSHIP

*Before creation, God was engaged in a beautiful, delightful, playful relational bliss—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—giving and receiving, giving and receiving, each one to the others in a ceaseless circle of love.*

**Isaiah 42:1**—Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights.

**Zechariah 13:7**—“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd (Christ), against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the LORD of hosts (the Father).

**Proverbs 8:30**—I (Christ) was beside Him (the Father) as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.

**NEB**—I was at His side each day, His darling and delight, playing in His presence continually.

**John 1:18**—No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

**John 17:24**—You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

## OUR ETERNITY FUTURE WITH GOD

*The plan of salvation is the healing process by which God restores His love in us and brings us into eternal love relationship with Himself.*

**John 17:21-26**—<sup>21</sup>that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us. . . <sup>22</sup>just as We are one. . . <sup>24</sup>Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup>O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.

<sup>26</sup>And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

There are two Hebrew words for “one.” First, there is *yacheed*, which means *singularity, numeric one, a solitary item*. Then there is *echad*, which means *oneness of several parts, harmony, compound unity*. *Echad* is the word used here to describe God. God is a unity of persons, plural, not a solitary self.

Not  $1+1+1=3$ , but  $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$