

Each week of 2019 we will take a brief look at one or two questions from the Westminster Shorter Catechism. To read previous weeks' briefs go to oakhillpca.com/wsc

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. *There is but one only, the living and true God.*

Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. *There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.*

Jonathan Edwards has been considered the greatest theologian to ever think and write on the American continent. Therefore, it is astonishing that he wrote this about the topic of the Trinity: "I am far from pretending to explaining the Trinity so as to render it no longer a mystery. I think it to be the highest and deepest of all Divine mysteries still, notwithstanding anything that I have said or conceived about it. I don't intend to explain the Trinity" (*An Unpublished Essay on the Trinity*).

If Edwards did not "intend to explain the Trinity," neither do I, nor does the Shorter Catechism. When we come up to the mysterious depths of God, the safest and most faithful thing we can do is affirm what is plain in Scripture. And this is what we have in questions 5 and 6.

Moses declares in Deuteronomy 6:4, "The Lord our God, the Lord is one." And God himself states in Isaiah 44:6, "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god." Philosophers and theologians throughout the ages have argued for the existence of God, but the testimony of Scripture is that there is only one "living and true God" (1 Thes. 1:9) who created the world and us for his glory.

When Jesus was baptized, "the Spirit of God descended like a dove and came to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heave said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'" (Matt. 3:16-17). Beyond our ability to fully comprehend, God is revealed in three persons, at the same time. The Son is affirmed to be God (Col. 2:9). The Holy Spirit is affirmed to be God (Acts 5:3-4). The voice from heaven is from the Father.

So we have three persons in one God. While we cannot explain how this can be, we are left to wonder at their unified work for our redemption (1 Pet. 1:2). Our salvation springs forth from the Trinity.