# REFUTING ONENESS PENTCOSTALISM

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

The Oneness/Modalist theological assertions regarding the '*Son of God*' (*as defined as the humanity in-dwelt by deity and temporal*) grievously conflict with the very essence of true, Biblical Christology. For according to the *Apostle John*, the ultimate test for Christian orthodoxy is the acknowledgement of the perpetual state of *Jesus Christ* as God-man; namely, *Jesus* remains in the flesh. In both *1st* and *2nd John*, the *Apostle* provides a sharp refutation against the flesh-denying *Gnostics* (*rejecting the idea of God manifesting via human form*). This is especially seen in *1 John 4:1-3*…

*"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ IS come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ IS come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." —1 John 4:1-3*

The Greek verb *elëluthota* is the perfect active participle of *erchomai ('to come')*. The import of the perfect tense is a *completed action* in the past with continuous effects; it denotes '*a present state resulting from a past action*'. Therefore, *1 John 4:2* essentially states, *"Every spirit that confesses that Jesus has come and remains in the flesh is from God". John's* first and second Epistles, as with *Paul's* letter to the *Colossians*, served as a pointed refutation against the *Docetic Gnostics* who denied that *Jesus became and remains in the flesh.* In the same way, *Oneness theology* denies that the *Jesus* became flesh and continues to remain in the flesh. Instead, they substitute the '*Son*' as the humanity *Jesus* indwelt and that the *Son* was both created and had a beginning. This is to deny the deity of the *Son of God.*

The *Apostle Paul* was very clear…

*"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." —Colossians 2:9*

The Greek word *katoikei* translated '*dwelleth*' is a present active indicative form of *katoikeō.* The present tense indicates that the fullness of absolute Deity *(theotétos) permanently* and *continuously* dwells in '*bodily form*' (*sõmatikõs)* thus, further contradicting any idea of a cessation of the *Son.* Yet, the following statement, though a more radical and extreme view, is not an uncommon view of the *Son of God* among *Modalist's* (*Oneness*)...

*"I contend that there never was a Son in heaven. The Son did not go to heaven, neither did He come from heaven. The Son of God did not rise from the dead. The Sonship started in the womb of Mary and ended on the cross...There is no scripture in the Bible that says, Jesus Christ is the Son of God now. I repeat, THERE IS NO SCRIPTURE IN THE BIBLE THAT SAYS, JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD NOW. I defy the entire world to produce Bible for such a statement. There is none." —Bishop S.C. Johnson (Apostolic Pentecostal Church)*

This is blasphemy, plain and simple. Moreover, I contend it is damnable.

*"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus IS the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God." —1 John 4:15*

*"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ IS come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." —2 John 1:7*

The Epistles of *First* and *Second John* were penned approximately 70-90 years *after Jesus'* crucifixion, when according to some *Modalists*, the '*manifestation of the Son*' (*as they define it*) was completed. However, notice that the *Apostle John*, under the inspiration of God's Spirit, framed the above verses in *present tense*. *Modalism*, with its rejection of the *Biblical Godhead*, seduces men into denying that *Jesus* is the *Son of God* <u>*now*</u> and that He is fully God and fully man, <u>*now*</u>. The Scriptures teach *Jesus is* the *Son of God* and *Jesus Christ is* come in the flesh, meaning He is fully God and fully man, *now* and *forever more*! These are two confessions many *Modalists* clearly refuse to make. This is in addition to the fact that all *Oneness Pentecostals*, if they are true to their doctrine, deny the deity of the *Son* by asserting the *Son* had a beginning. Hence, their doctrine is *anti-christ*.

Generally speaking, *Modalists* assert the '*Son'* is merely the '*humanity'* that *Jesus* indwelt. They therefore, by default, deny the eternal *Sonship of Christ* as well as the deity of the *Son*. Rejection of the '*eternal Sonship*' of *Christ* is heresy of the worst sort. It is a clever, satanic delusion to seduce people into a denial of the Biblical *Son of God*, and dangerous in the extreme. To suggest the '*Son*' is merely the humanity *Jesus* in-dwelt is to reject the deity of the *Son*. Deity has no beginning and no ending. Deity creates and is not created. Deity is immutable and never changes. Thus, when *Modalists* declare the *Son* has a beginning or end they, by implication, reject the deity of the *Son*. Notice the following sober absolute in *1 John 5:11-12*...

"*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his SON. He that hath the SON hath life; and he that hath not the SON of God hath not life."*

Remember, the *Word of God* is eternal. It is forever settled in heaven and *Jesus* declared the Scriptures cannot be broken (*Ps 119:89; Jn 10:35*). What *1 John 5:11-12* says *HAS ALWAYS*

*BEEN TRUE, HAS NEVER CHANGED, AND WILL REMAIN THE SAME THROUGHOUT ETERNITY*. In one million years, or 100 million years, or 100 billion years, both backwards and forward, *1 John 5:11-12* was/will always read exactly the same and was/will always be absolutely true. What are the implications of this? Notice, the *Apostle John*, under divine inspiration, used the term '*Son'* not the name of *Jesus*. For those who believe what the Bible says about the godhead, this is no problem, because the *Son* is not merely the humanity *Jesus* indwelt, but synonymous with *Jesus* Himself. However, for *Modalists*, who insist the *Son* had a beginning and many assert the Son has an end, this presents many problems (*many Modalists assert the Son, the humanity or body Jesus indwelt, was only used to manifest Jesus during the time between the cradle and the grave*). This being so, consider the following absolutes from *1 John 5:11-12*…

- First, *life* is intrinsically associated with the *Son*, this is an eternal absolute because the Scriptures cannot be broken nor change and this *life* spoken of in *1 John 5:11-12* is obviously *eternal life*.
- Thus, if the *life* spoken of here is *eternal* and that *life* is contingent on the *Son*, then is stands to reason that the *Son* must be eternal as well.
- Conversely, if the *Son* is temporal, then this life, spoken of by the *Apostle John*, must logically be temporal as well.

If *Modalists* declare the *Son* is temporal they, by implication, reject the *Son of God* represented in the Scriptures and have no *eternal life*. When *Modalists* declare the *Son* is merely the humanity *Jesus* indwelt, then they cannot and do not *hath Him* either now or in eternity, as is demanded in *1 John 5:12* and are therefore without *life*. If there is no *Son* (*only Jesus*) in eternity, then no one can *hath the Son* once the *Son* expires. Thus, no one can have the corresponding *eternal life* declared in *1 John 5:12*, since this is the stated condition. Dangerous indeed.

How do you respond to the following two questions, 'YES' or 'NO'…

1. Is *Jesus* the '*Son'*, not merely sometimes, but *now*, and *all the time*, and will He always, without exception, be the *'Son'* throughout all eternity?
2. Is *Jesus* both fully man and fully God, inhabiting His resurrected/glorified body, never being simply deity/Spirit alone, now and throughout all eternity?

*"Whosoever shall confess that Jesus IS the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God."*
*—1 John 4:15*

*"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ IS come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist." —2 John 1:7*

As J. Oswald Smith, the great Canadian preacher, once said, *"To try and explain the Trinity is to lose your mind, but to explain Him away is to lose your soul".*

Regarding *personhood*, the following words of *Jesus* forever settle the question...

*"It is also written in your law, that the testimony of TWO MEN is true. I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me." —John 8:17-18*

The implications are clear. The law demanded at least two persons (*not one person acting in two or three different modes*) to establish a testimony. *Jesus* uses this multi-personal example from the law to verify His Messianic testimony fulfilled Scriptural protocol. He was exactly who He claimed to be and the standard of the law confirmed this because both *He* (*one person*) and *His Father* (*another person*) bore witness. Obviously, this is true because *Jesus* and *His Father* are *two* of the *three persons* which constitute the One true God. Any other interpretation imposed on this verse is non-sensical.

*Oneness Pentecostals* also teach *Baptismal Regeneration*, which is heresy. Please search under our *Articles & More* section for the article, '*Refuting Baptismal Regeneration*' to learn the details.

—B.W.

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