

CLASS ON *ONENESS WITH GOD*

AMES United Methodist Church

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

2024

INTRODUCTION

1. Class schedule
2. One man's interpretation of Scripture
 - a. Please feel free to bring up other possible interpretations.

PROLOGUE

1. Oneness With God (generally)
2. Everyone seeks to be God in some respect
3. My salvation story
4. I asked God to help me understand His creative purpose for Mankind
5. Along the way, other mysteries will be discussed
 - a. Upon our glorification, all children of God will be mirror images of Jesus Christ and that means we will be fully God and fully man in answer to Jesus's prayer in John 17.
 - b. All spiritually re-born children of God are members of the Spiritual Body of Christ. We have eternal life because Jesus is eternal. Inside Him, we have everything. Outside Him, we have nothing.
 - c. All that God is and does is centered on love.
 - d. Our triune Godhead exists in an everything-at-the-same-time eternity.
 - e. The breath of life, breathed into the nostrils of Adam, was the Word of God, the pre- incarnate Jesus.
 - f. All mankind was written into the Book of Life before the foundation of the world and are blotted out only if they die in their sins.
 - g. All of creation was, in fact, created in the span of six literal days.
 - h. God's limitless faith, powered by His perfect love that hopes all things and never fails, is the means through which all things exist and consist.
 - i. Man was created to have the appearance and characteristics of God.
 - j. Adam and Eve sinned in all three ways a person can sin.
 - k. It was normal for Adam and Eve to communicate with the animals under their dominion.

- l. Adam and Eve (and their progeny) did not fully understand selfless and unconditional love. So, God demonstrated this kind of love through the sacrifice of his only begotten Son for the salvation of our souls.
- m. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, no person shall live more than 999 years or 1 day from God's perspective.
- n. Satan deceived himself into undoing the consequences of his deception of Adam and Eve.
- o. Our glorified bodies will not contain any blood.
- p. Having a servant-of-all mentality is the only way to be simultaneously the greatest and the least in the Kingdom of God.
- q. As priestly kings, we shall be members of an existing Order after Melchizedek, with Jesus as the High Priest.
- r. When God speaks, He speaks Jesus, His Word. When Jesus speaks, he speaks the Members of his spiritual Body. This is the extent of our spiritual oneness with God. Therefore, when we speak, our words have the power of God in them.

CHAPTER ONE God's Master Plan-The Beginning

1. The Hebrew word for God used in **Genesis 1:1** is *Elohim* which is the plural form of this divine name.
 - a. God the Father; His living Spoken Word...Jesus; and the Holy Spirit.
 - i. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the **name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. **Matthew 28:19**
 - ii. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
2. The Hebrew word "bara" means "He created". (V-S-O) (Winebrenner Theological Seminary)
3. The word *Elohim* is used throughout the creation process.
 - a. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. Genesis 1:3
 - b. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. Genesis 1:6
 - c. And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry *land* appear: and it was so. **Genesis 1:9**
 - d. And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. **Genesis 1:11**

- e. And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: **Genesis 1:14**
 - f. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl *that* may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. **Genesis 1:20**
 - g. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. **Genesis 1:24**
 - h. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. **Genesis 1:26**
4. Jesus is the spoken Word of God.
- a. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**
 - b. By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. **Psalms 33:6**
 - c. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: **1 Peter 3:5**
 - d. And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. **Revelation 19:13**
 - e. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*. **John 1:18**
 - f. For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. **John 16:27**
 - g. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. **John 12:49**
5. As the literal breath of God, Jesus is the source of all life.
- a. That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; **1 John 1:1**
 - b. And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Genesis 2:7**
 - c. The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. **Job 33:4**
6. Creation v. Evolution

- a. God defines a day as an evening and a morning. **Genesis 1:5,8,13,19,23,31**
 - b. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day *is* with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **2 Peter 3:8**
 - i. A day is an infinity and infinity is a day.
 - c. From God's eternal perspective, God could have created the entire universe and everything in it in the span of one day but chose to do it over the course of six days.
7. The Role of Faith in the Creation Process
- a. **Hebrews 11:1** tells us "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen".
 - i. Faith can bring about the realization of unseen things that are hoped for.
 - b. One interpretation of this verse is as follows:
 - i. God is love. **1 John 4:8**
 - ii. God is the God of hope. **Romans 15:13**
 - iii. Love hopes all things. **1 Corinthians 13:7**
 - iv. Love never fails. **1 Corinthians 13:8**
 - c. God's limitless loving faith hoped for and brought into realization every created thing, both physical and spiritual.
 - i. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **Hebrews 11:3**
 - ii. Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; **Hebrews 1:3**
 - iii. Our triune Godhead is the same yesterday, today and forever. Their level of loving faithfulness never decreases nor increases. It is always at full tilt. **Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8**
8. The Role of Faith in God's Master Plan for Man
- a. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. **1 John 5:4**
 - b. We walk by faith and not by sight. **2 Corinthians 5:7**
 - c. So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. **Romans 10:17**
 - d. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. **Ephesians 2:8**
 - e. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. **Hebrews 12:2**

- f. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. **Ephesians 4:4-6**
- g. And become one with Him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith. **Philippians 3:9 (NLT)**
- h. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. **John 12:45**
- i. He who sees Me has seen the Father. **John 14:9**
- j. If we are members of the Spiritual Body of Christ, then he who sees us sees Jesus and, therefore, sees God.

CHAPTER TWO The Creation of Man in God's Image, After Their Likeness

1. And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. **Genesis 1:26-27**
 - a. The Hebrew word for "image" is *tselem* which means "resemblance". The Hebrew word for "likeness" is *demuwth* which means "manner or similitude".
2. Man's Endowment with the Appearance and Characteristics of God
 - a. God the Father
 - i. God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth. **John 4:24**
 - ii. God has the appearance of a man.
 1. And above the firmament that *was* over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne *was* the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it. **Ezekiel 1:26**
 - iii. God is perfect. **Matthew 5:48**
 - iv. God cannot lie. **Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:1-2; Hebrews 6:18**
 - v. God is truth, without iniquity, just and right. **Deuteronomy 32:4**
 - vi. God is holy. **Leviticus 11:44-45**
 - vii. God is light. **1 John 1:5**

- viii. God is almighty. **Genesis 17:1**
- ix. God is faithful. **1 Corinthians 1:9**
- x. God is love. **1 John 4:8,16**
 - 1. Love endures long suffering; does not envy; is humble; behaves properly; seeks no personal gain; is not easily provoked; has no evil thoughts; rejoices in truth and not iniquity; bears, believes, hopes for and endures all things and never fails. **1 Corinthians 13:4-8**

b. God the Son

- i. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **John 1:1**
- ii. The words of the LORD *are* pure words: *as* silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. **Psalms 12:6**
- iii. For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart. **Hebrews 4:12**
- iv. For such an high priest became us, *who is* holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; **Hebrews 7:26**
- v. Jesus, and therefore the members of His Spiritual Body, are poor in spirit, mourners, meek, hungry and thirsty for righteousness, merciful, pure in heart, peacemakers and persecuted for righteousness' sake. **Matthew 5:1-12**
- vi. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **Romans 8:29**

c. God the Holy Spirit

- i. He is the seven-fold Spirits of God. **Revelation 4:5; 5:6**
 - 1. And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; **Isaiah 11:2**
- ii. He is the Spirit of Truth. **1 John 5:6**
- iii. He is the Spirit of Faith. **2 Corinthians 4:13**
- iv. He is the Spirit of Adoption. **Romans 8:15**
- v. He is the Spirit of Grace. **Hebrews 10:29**
- vi. He is the Spirit of glory. **1 Peter 4:14**

- vii. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. **2 Corinthians 3:18**
- d. Adam and Eve, indeed all mankind, were created to resemble and have the mannerisms of their triune Godhead.
 - i. With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; **Ephesians 4:2**
 - ii. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; **Colossians 1:11**
 - iii. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **Colossians 3:12**
 - iv. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. **1 Timothy 6:11**
 - v. So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one member one of another. **Romans 12:5** See, also, **1 Corinthians 12:12-14**
 - vi. And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. **Ephesians 3:19**
 - vii. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **Colossians 2:9**
- 3. The Purpose for Man's Creation
 - a. Mankind was created to be the physical manifestation of God on earth but only in and through Jesus.
 - b. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **John 4-5**
 - c. This form of mutual inhabitation is unique to mankind.
 - d. This is why Jesus said he will spue those who are lukewarm out of His mouth. **Revelation 3:16**
 - e. This is why Jesus also said He will never leave us nor forsake us and is always with us. **Joshua 1:5; Hebrews 13:5**
 - f. The analogy of a round of golf provides a practical application of this type of oneness.

- i. I am playing a competitive round of golf with three friends (two saved and one not saved) for bragging rights only. I hit my golf ball behind a tree requiring me to take a stroke to put the ball back in play. My fleshly sin nature wants to move the ball from behind the tree without taking a stroke. God tells me not to give exercise my selfish agenda because He may want me to lose so that I can demonstrate how a child of God handles a loss. He may want me to win but only after I experience the trials and tribulations of the game. He is also playing with and through my two saved friends for the same reasons he is playing with and through me. Finally, he is playing with my unsaved friend so that he may see Him through his saved friends and accept Jesus as his Savior.
- g. Our physical bodies are temples of God in which the Spirit of God dwells. **1Corinthians 3:16; 6:19**
- h. Jesus' High priestly prayer that Jew and Gentile believers become one with Him and God the father will be answered. **John 17**
 - i. we should look at the issue of oneness set forth in these four verses as translated in the New Living Translation (NLT); the New King James Version (NKJV); the New American Standard Bible (NASB) and the English Standard Version (ESV).

John 17:11

NLT Holy Father, keep them and care for them—all those you have given me—so that they will be united just as we are.

NKJV Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

NASB Holy Father, keep them in Your name, the name which You have given Me, that they may be one even as We are.

ESV Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

John 17:21

NLT My prayer for all of them is that they will be one, just as you and I are one, Father—that just as you are in me and I am in you, so they will be in us.

NKJV [T]hat they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be in Us.

NASB [T]hat they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us.

ESV [T]hat they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:22

NLT I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are.

NKJV And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.

NASB The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one.

ESV The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one.

John 17:23

NLT I in them and you in me, all being perfected into one.

NKJV I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one.

NASB I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity.

ESV I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

- ii. In **John 17:11**, Jesus prays that believers are kept in God's name.
 - 1. The whole family in heaven and earth carry His name. **Ephesians 3:15**
 - 2. So, one interpretation of this verse is that we shall always be members of God's family.
 - a. Anything we ask, in His name, shall be granted to us. **John 14:13-14**
 - 3. Another interpretation of this verse is that we have been adopted into God's family and, thereby, are entitled to carry His name and possess all of the benefits and responsibilities that go with the name.
 - a. But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. **Galatians 4:4-7**
- iii. In **John 17:21**, Jesus defines the extent to which the children of God become one with Him and the Father.
 - 1. At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. **John 14:20**
 - 2. Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that

- dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. **John 14:10**
3. When we are one with God to this extent, we shall not do anything on our own authority. We shall only say and do what our Father does on His authority.
- iv. In **John 17:22**, Jesus describes how this oneness will be effectuated.
 1. Jesus gives us the same glory God gave to Him.
 - a. Jesus demonstrated His glory and the glory God gave to Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration. **Luke 9:28-31**
 - b. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord. **2 Corinthians 3:18**
 - c. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. **Romans 8:30**
 - d. I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. **Isaiah 42:8**
 - v. In **John 17:23**, Jesus explains why He and God the Father are not giving their glory to anyone outside of them.
 1. Jesus is in every one of us and God is in Him.
 - a. So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **Romans 12:5**
 - b. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. **1 Corinthians 12:12**
 - c. *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. **Ephesians 4:4-6**

- vi. Since Jesus is the faithful witness, and God, it is impossible for His prayer not to come to fruition. It is guaranteed.
 1. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. **John 14:19**
 2. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **John 15:5**
 3. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **1 John 5:11**
4. Because our triune Godhead is, we are and forever will because we are in them and they shall forever be.