

***From the Pastor***

There are several different ideas concerning the nature of God or the Godhead. The most prevalent concept among “Christian” churches is that the Godhead is a trinity of beings (actually persons)—three persons in one god. Trinitarians generally do not believe in three separate beings, but, a mystery of three persons in one being— one god.

Even some Jews embrace a concept of three-in-one. In the “Treasury of Scriptural Knowledge” (a commentary on the whole Bible) the comment is made, “On the word Elohim, Simeon Ben Joachi says: ‘Come and see the mystery of the word Elohim: there are three degrees, and each degree is by itself alone, and yet they are all one, and joined together in one, and are not divided from each other.’” This is very much like the Trinitarian concept of three persons in one god.

Most Jews believe in the absolute unity of God. The Shema is the name given to Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Shema is the first word of Deuteronomy 6:4 in the Hebrew—Shema—Hear. Webster’s Dictionary defines the Shema as “a declaration of the basic principle of Jewish belief, proclaiming the absolute unity of God.”

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) says, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!” The word Lord is from the YHVH. God is from Elohim. One is from echad. Echad is a word that means one. However, that oneness is not limited to one being. Elohim is a plural word that denotes more than one. We have said that Elohim is the word that refers to the family name of God. There is always more than one member in a family (otherwise we do not have a family).

In Genesis 2:24 echad is used in this same way. This verse says, “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one [echad] flesh.” Here “one flesh” clearly consists of two separate beings—husband and wife.

Echad does not limit Elohim to one being. But, the plural nature of the word Elohim led to the rather convoluted reasoning of Simeon Ben Joachi quoted above.

The number of members in the Godhead cannot be determined from plural nature of the word Elohim or the use of the pronouns “us” and “our” in Genesis 1:26. The number of members of the Godhead, the Elohim, or the God Family is determined from the words of Jesus Christ and the apostles.

	<b>Victoria</b>	<b>Corpus Christi</b>	<b>Harlingen</b>
Sunset Today in:	7:54pm	7:54pm	7:54pm
Sunset Friday 5-19	7:57pm	7:57pm	7:57pm

# Church of God South Texas

**Victoria - Corpus Christi - Harlingen**



May 13, 2017

## Victoria

*Sermon:* Steve Moody

## Corpus Christi

*Sermonette:* DVD  
*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

## Harlingen

*Sermonette:* Michael Watts  
*Sermon:* Arnold Mendez

“I and my Father are one.”

John 10:30

## Announcements and Schedule

<b>Sabbath 5/13</b>	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Harlingen, & Victoria.
<b>Sabbath 5/20</b>	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in San Antonio and Victoria. Mr. Watts will deliver the sermon in Harlingen.

### Festival registration

We would like to remind all COGWA members who have not registered for this year's Feast of Tabernacles to please do so by Monday, May 15. Registering during this time period is very helpful for festival planning. While no U.S. sites are full, we do have some sites that are very near capacity. Even if you are unable to attend the Feast this year, we request that you register and indicate such.

IN ADDITION, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL MEMBERS KNOW

- If you already registered for the Feast, you should have received a confirmation email in return. If you did not receive a confirmation email, please re-register and make sure it is completed correctly.
- We would like to remind everyone that we have new U.S. sites this year. If you are still deciding where to attend, we would like to make you aware that these two sites still have plenty of room. Please consider attending one of these attractive options:
  - Redmond, Oregon – located in eastern Oregon.
  - San Diego, California – located in the beautiful coastal city in Southern California. This year we will be at a new hotel—the refurbished Crown Plaza Hotel.

Thank you very much for taking the time to register and letting us know what your plans are. Again, we encourage everyone to complete the registration process by Monday, May 15.

Early housing reservations also begin on Monday, May 15. Beginning on Monday, May 22, general housing reservations will be accepted. In addition, everyone who registers for the Feast will receive an email offering an opportunity to serve.

### EARLY HOUSING Announcement:

Those who qualify to make early housing reservations can begin doing so on Monday, May 15. Members who qualify to make early reservations include:

1. Those who need handicapped rooms.
2. Those with very limited finances who need to be assured of procuring one of the lower-priced rooms.
3. Those who, due to dietary requirements, must have a kitchenette.
4. Those who have a large immediate family (six or more).

If you fit into one of these categories, please let our Festival adviser know. Our Festival adviser will be happy to assist you in finding satisfactory housing if you have any difficulty.

### FT 2017: Festival Youth Instruction Volunteers

This year we will once again be offering Festival Youth Instruction at many U.S. Festival sites—and we will need volunteers to teach these lessons. Unfortunately, the option to volunteer for Festival Youth Instruction was inadvertently left off on the first day of registration. So if you registered for the Feast on Sunday, April 16, and would be willing to serve on our Festival Youth Instruction teaching team, please go back to the COGWA member portal, log in, click on “Feast of Tabernacles 2017” and then click on the “Edit Your Registration” button and add Festival Youth Instruction under the service areas. Thank you for your dedication to our children!

### Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

**San Antonio Potluck:** The next regularly scheduled potluck is July 1. There will be no potluck on June 3.

**Corpus Christi:** May 20<sup>th</sup> Brown Bag Social after services.

**Harlingen:** June 3<sup>rd</sup> Bible Study and Pot Luck Social after services.

**Pentecost:** June 4