

From the Pastor

Concerning the apostle’s view of God we read an interesting statement in 1 Corinthians 8:6, “yet for us there is only one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him...” In reading what Paul said here one could jump to the conclusion that the apostles only believed there was one member of the God family. But, that conclusion would be taking the above phrase out of the context it is in and also out of the context of what the apostles expressed elsewhere in the Scriptures. The rest of the verse records, “and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”

First, this is in the context of what Paul was speaking of in 1 Corinthians 8:1-5. In this passage Paul is dealing with the subject of “things offered to idol.” Paul says in 1 Corinthians 8:4, “Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.” Paul is quoting Deuteronomy 4:35 here. “To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God [Hebrew – Elohim]; there is none other besides Him [Them].

The Hebrew word translated God in Deuteronomy 4:35 is Elohim which is a plural word. Elohim is the plural form of Eloha. If we follow the same plural pronoun agreement as used in Genesis 1:26 [“Then God {Elohim} said, ‘Let us {plural pronoun} make man in our {plural pronoun} image...’”] then the pronoun here in Deuteronomy 4:35 should be “Them.”

However, on another level, Jesus always taught that His father was supreme. “My Father is greater than I.” (John 14:28) Jesus consistently pointed the apostles to His Father. You see this fact throughout the Gospel of John. For example, John 14:24 “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

The apostles understood the preeminence of the Father as Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 11:3 “and the head of Christ is God.” So to the apostles God (the Supreme God) was the Father. However, they also understood that Jesus as Lord was a member of the Godhead—the God family—the Elohim.

Paul wrote in Philippians 2:6-7 (Revised Standard Version, 1952 revision) “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself...” Further, Paul (as we believe is the author of Hebrews) wrote words of God the Father speaking (Hebrews 1:1-2). In Hebrews 1:8 Paul speaks as if quoting the Father about Jesus His Son, “But to the Son He says: ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your Kingdom.’” Paul here refers to the Father calling His Son “God.”

John did the same at the beginning of his gospel in John 1:1-2, “In [a] beginning was the Word, and the Word was with [the] God, and the Word was God. He was in [a] beginning with [the] God.” Verse 14 then records that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John believed that the Word who became the flesh and blood man, Jesus Christ, was God.

The apostles and thus the early church believed that God the Father was Supreme—the head of the God family. However, they also believed that Jesus was a member of the Godhead or God Family. And, that as Lord, Jesus was the member of the God Family that did the work of creation (John 1:3; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 1:2). But, in all of this there is no mention of the Holy Spirit as being a member of this God family.

	Victoria	Corpus Christi	Harlingen
Sunset Today in:	8:30pm	8:29pm	8:27pm
Sunset Friday 7-7	8:30pm	8:29pm	8:27pm



Victoria

Sermon: Steve Moody

Corpus Christi

Sermonette: DVD
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

Harlingen

Sermonette: Orlando Mascorro
Sermon: Arnold Mendez

“But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.”

John 14:31

Announcements and Schedule

Sabbath 7/1	Regular times and locations for Corpus Christi, Victoria, Harlingen, and San Antonio. San Antonio will meet back in the Family Life Center.
Sabbath 7/8	Regular times and locations for all congregations. Mr. Moody will be in Corpus Christi. Mr. Chapman will be in Victoria. There will be a DVD in San Antonio. Mr. Watts will present the sermon in Harlingen.

2017 Camp Carter

Dates:

July 2-9, 2017
Staff arrives July 1

From Joel Meeker:

Additional Openings for the Feast of Tabernacles in Orford, Québec

All Canadian members have now been accommodated for this small site, so we are able to open the Orford, Québec, site for additional transfers from other countries. Interested members may now register for Orford by clicking on the registration link at <http://feast.cogwa.org> or by going directly to the COGWA portal at <https://portal.cogwa.org/acct/>.

Upcoming Activities: Dates to Remember

San Antonio Potluck: After the potluck on July 1 the next regularly scheduled potluck will be August 5. The July 1 potluck will be a “brown bag” social. In other words, everyone should bring what you and your family will eat. We will enjoy the time of fellowship together.

San Antonio Church Activity: Missions Baseball Game. We want to thank Mr. Chapman for making the arrangement for this activity. It was a great success. God blessed us with really nice weather.

Victoria Potluck and Bible Study: We have scheduled a potluck and Bible Study for July 29. I would like to do this once a quarter.

Corpus Christ Brown Bag Social and Bible Study: We have scheduled a brown bag social and Bible Study for the Sabbath of July 29th.