

Question 8. *Are there more gods than one?*

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

I. Introduction

A. At the most fundamental level of the Christian faith is the idea that there is one God. We will soon study the Triunity of God in how He subsists in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit (see *Question & Answer 9*). It is a very simplistic truth and reality to understand that there is only one true and living God.

II. “**There is but one only... God.**”

A. Monotheism

1. Christians are not polytheists. Polytheism is the belief in multiple gods. Many pagan religions and modern cults, such as Mormonism, believe that there are multiple gods. Christians are not Pantheists; the belief that we are creatures but are a part of God and subsist in His being. Christians confess that there is only one, truly divine being from whom all life comes, God.
2. The Christian faith confesses that Yahweh, the God of the Bible, is the only God. Christians are monotheists; we believe in one God (Deut. 6:4). Contrary to what Muslims believe about Christianity, Christians do not believe in three gods (Tritheism); we believe in one God who subsists in three persons.
 - a) **Isaiah 45:21 (LSB):** *Declare and draw near with your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has made this heard from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, Yahweh? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me.*

B. Angelology

1. The Scriptures are also clear that there are, however, “gods.” Sometimes in the Bible, angels are referred to as “gods.” Both holy angels can be referred to as “gods,” and fallen angels (demons) can be referred to as “gods.”

a) **Psalm 86:8 (LSB):** *There is no one like You among the gods, O Lord, Nor are there any works like Yours.*

b) **Psalm 95:3 (LSB):** *For Yahweh is a great God and a great King above all gods*

2. Holy Angels

a) The Scripture clearly shows that there are many kinds of angels. There are Seraphim (Isa. 6:1-7) and Cherubim (Gen. 3:24). There are Archangels, such as Michael (Jude 1:9, Rev. 12:7), and Guardian Angels who watch over the people of God (Psalm 91:11, Heb. 1:14). But the Scripture also mentions angels who rule as “gods.”

(1) **Psalm 82:1 (ESV):** *God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment*

(a) Some interpret the twenty-four elders mentioned in Revelation as being these angels or “gods” here in Psalm 82:1 (Rev. 4:4,10; 5:8; 11:16; 19:4).

3. Fallen Angels

a) Fallen angels are understood to be “gods” of other religious systems. This is explicitly clear early on in the Bible and repeated in the New Testament.

(1) **Deuteronomy 32:16-17 (LSB):** *They made Him jealous with strange gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger. 17 They sacrificed to demons who were not God, to gods whom they have not known, new gods who came lately, whom your fathers did not dread.*

(2) **1 Corinthians 10:20-21 (LSB):** *No, but I say that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God. And I do not want you to become sharers in demons. 21 You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons*

III. “The living and true God.”

A. To say that God is “living” is not simply to acknowledge His existence, but His aseity. God is life in and of Himself. All other “gods” are dead in this regard, in that they do not have life in themselves, but like all created beings, receive their life from the one living God, Yahweh.¹³ They, therefore, are not truly “gods” or “divine.”

1. **Jeremiah 10:10 (LSB):** *But Yahweh is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure His indignation.*

B. When we speak of God being the “true” God, we are confessing His uniqueness. There is none like Him; He alone is God, the true God. The God of Christianity is the only God, the true divine one, the sole deity above all.

1. **John 17:3 (LSB):** *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*

¹³ Jim Scott Orrick, *A Commentary on The Baptist Catechism*, (Founders Press, 2025), 53.

IV. Application

A. Yes, there are “gods” out there reigning over false religions. Fallen angels (demons) are not different from fallen humans; they seek to elevate themselves to the place of God. As Christians, we not only have enemies in this physical realm, but also in the spiritual realm. These false “gods,” who are really fallen angels, are hostile to the one true God and His church.

1. **Ephesians 6:11-12 (LSB):** *Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

B. Though the Scripture tells us that there are many “gods,” we need not worry, because there is only one true and living God who sovereignly rules over all. Those angels were created by God; they are not eternal, infinite, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable, or omnipotent. Not only are they not those things, but Christ Jesus has triumphed over them.

1. **Colossians 2:15 (LSB):** *Having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He [God] made a public display of them, having triumphed over them in Him [Christ].*

C. Reflection Questions

1. **Question 1.** *“How bold are you to proclaim to unbelievers around you that there is only one living and true God?”*
2. **Question 2.** *“Do you feel equipped and ready to explain monotheism and prove it from the Scriptures?”*
3. **Question 3.** *“Do you know that you will judge angels?” (1 Cor. 6:3)*

V. Repeat / Sing Question & Answer 4 – 8

A. **Question 4.** *What is the word of God?*

1. **Answer.** *The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament, are the Word of God, and the only certain rule of faith and obedience.*

B. **Question 5.** *May all men make use of the Holy Scriptures?*

1. **Answer.** *All men are not only permitted, but commanded and exhorted, to read, hear, and understand the Holy Scriptures.*

C. **Question 6.** *What things are chiefly contained in the Holy Scriptures?*

1. **Answer.** *The Holy Scriptures chiefly contain what man ought to believe, concerning God and what duty God requireth of man.*

D. **Question 7.** *What is God?*

1. **Answer.** *God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.*

E. **Question 8.** *Are there more gods than one?*

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