



Set Voice of Truth

A Sect or Contradictory Movement?

Oneness

Voice of Truth

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Oeness – The Ancient Sabellian Heresy

Manifesto of the Assemblies of God of Brazil – CGADB Against Unicism

Before exposing the doctrines of the Voice of Truth group, we will present a manifesto against Oeness, under the leadership of Pastor José Wellington Costa Junior. Only a part of what was presented in this manifesto:

“(…) This text is a manifesto, a communication and guidance, without an academic or technical character (although the discussions and texts that supported it were of this nature), in colloquial language in order to inform leaders and members of all denominations about the conclusions reached by the bodies responsible for such a task”.

On Oeness in Modern Times

Oeness is a division of the Assemblies of God in the United States whose doctrine is a theological deviation with regard to the Holy Trinity and soteriology. It is an adaptation of the ancient doctrine known as Modalism and Sabellianism. In modern times, Oeness has been called the “Jesus Name Movement,” but their opponents have called them “Jesus Only.” In Brazil, the main Oeness groups are the Voice of Truth Church, a group of the same name, the Tabernacle of Faith, and the Local Church of the Tree of Life Movement, among others.

(…) The name is “modalism” because it taught that the three Persons of the Godhead manifest themselves in three ways. Sabellius, who defended this doctrine in ancient times, believed that God would assume three phases or manifestations, but not three persons. They deny the doctrine of the Trinity.

Avoiding Destructive Heresies in Our Songs

The Assemblies of God Statement of Faith condemns Oeness and other doctrines contrary to the Trinity in Chapter III.2. Some avowedly Oeness groups have penetrated our midst through music and literature, such as the songs of the Voice of Truth group and the literature of the Local Church and also of the Tree of Life. The music it touches the feelings and emotions of human beings, and its messages are barely perceived in its lyrics and songs. One of the subtleties of these movements, not only unicast, but with customs that are completely contrary to our principles, is to win over our audience, and then attract our people to adhere to what their leaders defend and teach.

The leaders of the Voice of Truth group consider the Doctrine of the Trinity to be something “forged by man” and without any biblical value. “If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house or welcome him. For whoever welcomes him becomes a partner in his evil works” (2 John 8-11). Source: Website: <https://cgadb.org.br/manifesto-contra-o-unicismo/>.

Therefore, according to the manifesto presented above, it is advised by the president that all material containing oneness teachings, such as music and literature, is not allowed in the temples of the Assembly of God.

Sabellianism a 3rd century heresy – Oeness in modern times

The term Sabellianism comes from Sabellius, who defended the belief in the manifestation of the same God, found in Jesus Christ and in the manifestation of the Holy Spirit of God at the same time. Oeness has followed the same path as Sabellius, believing that when the Bible speaks about Jesus and the Holy Spirit, they are in fact manifestations of God. They do not believe in the plurality of persons in the divine unity, nor do they believe in the Trinity. The Sabellian doctrine believed in a trinity of manifestations of forms and not essence. God manifested himself as Father in the Old Testament, then as Son to redeem man and as Spirit after the resurrection of Christ. There were, therefore, not three persons in God but three manifestations. – Christianity Through the Centuries, Earle E. Cairns, Vida Nova, 1995, page 83. In Brazil, those who adhere to this heresy from the 3rd century and resurrected by Oeness are the Voice of Truth and the Local Church of Witness Lee.

History – Basic Doctrines of the Voice of Truth Set

At first, the members played at home and in churches. It was only in 1978 that their first LP, entitled “Quem é o Caminho” (Who is the Way), was recorded at a church in the city of Santo André. Its founder, Pr. Fried, passed away in 2005, and Pr. Carlos Alberto Moyses took over as president of the ministry. – Official Website www.vozdaverdade.com.br. A CD entitled “Voice of Truth” was distributed free of charge, containing three songs that defend the idea of unity, “Imagem de Deus”, “Tu Me Amas” (The Image of God), and “Deus Conosco” (God with Us), as well as a long explanation of their doctrines in defense of unity, about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. At the beginning of the CD, there are two messages: “Who believes in the Holy Bible?”

"You cannot take a text and separate it out of context." These are the highlighted texts, cited by the author, where numerous biblical texts follow outside of their respective contexts.

God - Old Testament

In the book of Exodus 20:1-17, in the first verses, God speaks through Moses, that He took them out of the land of slavery in Egypt, and that from that moment on everyone would have to keep His commandments, one of these commandments in verse 3 says: "You shall have no other gods before me." Therefore, God is jealous and all who follow Him must worship Him alone (Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 4:24). Since the beginning of Christianity, Christians who profess their faith in Jesus Christ believe in the one God and worship Him (Revelation 5:12-14). It is a great affront and lack of biblical knowledge for these heretical groups to claim that Christians believe in "gods" because they defend the Trinity. These heretical groups do not even take the time to research the history of Christianity. The Old Testament brings revelations from God with the covenant made with man, and also points to prophecies about the coming of the Messiah (Genesis 12:1-7; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 2:1).

Oneness believers believe that the Father and Jesus are the same person, there is no distinction between them. When in the Old Testament it is applied to God as our Savior (Isaiah 43:11,12), and in the New Testament it is applied to Jesus as our Savior (Acts 4:12), they believe that it refers to the same person.

The attributes of God in the Old Testament

The Bible reveals to us only one who is called God (Deuteronomy 4:35; Isaiah 44:6), but the same Bible reveals to us that Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are called God. Therefore, let's see what the sacred texts teach us.

God is Lord Deuteronomy 4:35; Isaiah 44:6 God is Mighty Isaiah 10:21; God is Eternal Psalm 90:2; God is Creator Jeremiah 27:5; God is Savior Isaiah; 43:11 God is Our Redeemer and the First and the Last Isaiah; 44:6 God is Holy Isaiah 6:3; God is Good Psalm 86:5.

In the New Testament we find evidence of the distinction of persons in the following texts: Matthew 3:15; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17; John 14:26; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 5:7.

Jesus - New Testament

On the way to Caesarian Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples a question: "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Their answer was, "And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (Matthew 16:13-17) It was revealed unto Peter that Jesus is the Son of God. Notice that none of his disciples said that Jesus is the Father.

The Attributes of Jesus Christ in the New Testament

The Son is God John 1:1; 1 John 5:20; The Son is Mighty Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 28:18; The Son is Eternal Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; John 1:1; The Son is Creator Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2,3 The Son is Savior Acts 4:12; The Son is Our Redeemer and the First and the Last 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 1:8; 17,18; The Son is Holy Acts 3:14; Revelation 15:4; The Son is Good 2 Corinthians 10:1; Acts 10:38.

The Unicist Doctrine and its Controversies

Oneness believers believe and defend that God is only one being who manifested himself in three different ways, to reveal himself to man as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Oneness deny the Trinity, for them the Father in the Old Testament manifested himself as God and in the New Testament as the Son, making no distinction between persons. Below are the biblical texts used by Oneness.

In the Bible, Isaiah 9:6 tells us that Jesus Christ is eternal, not as the Oneness believers understand, stating that he is the Father. A detail in this text, which also states that Jesus is the powerful God, can be compared with the text of Isaiah 10:21, where it makes reference to the Father. There are two people mentioned by the prophet in the same book. In John 17, Jesus looked to heaven and prayed to the Father. How can he be the Father if he was on earth? In the same book, in chapter 14:23, Jesus said that whoever keeps his words, he and the Father make their abode in the person. In the following verses, in verse 26, the promise of the Comforter, there are three people making their abode in the Christian. The biblical text of Romans 15:6 makes the distinction between people clear when it says: "That you may with one mind glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Bible Text: Isaiah 9:6

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, **Father of Eternity**, Prince of Peace."

Apologetic Response:

A prophecy announced by the prophet Isaiah concerning the Messiah was fulfilled in (Luke 2:11). The prophet announces the coming of the Messiah so awaited by the people of Israel, and then says that his name will be "Everlasting Father". The name "Father" is applied in many different ways. In Hebrew, we will make a careful analysis to understand the correct interpretation of the biblical text. In the Hebrew and English Lexicon Old Testament by William Gesenius Edward Robinson, Francis Brown, Oxford, 1906 edition, page 3, we have a good understanding of the subject, the name Father applied as "Head of a family" (Genesis 38:11; Leviticus 22:13); "Father as Grandfather" (Genesis 28:13; Genesis 32:9). In the book of Genesis 17:11-27, Abram is called by God, and a covenant is made; his name will be Abraham; for he will be called the Father of many nations. In the Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament

William Gesenius / Edward Robinson 1939, page 3, the name "Father" is also applied in several senses; as: "Instructor Proverbs 1:8; Authority Genesis 50:18; Parent Zechariah 13:3; Counselor Genesis 45:8. In the New Testament the name "Father" is addressed to God as a term of supplication and affection (Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15). - The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia, Volume I, The Howard Severance 1915, page 2. Therefore, when the prophet Isaiah applied the name "Father" to the Messiah, he did not mean that the Messiah was the Father (God) Himself. The Old Testament attests to the eternity of the Messiah (Micah 5:2; compare Psalm 90:2.); In other words, the Messiah is Our Counselor, provider of eternal life (John 6:68).

John 10:30

"I and the Father are one"

Response Apologetics

The plurality of persons in the unity of the Godhead, "we are" (plural: separate Persons), "one," (Gr.heis), unity, one essence or nature. In verse 31, the Jews then took up again to stone Jesus, an occurrence similar is in John 5:18, where the Jews sought to kill Jesus because he said that God was his own Father, making himself equal with God. The same term "one" appears in Galatians 3:28, which says: "(...) for you are all one in Christ Jesus. The unity in

work of planting and watering, and the unity of Christ's disciples (John 17:11,23). The disciples were distinct people, and Christ requires that they be perfect in unity. – ICP Apologetic Bible, 2000. New Testament Commentary, ATRobertson, 2014, CPAD, page 409.

Fundamental Doctrines of Oneness

According to Oneness theologian David K. Bernard of the United Pentecostal Church International, in his work, "Essentials of Oneness Theology," Pentecostal Publishing House, 1992, page 6, which says: "The Oneness doctrine can be presented succinctly in two propositions: 1. There is one indivisible God without distinction of persons; 2. Jesus Christ is the entire fullness of the Godhead incarnate. All the titles of Deity can be applied to Him and all aspects of the divine personality are manifested in Him." Oneness believers identify Jesus Christ as the incarnation of the one God, based on a literal interpretation of Colossians 2:9,10.

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