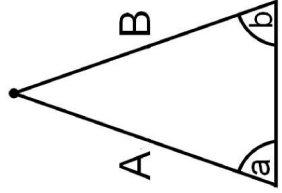


nature, or attributes of God. “Thought it not robbery,” He did not have to reach out for what was already His. Some translations say that He did not have to grasp for it. The words “equal (*isa*) with God,” has the Greek word “*isa*,” from which we get our word “isosceles” in English. The requirements for an isosceles triangle are that lines A and B must be coequal, and angles A and B must also be coequal. Line A is not the same line as B and angle A is not the same angle as B, but they hold the exact and same value, or you would not have an equal (*isa*) sided or “isosceles” triangle. The apostle Paul, in using the word *isa* here for “equal: is demonstrating a similar thing. The Father is not the same person as the Son, but the two have equal (*isa*) attributes of the One God. They are distinct in person, but one as God. “But made Himself of no reputation,” (*kenosis*), meaning that He emptied Himself, or limited Himself to act only as a man while He was on earth. “Took upon Him the form,” (*morphe*), “of a servant,” this is the same as the word for “form, attributes, or nature” in verse 6. Jesus Christ had two sets of attributes, natures or forms (*morphe*): one was the nature of God, and one was the nature of man. His first set of attributes was eternal as God, and he “took upon” himself a new set of attributes, that of a servant, “made in the likeness of men.” This is a likeness He did not previously have, but He took it upon Himself. This passage in Philippians in very clear about Jesus Christ being God incarnate. He was God and man. It is not contradictory to believe that God dwelt in man as the person of Jesus Christ: it is biblical!

Mr. Wierwille contends that if one point of dissimilarity exists, then Jesus is not God.¹⁸ In this, he does not prove that Jesus is not God, he only tries to show that Jesus is not the Father, which Trinitarians already believe. What he calls “dissimilarity” is what we call distinction of Persons, but he never addresses that they share the same attributes of God. God is a unique, infinite Being with unique attributes. If the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all hold these same unique attributes, which only belong to God, then we must affirm that they are the one true God. If Jesus is called God in the same sense as the Father and the Holy Spirit, then the Three Persons are coequal in the nature and attributes of God. Please observe the following verses, which demonstrate the deity of Jesus Christ.

- 1) **Isaiah 7:14** and **Matthew 1:23**, Jesus is called Immanuel - God with us. He was “God” with us, not a false god with us.
- 2) **Isaiah 9:6**, the Son is called The Mighty God.



- 3) **Isaiah 45:23** and **Philippians 2:9-11**, Paul applied a text about Jehovah to Jesus.
- 4) **Isaiah 54:5** is a prophecy that Jesus, the Redeemer, is God.
- 5) **Jeremiah 23:5-6** is a prophecy that Jesus, the Branch, is the LORD (Jehovah) our Righteousness.

- 6) **Zechariah 12:10**, Jehovah is speaking of Himself as being pierced, but Jesus was the only one pierced. (Rev. 1:7).
- 7) **Matthew 22:41-45**, Jesus claimed to be David's LORD. David was monotheistic having only one Lord.
- 8) **Mark 2:5-10**, Jesus forgave sins that only God can forgive.
- 9) **John 1:1, 14**, Jesus was the Word and the Word was God.
- 10) **John 1:18**, the oldest Greek texts: “the only begotten God.”
- 11) **John 5:18**, it is John who wrote that Jesus was God here.
- 12) **John 8:58**, Jesus calls Himself the I AM, which is the same as Jehovah speaking in Exodus 3:14.
- 13) **John 10:30-33**, Jesus claimed to be “one” with the Father. The Jews tried to stone Him for “making yourself God.”

- 14) **John 20:28**, Thomas called Jesus his Lord and God. Thomas was monotheistic and Jesus blessed him for this.
- 15) **Acts 20:28**, the church was purchased with God's “blood.” The two oldest texts, dating at 325 A.D., read “Church of God.”
- 16) **Philippians 2:6-7**, He never stopped being in the form of God, but emptied Himself to become a man.
- 17) **Colossians 2:9**, in Jesus dwelt all the fullness of God in “bodily” form.
- 18) **Titus 2:13**, this is literally translated as, “our Great God and Savior, Christ Jesus.” (The Granville Sharp rule of Greek grammar states that when you have two nouns that are connected with the word “and” (*kar*), and the first noun carries the article whereas the second does not, then the second noun is only a further description of the first).

- 19) **Hebrews 1:6-8**, only God can be worshipped, yet all of the angels worshipped Jesus. Then, the Father spoke directly to the Son and called Him God, “Thy throne, O God...”
- 20) **2 Peter 1:1**, the literal translation is “our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (Granville Sharp rule).
- 21) **1 John 5:20**, the words, “This is the true God, and eternal life,” is speaking about Jesus. The true God is also the eternal life. See Jesus in 1 John 1:1-2.
- 22) **Revelation 1:8 and Revelation 22:12-13**, Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the Lord God, the Almighty. The oldest and best texts have, “says the Lord God” in verse 8, showing that the speaker, Jesus, is the Lord God, the Almighty.

Do not settle for the counterfeit Jesus, or the counterfeit Spirit (2 Corinthians 11:4). A Jesus who is not God in human flesh, who did not die on the cross for your sins, and did not physically rise on the third day, is a Jesus who cannot save!

Jude 3 Missions

“Content earnestly for the faith.” – Jude 3

P. O. Box 780, Victorville, CA 92393

Copyright 1983, 2010 by Kurt Van Gorden

1 Some of the splinter groups and individuals linked to The Way and Mr. Wierwille's theology are: The Spirit and Truth Fellowship International founded in 2005 by ex-member John Lynn); Christian Educational Services (alternate name of Spirit and Truth Fellowship International, founded in 1990 by John Lynn); Living Hope International Ministries (founded in 1990 as the Christian Biblical Counsel by Vince Finnegan, but renamed in 2005); www.kingdomready.org (the Internet site for Living Hope International); A Rood Awakening Ministries (founded by Michael Rood, a former itinerate teacher for The Way); Kermit Zarley (professional golfer and co-founder of the PGA Tour Bible Study Group in 1965, but in 2008 he denied the Trinity in his book *The Resitution of Jesus Christ* and linked to ex-Way members); www.21stcr.org--The 21st Century Reformation (Zarley, the Finnegans, former Way teacher Anthony Buzzard, and former gospel singer Joel Hemphill, unite their common-ground teachings against the Trinity by using many of Wierwille's arguments).

- 2) **25th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet**, The Way, 1967, 9.
- 3) Wierwille, *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today* (American Christian Press, 1972), 39.
- 4) **25th Anniversary Souvenir Booklet**, op. cit., 12. Note: Mr. Stiles wrote *The Gift of the Holy Spirit* (self published, 1948), which Mr. Wierwille plagiarized in his book *Receiving the Holy Spirit Today* (1957, 1972).
- 5) Wierwille, *New Dynamic Church* (American Christian Press, 1971), 124.
- 6) Billy Graham, *The Holy Spirit* (Minneapolis, MN: World Wide Publications, 1980, 177, 178.
- 7) *New Dynamic Church*, op. cit., 118.
- 8) *Power For Abundant Living*, op. cit., 258, 259.
- 9) This supports the teaching that man's spirit was present in the Old Testament and is not intended to debate a dichotomy or trichotomy.
- 10) *New Dynamic Church*, op. cit., 103.
- 11) A deeper analysis of Wierwille's book is found in Kurt Van Gorden, “The Way,” in *The New Cults*, Walter Martin, editor (Santa Ana, CA: Vision House, 1980) and *The Mind-benders*, by Jack Sparks (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1977).
- 12) Such as how many attended and how the Nicene Council proceeded.
- 13) Wierwille, *Jesus Christ Is Not God* (American Christian Press 1975), 71.
- 14) Eusebius of Nicomedia is not to be confused with the famous church historian, Eusebius of Caesarea.
- 15) Wierwille commits two logical fallacies in his Eusebius statement. He sets it up to affirm the consequent and it is circular reasoning.
- 16) *Jesus Is Not God*, op. cit., 30.
- 17) Please consult several Bible dictionaries or Bible encyclopedias for a list all of the titles and attributes of Christ.
- 18) *Jesus Christ Is Not God*, op. cit., 46.

THE WAY INTERNATIONAL— IS IT GOD'S WAY?

The Way Biblical Research Center, also known as the Way International, is a religious sect headquartered in New Knoxville, Ohio. It was founded by a defrocked evangelical pastor, Victor Paul Wierwille (1916-1985), and is currently directed by their Board of Directors. The Way has gone through lawsuits, IRS investigations, and sex scandals since the founder's death and has suffered a large exodus of members, some who formed splinter groups.¹

The Way International began in 1942 when Mr. Wierwille claimed that God spoke to him in an audible voice, declaring, “He would teach me the Word as it had not been known since the first century, provided that I would teach what He taught me to others.”² In the mid-1940s, Mr. Wierwille began a healing ministry during his pastorate at an Evangelical and Reformed Church in Van Wert, Ohio. He was interested in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and spent much of his time traveling to various camp meetings. Of this he wrote, “For six years I prayed, asked, pleaded and begged God for this spiritual power. I literally traveled thousands of miles just to ask people about the Holy Spirit and the gifts.”³

It was not until 1950 that he found someone who could “put together” the scriptures on the Holy Spirit for him. Mr. John Edwin Stiles, a former Assembly of God minister who became a traveling itinerate preacher, led Mr. Wierwille into the manifestation of speaking in tongues.⁴ Three years later, Mr. Wierwille started his Power for Abundant Living (PFAL) class. In this, he taught his students how to speak in tongues, which he claimed was proof of their salvation.⁵ This was not free for the students. The PFAL course, which teaches the student to speak in tongues, carried a fee ranging from \$25.00 to \$200.00. Since Wierwille's death, the PFAL course has been recast with The Way's current leadership and it has been renamed The Way of Abundance and Power course. The Way offers intermediate and advanced courses for additional fees.

Speaking in tongues in The Way should not be confused with speaking in tongues in certain Christian denominations. Dr. Billy Graham, whose ministry spans denominational lines, gives a fair treatment to this subject in his book *The Holy Spirit*.⁶ The main difference is that Christians state that it is a gift that is led by the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, while The Way teaches that it is led by the human spirit.⁷ One is God led and the other is man led.