Is the Oneness Doctrine from God?

Intro:
- Jn. 10:30 is a verse people use to try and justify the Oneness Doctrine (“Jesus only”)
- some brethren have adopted the Oneness Doctrine, so want to answer the question
  - Is the Oneness Doctrine from God?

Overview: Oneness Doctrine
- monarchianism (mono - "one"; arche - "rule") is a false doctrine some date back as far as the 1st and 2nd centuries, attempting to maintain the doctrine of Monotheism, esp. as believed by Jews relating to God in the OT
  - two areas: (below) dynamic and modal monarchianism
    - modal monarchianism is what we mean when we say “oneness” today
    - note: brethren who are confused on this issue often neglect to understand that God was revealed in the NT to a greater degree than in the OT, they try to understand God on an absolute basis from OT revelation and reject NT revelation that contradicts their position

- dynamic monarchianism, also called adoptionism
  - asserts that Jesus was born a man and did not preexist as God, after Jesus proved Himself to be a sinless man, God adopted Him and filled Him with the Holy Spirit, thereafter making Him divine

- modal monarchianism, also called Sabellianism, named for Sabellius who became the leader of those who accepted modalistic monarchianism in the 2nd century
  - teaches that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are modes of the single person who is God
    - God not simultaneous and separate persons
    - Oneness – Jesus only

- Pentecostal movement began around 1900, giving birth to Oneness Pentecostal
  - Oneness Pentecostal groups and other “Jesus only” groups are modalists
    - believe in the “oneness Godhead” – that Jesus alone constitutes the Godhead – that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Jesus
    - baptized in “Jesus name” rather than the “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit”
    - pray to Jesus

- PP: Oneness chart shows attributes and analogies used of God and Jesus, mixing OT with NT, without understanding these points in light of NT revelation
  - illus. God is Creator / Jesus is Creator: assumes Jesus is God (Father), without understanding NT revelation that God created the world through, for, and by Jesus (Col. 1:16-19; Heb. 1:2)
How do we find out whether the Oneness Doctrine is from God?

- series: How Do We Study The Bible – this lesson illustrates principles in the series

- examine (search) the Scriptures
  - Acts 17:11 Bereans, examined daily, see if what Paul said was true

- there are no contradictions in God’s word
  - 1 Cor. 14:33 God not God (author) of confusion – word harmonious, not contradict itself

- principle: if one Scripture contradicts the Oneness Doctrine, it’s false
  - Matt. 22:23-28 Sadducees’ question, thought proved no resurrection, taken Scriptures out of context that were not related to resurrection and ignored others
  - Matt. 22:29-33 Jesus’ answer, used precision of God’s word to prove resurrection, 1st person singular pronoun, present tense, proving the people have eternal souls (Lk. 16:19-31)
  - Jesus didn’t go into a discourse lasting days, addressing every possible detail of their doctrine and every scenario. He presented one Scripture that refuted it – that was sufficient
Two Examples: if a Scripture contradicts a doctrine, it’s proven to be wrong

- example: once saved always saved
  - **doctrine says:**
    - once a person is saved, they can never fall from grace and be lost
  - **Bible says:**
    - Heb. 12:15 Christians warned not to “come short” of God’s grace – Christians can come short, lost
    - Gal. 5:4 Christians who try and be saved by keeping the Mosaic Law have “fallen from grace”
    - many other Scriptures prove the doctrine to be wrong
  - **application:**
    - not have to understand all nuances of doctrine, or analyze every hypothetical
    - compared basic understanding of doctrine, saw it contradicted Scripture, know it’s false

- example: baptism is not essential for salvation
  - **doctrine says:**
    - saved by accepting Jesus as personal Savior through prayer, baptism only an act of obedience, saved before baptized and without baptism
    - hypothetical: man on airplane that’s about to crash, believes and prays five seconds before crash, has to be saved, proving can be saved without baptism
  - **Bible says:**
    - Mk. 16:16 believe and baptized saved – not believe and pray
    - Acts 2:38 repent and be baptized – not repent and pray
    - 1 Pet. 3:21 baptism now saves us – not prayer now saves us
    - many other Scriptures prove the doctrine to be wrong
  - **application:**
    - not have to understand all nuances of doctrine, or analyze every hypothetical
    - compared basic understanding of doctrine, saw it contradicted Scripture, know it’s false

- **Oneness Doctrine**:
  - we don’t have to know every Scripture, every nuance, and every hypothetical Oneness Doctrine proponents put forth
  - need general understanding – already have from overview of doctrine (above)
  - need to know if any Scriptures contradicts it
- Scriptures that contradict the Oneness Doctrine – one is sufficient, but there are many
  - Jesus before, and at the time of creation
    - Gen. 1:1, 26 at creation – Oneness proponents use Gen 1:1 to prove their case
      - vs. 1 Elohim (Hebrew, God): plural
        - Col. 1:16-19; Heb. 1:2 NT reveals the Father created heaven and earth, through Jesus
          - application: God (deity, divinity) is composed of separate individuals

- Jn. 1:1 John begins gospel much like Genesis
  - definite article tells us there are two separate individuals of the Godhead under consideration
    - God the Father, God the Son
  - PP: Greek / English text, definite article (red) shows John references two different divine persons
    - “the God” definite article denotes the Father
    - “God” without the definite in reference to the Logos denotes that Jesus is divine
      - application: God (Father) and Jesus are both God, separate individuals of the Godhead

- Jesus and the Father are two separate individuals
  - Jn. 14:23 Jesus’ words show that He and the Father are separate individuals – today, heaven
    - application: Jesus used the word “we” showing that He and the Father are, and would be separate individuals for eternity

- 1 Cor. 11:3 Christ is the head of man, and God (Father) is the head of Christ – today, heaven
  - application: Jesus separate from the Father in heaven, as man is separate from Jesus on earth

- 2 Jn. 1:9 has “both the Father and the Son” – today, heaven
  - application: Jesus and the Father are two separate individuals, in heaven, today

- Jesus in heaven: mediating, interceding, and advocating – separate from the Father – today, heaven
  - 1 Tim. 2:5 Jesus in heaven mediating between us and man
    - if Jesus was the Father, He couldn’t be the mediator
  - Rom. 8:34 Jesus is in heaven interceding for us, reconciling us to the Father – today, heaven
    - if Jesus was the Father, He couldn’t be interceding on our behalf

- 1 Jn. 2:1 Jesus is our Advocate in heaven – today, heaven
  - if Jesus was the Father, He couldn’t be our advocate – pleading our case before a separate individual, the Father
  - if Jesus is the Father, we are hopelessly lost without anyone to mediate, advocate, or intercede for us
- Holy Spirit: interceding in different regard than is Jesus – He’s separate from Jesus and the Father
  - Rom. 8:26-27 Spirit intercedes between man and God, to communicate our thoughts to God, according to Him will
    - the Spirit is separate from the Father, on whose behalf He intercedes
    - the Spirit is separate from Jesus, who is interceding in different areas (Rom. 8:34)
  - if Jesus is the Father and Holy Spirit, we have no one to help in our weaknesses and communicate our thoughts to God

- Jesus separate from the Father for eternity:
  - 1 Cor. 15:23-24 Christ will hand kingdom over to Father at the end – separate, eternity
    - application: Christ in heaven, separate individual from the Father, waiting to hand the kingdom over to Him

- Phil. 2:10-11 Jesus exalted, every knee bow and tongue confess, to glory of Father – separate, eternity
  - application: Jesus, in heaven, separate person from Father, will glorify Father in heaven

- Heb. 12:2 Jesus is in heaven sitting at the right hand of the throne of God – separate, eternity
  - application: Jesus can’t be sitting at His own right hand, He is a separate person from the Father

- Heb. 13:8 Jesus is the same for eternity – as deity is unchanging, Jesus is unchanging – separate, eternity
  - application: Jesus will always be a separate person from the Father and Holy Spirit

- Rev. 22:1, 3 God (Father) and the Lamb (Jesus) are two separate individuals – separate, eternity
  - application: the Father and Jesus are now, and will be for eternity two separate individuals, whom we will worship in heaven

Summary / Inv.
- conclusion: since the oneness doctrine clearly contradicts Scripture, it is a false doctrine
  - PP: review

- What does the idea of oneness expresses in the Bible? - union and unity
  - God and Jesus are one because they are unified in perfect harmony as deity, yet distinctly different individuals
    - illus.: we are one with the Father and one with Jesus, united in spirit, joined to the Lord, yet separate individuals
    - illus.: Christians are one, in one body, united in spirit as those joined to the Lord, yet separate individuals

- inv.: not lesson on salvation
  - if you’ve not been united with the Lord. . . (Rom. 6:3f; Heb. 5:9)