

# Unity and Distinction of the Godhead

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The three parts of John 1:1 protect forever both the unity and the distinction of the Godhead. If we learn these truths and teach them to others, we can help to keep the next generation from being deceived by the cults.

These comments are taken from [\*CHECKMATE for Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses\*](#), published November ©2013 by *Baptist World Cult Evangelism*.

“You need to understand the three concepts found in John 1:1, in order to proceed any further. First, note the verse; then, note the concepts:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

## ***God's Concepts of Jesus***

1. The concept that Jesus is eternal: He has no beginning and no ending (John 1:1a).
2. The concept that Jesus is eternally with God: He is with the Father and with the Holy Spirit (John 1:1b).
3. The concept that Jesus is God: He is eternally a part of what God is (John 1:1c).

To understand John 1:1, we must know the meaning and use of the verb *was* in each of the three sentence parts in which it is employed in this verse. The word (*was*) is the past, singular form of the verb *to be*. The verb means *to exist*. All forms of the verb *to be* (*am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been*) function as a state of being (linking) or a helping verb.

Consider each of the three parts of this sentence:

1. *In the beginning was the Word,*
2. *And the Word was with God*
3. *And the Word was God.*

## Part 1: *In the beginning was the Word*

This portion of the sentence answers the question:

“When did the Word exist?” The Word existed in a timeless past.

- Subject: *Word* (a title for Jesus)
- Verb: *was* (state of being, past tense)
- Complement: *in the beginning* (adverbial, time: existing in the past without a point of origin—eternally existing)

Part 2: *And the Word was with God*

This portion answers the question: “Where did the Word exist eternally?” The Word existed eternally with [the] God.

- Subject: *Word* (a title for Jesus)
- Verb: *was* (state of being, past tense)
- Complement: *with God* (adverbial, tells where He was eternally)

Part 3: *And the Word was God.*

This portion answers the question: “Who was the Word?” The Word was eternally God.

- Subject: *Word* (a title for Jesus)
- Verb: *was* (linking, past tense)
- Complement: *God* (predicate nominative, renaming the subject, *Word*)

What you have just done, in showing these truths methodically to the Mormons with whom you are dealing, is to reveal that their concept of Jesus represents a false Jesus. All of the cults present a false “Jesus” because all of the cults teach that Jesus had a beginning.

Having an understanding of John 1:1-3, by knowing the answers to the questions of *When*, *Where* and *Who* (as presented in verse 1), gives all Bible readers these Scriptural truths:

1. Jesus is eternal.
2. Jesus is the Creator of all things.

These truths will equip you to help those who have been misled by cult leaders. Mormons, JWs – and a number of other cults – they proclaim a false Jesus who is not eternal and not the Creator of all things. Consider some examples of what cult leaders are teaching their followers.”