

# Lion and Lamb Apologetics'

## Modalism

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### The Heresy:

"There is no Trinity. Jesus is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God merely appears at different times in history as a different person or manifestation."<sup>1</sup> (Taught by Oneness Pentecostals with the United Pentecostal Church International.)

### Biblical Response: Jesus is fully God, distinct from God the Father and God the Spirit.

Some teach that Jesus appeared as God the Father in the Old Testament, God the Son in the New Testament, and God the Holy Spirit following the ascension of Jesus into heaven. Jesus merely appeared in "different" modes at different times. However, modalism is not biblically possible as seen in the account of the baptism of Jesus. Look at this event like a snapshot in time. As John baptizes Jesus, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit reveal themselves *at the same time*.

- Jesus comes up out of the water.
- The Spirit of God descends like a dove.
- The heavenly Father's voice is heard from heaven.

Each of the three individual persons of the Trinity was in the same place at the same time, but each of their actions was different.

*"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' "* (Matthew 3:16–17)<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Boyd, Gregory A. (1991). *Oneness Pentecostals and the Trinity*. Grand Rapids: Baker.

<sup>2</sup> Hunt, June (2008). *Biblical Counseling Keys on Jesus: Is He God? Is the Deity of Christ Defendable?* Plano, Texas: Hope For The Heart, 16.