

1 Corinthians 8:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Analysis

But to us there is but one God, the Father (ἀλλ' ἡμῖν εἷς θεὸς ὁ πατήρ, all' hemin heis theos ho pater)—Paul counters polytheism with a Trinitarian monotheistic confession. The Father is the source **of whom are all things** (ἐξ οὗ τὰ πάντα, ex hou ta panta)—the preposition ex indicates origin. Creation flows from the Father. Believers exist **in him** (εἰς αὐτόν, eis auton), indicating purpose or goal—our destiny is the Father.

And one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him (δι' οὗ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἡμεῖς δι' αὐτοῦ)—the preposition dia ("through, by means of") identifies Christ as creation's instrumental agent (cf. John 1:3, Colossians 1:16). This is one of the New Testament's highest Christological statements: Paul applies the Shema's monotheism to include Christ as divine agent of creation and redemption. The parallel structure (Father as source, Son as means) affirms Christ's full deity while maintaining distinction of persons.

Historical Context

Paul reformulates the Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) to include Christ within the divine identity. This wasn't "bitheism" but recognition that the one God of Israel exists as Father and Son (and Holy Spirit, though not mentioned here). For Jewish converts, this was revolutionary—applying YHWH's unique attributes to Jesus. For Gentile

converts from polytheism, this affirmed monotheism while asserting Christ's cosmic lordship over all so-called "gods and lords."

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does confessing "one God, one Lord" restructure your entire worldview and value system?
2. What does it mean practically that all things exist "through" Christ—that He mediates all creation and providence?
3. How should Christ's cosmic lordship relativize all other authorities and allegiances in your life?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ'	ἡμῖν	εἰς	θεὸς	ό	πατήρ	ἐξ	οὐ	τὰ	πάντα
But	to us	one	God	G3588	the Father	of	whom	G3588	are all things
G235	G2254	G1520	G2316		G3962	G1537	G3739		G3956
καὶ	ἡμεῖς	εἰς	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	εἰς	κύριος	Ἰησοῦς	Χριστός	
and	we	in	him	and	one	Lord	Jesus	Christ	
G2532	G2249	G1519	G846	G2532	G1520	G2962	G2424	G5547	
δι'	οὐ	τὰ	πάντα	καὶ	ἡμεῖς	δι'	αὐτοῦ		
by	whom	G3588	are all things	and	we	by	him		
G1223	G3739		G3956	G2532	G2249	G1223	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:36 (Parallel theme): For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

John 1:3 (Parallel theme): All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Malachi 2:10 (References God): Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?

1 Corinthians 8:4 (References God): As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

Acts 17:28 (Parallel theme): For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

John 14:20 (Parallel theme): At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Acts 2:36 (References Jesus): Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:3 (References Jesus): Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 28:18 (References Jesus): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.