

THE ERROR OF UNITARIAN SOCINIANISM



STEVEN RITCHIE

21st Century Reformation Heresy, The Error of Unitarian Socinianism



I had asked Sir Anthony Buzzard some specific questions from the following materials in my email correspondence with him that he apparently could not answer. Therefore I am posting the same scriptural evidence online with the hope that a Socinian Unitarian apologist will respond.



Chapter 1.

Christ Pre-Existed His Birth as God, 1 Corinthians 10:4

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 (NASB) says, "... our fathers WERE all under the CLOUD and all passed through the SEA; 2and all WERE BAPTIZED into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3and all ATE the same SPIRITUAL FOOD; 4and all DRANK the same SPIRITUAL DRINK, for they WERE DRINKING from A SPIRITUAL ROCK WHICH FOLLOWED THEM, and the ROCK WAS CHRIST."

(NASB) says, "... our fathers WERE all under the CLOUD and all passed through the SEA; 2and all WERE BAPTIZED into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; 3and all ATE the

same SPIRITUAL FOOD; 4and all DRANK the same SPIRITUAL DRINK, for they WERE DRINKING from A SPIRITUAL ROCK WHICH FOLLOWED THEM, and the ROCK WAS CHRIST."

Paul clearly stated by inspiration that the Israelite fathers "WERE under the cloud" (the Spirit of God) "and all ATE the same SPIRITUAL FOOD." And they all "WERE BAPTIZED in the cloud and in the sea" (they experienced a type of water and Spirit baptism), "and all DRANK" from the Spirit of God. "For they WERE DRINKING from a Spiritual Rock which FOLLOWED THEM, and the ROCK WAS CHRIST."

Notice that the text says that "they were drinking from a Spiritual Rock which FOLLOWED THEM." Could the Israelites have not ate and drank from the same spiritual food and drink while the scriptures say that they did? Since inspired scripture says that "they were drinking from a Spiritual Rock which FOLLOWED them," we know that the "spiritual rock" is not talking about the literal rock at Horeb. Could the literal rock at Horeb have "FOLLOWED THEM" in the wilderness? Do literal rocks follow people?

We know that "the cloud by day and fire by night" followed the Israelites which clearly speaks of the Spirit of God which "WAS CHRIST" before his birth at Bethlehem. Thus proving that the Holy Spirit of the only true God the Father also became a man within the Hebrew virgin. For 2 Peter 1:21 says the Holy Spirit was in the prophets but 1 Peter 1:11 identifies that Spirit as "the Spirit of Christ" "in them" (in the prophets).

1 Corinthians 10:9 then says, "We should not test Christ (the Greek text says "Christos"), as some of them did--and were killed by snakes."

Inspired scripture says that some of the Israelites did "test Christ." For the words, "as some of them DID" could not somehow be interpreted to mean that some of them did not "test Christ." For it is impossible for the Israelites to have tested Christ if Christ did not pre-exist as the Holy Spirit of the only true God who "followed them" (the Israelite fathers) in the wilderness.

Since the Israelites could not have tested the rock at Horeb or the serpent on the pole, nor merely a pre-incarnate plan, Socinian Unitarian theology is completely untenable. For the Israelites did in fact "test Christ" because Christ pre-existed as the Eternal Spirit of God before also becoming a true man to save us.

Our Heavenly Father is repeatedly spoken of in scripture as being the Israelites Rock. Psalm 18:2 says, The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. Deuteronomy 32:18 - You neglected the Rock who begot you, And forgot the God who gave you birth.

Psalm 18:31 - For who is God, but the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God,
Psalm 18:46 - The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation,

Psalm 19:14 - Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.

Psalm 28:1 - To You, O LORD, I call; My rock,
The LORD (YAHWEH) is repeatedly addressed as the Israelites Rock ("my rock" and "our rock"). When the apostles identified Christ as the Spiritual Rock of the Israelites, they proved that Jesus Christ pre-existed his virgin conception and birth as Yahweh the Spirit of our Heavenly Father.

Heb.1:2 says that God did not speak to the Israelites through "a son" until these "last days" because Jesus pre-existed his birth as God "the Spiritual Rock that FOLLOWED THEM" before becoming a son. Since the literal rock at Horeb did not "follow them" (the Israelites), nor supply spiritual drink ("they drank from that spiritual rock that followed them and that rock was Christ"), we know that Jesus pre-existed his birth as a child born and son given as the Spirit of God who followed the Israelites in the wilderness who "was Christ." Therefore we know that the Spiritual Rock that followed the Israelites "was Christ" as God before becoming a human son.

Chapter 2.

Since Jesus Is Like God, He Must Be That God



Since the new reformationists have admitted that Jesus Christ is the indwelling Holy Spirit, they now have to explain how a mere man can now "fill all things" as the Holy Spirit of the Father without violating Isaiah 42:8 and Isaiah 46:9.

"I am Yahweh, that is My Name, and My glory will I not give to another."
"I am God and there is none else, I am God and there is NONE LIKE ME."

How can Jesus be like God in being the omnipresent Spirit who “fills all things” (Gal. 4:6, Romans 8:9, Ephes. 4:10) and hears and answers prayer (John 14:13) if he is only a mere man?

John 5:23 says that all men should “honor the Son EVEN AS THEY HONOR THE FATHER.” If Jesus is just a man with no pre-existence as God, how then can we honor the Son “even as” we “honor the Father” without committing idolatry?

John 10:37 clearly affirms that Jesus does the works of the Father. Since “there is none like” God he must be that God who came to save us as a true man as Immanuel “God with us” manifested as a human “child born” and “son given.”

If Jesus is not "the arm of YAHWEH revealed" (Isaiah 53:1) then why would Yahweh state in Isaiah 42:8 "I AM YAHWEH that is My Name, AND MY GLORY WILL I NOT GIVE TO ANOTHER."

How could Jesus be "APPOINTED THE HEIR OF ALL THINGS" if he is JUST A MAN? And how is it that we are to "HONOR THE SON EVEN AS" WE "HONOR THE FATHER (John 5:23)?"

How also could Jesus say, "If you shall ask anything in my name I WILL DO IT (John 14:13-14)?"

For Jesus to hear and answer prayers makes him the omnipresent God.

After carefully examining all of this scriptural evidence, it is hard to imagine how anyone could say that Jesus is just a man. The evidence is overwhelmingly in support of Jesus being the Creator (Heb. 3:3-4 / Heb. 1:10), the indwelling Spirit (John 14:17-18 / 2 Cor. 3:17 / Rom. 8:9), and the one who had no beginning as Yahweh before he became the Son (John 8:58).

It is impossible for Jesus to be just a man when he claimed to have lived before Abraham in John 8:58? When Jesus said, "Before Abraham was I AM," he was using the same words as the God of Israel in Exodus 3:14-15. God said to Moses, "... I AM THAT I AM, say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you."

Oneness believers understand that the human spirit of Christ was miraculously fashioned in the virgin along with his human body via the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35). That was when the Son had a beginning and a begetting. Yet He who became the Son has always existed as "the Mighty God" and "Eternal Father (Isaiah 9:6)."



When we read the entire context of Hebrews 1:8-13 we find that verse 10 identifies the one who became the son as "Yahweh" who created the heavens and the earth.

Hebrews 3:3-4 clearly proves that Jesus created all things as God before also becoming a son.

“For this man has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses inasmuch as he who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God.”

Jesus has more glory than Moses because “He built all things as God” before becoming a son.



Isaiah 44:24 proves that Yahweh created all things all by Himself. "I am Yahweh, who made all things, who stretched out the heavens ALONE, Who spread out the earth by MYSELF."

Malachi 2:10 identifies this Yahweh as the Father. "Have we not ONE FATHER, has not ONE GOD created us?"

Isaiah 64:8 also identifies this Yahweh as the Father, "YOU ARE OUR FATHER; we are the clay, and You are our potter; we all are the work of YOUR HANDS." Isaiah 52:10 proves that the Son is the extension of God the Father's Hand via incarnation.

"Yahweh will lay bare His holy arm in the sight of all the nations and all flesh will see the salvation of God."

**Since God speaks anthropomorphically about the Messiah as being His own arm, Jesus must be the full incarnation of "God with us" as a man
(Matthew 1:20-23 / Isaiah 9:6 / John 1:14 / Luke 1:35 / Colossians 2:9 / Hebrews 2:14-17).**

Chapter 3. The Indwelling Holy Spirit Is The Spirit of Christ



2 Cor. 3:17 says, "THE LORD is THE SPIRIT and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty." But just six verses down Paul identifies who the Lord is, "We preach not ourselves BUT CHRIST JESUS THE LORD." Since Christ Jesus is "the Lord", we know that the Lord Jesus is "the Spirit."

If Jesus the Christ child is just a man, why did Paul write, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME?" How can a mere man live in Paul and the rest of the New Testament believer all at once without also being God Almighty?

John 14:26 says that the Holy Spirit is "the paraclete (advocate / intercessor), but John 14:16-18 identifies Jesus as the paraclete (advocate and intercessor) who is "the Spirit of truth" who was with the disciples but would be in the disciples when he said, "I will not leave you as orphans, I WILL COME TO YOU."

How could the Holy Spirit "advocate" and "intercede" for us if the Holy Spirit is only the Spirit of the Father?

If Jesus is just a mere man, how can the followers of the One God Reformation movement explain how "the Holy Spirit" as "the Spirit of Jesus" did not permit Paul and Silas to minister in Asia (modern Turkey) before going into Macedonia?

Acts 16:6-7 says, "After THE HOLY SPIRIT PREVENTED THEM from speaking the word in the province of Asia, they traveled through the region of Phrygia and Galatia. 7And when they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but THE SPIRIT OF JESUS WOULD NOT PERMIT THEM."



The Holy Spirit is called "the Paraclete" in the singular in John 14:26 while Jesus is called the same Paraclete in the singular in 1 John 2:1 and John 14:16-18. Paracletoi is the plural form of Paraclete, so we know that there can only be One Paraclete who is "the Spirit."

"But you are not in the flesh but in THE Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if any man have not THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, he is none of His." Romans 8:9

Notice that Paul wrote of "THE Spirit of God" interchangeably as "THE Spirit of Christ." Do 21st Century adherents believe that a mere man could be the indwelling Spirit within New Testament believers? What Bible text says that any created being could "fill all things" other than God Himself?

I ask our One God Reformation friends to please explain how the Holy Spirit could only be the Spirit of the Father, while Romans 8:26-27 says that the Holy Spirit "makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God (Rom. 8:26-27)?" How can the Holy Spirit of God make intercession to God if the Holy Spirit is only the Spirit of God the Father?

The only scriptural understanding is that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father who also became a man in the incarnation as the Spirit of Jesus who now intercedes for the saints according to the will of God as the indwelling Paraclete.

The scriptures prove that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father outside of the incarnation (God as God), while the Holy Spirit is also the same Spirit who became the man Christ Jesus inside the incarnation via the virgin (God with us as man - Matt. 1:20; Heb. 1:3).



Sir Anthony Buzzard

Anthony Buzzard and his Socinian Unitarian colleagues actually agree with Oneness Theology in that the indwelling Spirit is the Lord Jesus Christ. For 2 Corinthians 3:17 clearly states, “the Lord is the Spirit.” Anthony Buzzards also agrees that John 14:16-18 is Jesus who is the Paraclete as the indwelling Holy Spirit. Therefore “The Spirit of Jesus is the Holy Spirit” in John 14:26.

Socinian Unitarians are so busy trying to disprove the third God the Holy Spirit Person of Trinitarianism that they have refuted their own position by agreeing with Oneness Theology. For if Jesus Christ is the indwelling Holy Spirit, then Jesus must be the Holy Spirit of the Father incarnate as a true man.

The following quote is from Anthony Buzzard’s book entitled, “Jesus Was Not a Trinitarian” - pp 360 – 361.

“It is completely misleading to read into the Bible a third Person, the Holy Spirit. The spirit of Elijah (Luke 1:17) is not a different person from Elijah. Nor is the Spirit of God a different person from the Father. The Holy Spirit is the operational presence of God, His mind and character. It is God (and in the New Testament Jesus) impacting the creation with His creative influence.”

Sir Anthony Buzzard clearly admitted that the Holy Spirit is not “a different person from the Father” as the Spirit of God “is the operational presence of God” being “His mind and character.” Then Sir Anthony admitted that the Holy Spirit “is God” “and in the New Testament” is “Jesus.” These words are in perfect agreement with the theology of Oneness Pentecostals. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God in action who also became Jesus Christ in the New Testament through the Hebrew virgin.

The next quote is from Sir Anthony's book, "The Doctrine of the Trinity: Christianity's Self Inflicted Wound" (Atlanta Bible College and Restoration Fellowship, Morrow GA, 1994) page 102.

"... the Holy Spirit is not a person, existing independently of God; it is a way of speaking about God's personally acting in history, or of the risen Christ's personally acting in the life and witness of the Church."

By admitting that the Holy Spirit is God "personally acting" and "of the risen Christ personally acting," in the New Testament Church, Sir Anthony Buzzard has confessed the scriptural tenets of Oneness Theology.



Since no verse in the Bible ever says that a created angel or human person can exist in more than one place at once, Jesus Christ must be "God with us" as a true man who partakes of the attributes of the only true God the Father Himself.

Jer. 23:24 says that God's Spirit fills the heavens and the earth. "Do not I fill heaven and earth says the LORD?"

Since Jesus also now "fills all things (Ephes. 4:10)", he must be Immanuel "God with us" as a true man. For Isaiah 49:6 says, "I AM GOD AND THERE IS NONE ELSE, I AM GOD AND THERE IS NONE LIKE ME."

Questions for Sir Anthony Buzzard and the 21st Century Reformationists,
How can Jesus be omnipresent as the indwelling Holy Spirit who indwells New Testament believers if he is only a mere man?" Isaiah 46:9 says, "I am God and there is none else, I AM GOD AND THERE IS NONE LIKE ME." How can Jesus be like God as the indwelling Holy Spirit and not be God as a true man?

How could Jesus not be "God with us" as a man through virgin conception while the scriptures prove that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father?



Chapter 4.

The Scriptures Teach That The Father Is The Holy Spirit

A)- In Joel 2:28 God says, **“I will pour out MY SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH.”**
 But Jesus said in Luke 24:49, **“I send the promise of MY FATHER upon you ...”** Since Jesus identified God as saying, **“I will pour out MY SPIRIT upon all flesh”** as **“the promise OF THE FATHER,”** we know that God the Father promised to pour out His own Holy Spirit upon all flesh in the last days. Therefore the Holy Spirit has to be the Spirit of the Father Himself.

B)- Matthew 10:19-20 says that **THE INDWELLING SPIRIT IS THE FATHER.**
“But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. For IT IS NOT YOU WHO SPEAKS, BUT IT IS THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER WHO SPEAKS IN YOU ...” Matthew 10:19-20
 But Jesus informs us in Mark 13:11 that **THE INDWELLING SPIRIT OF THE FATHER IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

“When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for IT IS NOT YOU WHO SPEAKS, BUT IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Notice that both Matthew and Mark record Jesus as saying essentially the same words. The only notable exception is that Matthew recorded Jesus saying, **“... it is the Spirit of your Father”**, while Mark recorded Jesus saying, **“... it is the Holy Spirit”** (Mark 13:11).

C) - In John 14:10, Jesus affirmed that **THE WORKS HE PERFORMED WERE PERFORMED BY THE FATHER ABIDING IN HIM.**
 John 14:10, **“THE FATHER abiding in Me DOES HIS WORKS.”**

But Matthew 12:28 states that THE WORKS OF JESUS WERE PERFORMED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Jesus said in Matthew 12:28, "... it is BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD that I drive out demons ..."

D) –Acts 1:2 proves that Jesus,"had by the Holy Spirit, given commandments to his apostles whom he had chosen."

**But John 12:49 says,
"I have not spoken on My own, but the Father who sent Me has commanded Me what to say...." John 12:49 Berean Study Bible**

Acts 1:2 says that the Holy Spirit gave Jesus the commandments, but John 12:49 says that the Father gave Jesus the commandments. This proves that the Holy Spirit is the indwelling Spirit of the Father.

Jesus went on to say in John 14:24, "... and THE WORD (logos) which you hear IS NOT MINE, BUT THE FATHER'S who sent me."

Thus inspired scripture proves that the Holy Spirit is the One Spirit of the Father who gave the man Christ Jesus the words and commandments to speak to his apostles.



Chapter 5. The Holy Spirit of The Father Became The Human Child Born And Son Given.

A)- THE HOLY SPIRIT HIMSELF REPRODUCED HIS SUBSTANCE OF BEING AS THE CHRIST CHILD WITHIN THE VIRGIN.

Luke 1:35 "THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL COME UPON YOU, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

Matthew 1:20 "... do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is OF THE HOLY SPIRIT."

The Christ child was not conceived "OF" an alleged God the Son, but "OF THE HOLY SPIRIT." I challenge my opponent to cite a single verse to show that an alleged God the Son incarnated Himself as the man Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 1:3 "Who being the brightness of his glory and the express image (charakter = "reproduction", "imprinted copy") of his Person (hypostasis = "substance of Being")." Since the Holy Spirit descended upon the virgin to supernaturally conceive the Christ child, Jesus is the brightness of the Father's glory and the exact reproduction of the Father's Person as a fully complete human person reproduced within the virgin.



B)- THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PARACLETE ("Advocate / Intercessor")

John 14:26, "But the Advocate (Paraclete – "Advocate/Intercessor"), THE HOLY SPIRIT, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."

God as God cannot advocate or intercede to God because God is the Supreme Deity. Yet God as man can intercede to God. For God became man in the incarnation. Thus proving that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit who became man as our Paraclete ("advocate" / "intercessor") in order to advocate and intercede to the Father (Luke 1:35; Matthew 1:20).

C)- JESUS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT (THE PARACLETE – "Advocate / Intercessor")

John 14:16-18 “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate (Paraclete – “Advocate/Intercessor”), that He may be with you forever; 17that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. 18“I will not leave you as orphans; I WILL COME TO YOU ...”

1 John 2:1 IDENTIFIES JESUS AS THE PARACLETE (THE HOLY SPIRIT) “... we have an Advocate (Paraclete) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous ...”

Romans 8:9 “But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God (Holy Spirit) dwells in you. Now if any man have not THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, he is none of His.”

Romans 8:26-27 goes on to state that the indwelling Holy Spirit of God is the Spirit of Christ who makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

“26In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words. 27And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

Notice that the text states that “the Spirit HIMSELF intercedes for us.” Hence, the indwelling Spirit is clearly Personal rather than an impersonal force.

Romans 8:34 goes on to say that it is Christ Jesus who intercedes for us.

“34Who is there to condemn us? For Christ Jesus, who died, and more than that was raised to life, is at the right hand of God — and He is interceding for us.”

The indwelling Spirit of God who “intercedes for us” is identified as “the Spirit of Christ” (Rom. 8:9) and “Christ Jesus” (Romans 8:34) which explains why the Spirit can intercede for us as our Paracletos (advocate and intercessor) to the Father.

Anthony Buzzard and his Socinian Unitarian colleagues have taught that “the Holy Spirit” is not “a different person from the Father” but “it is a way of speaking about God personally acting in history, or of the risen Christ’s personally acting in the life and witness of the Church.”

Sir Anthony Buzzard actually admitted that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father “personally acting in history” and that this same Holy Spirit is also the Spirit “of the risen Christ personally acting.” Therefore the Holy Spirit must be the Personal Spirit of the Father who also later became the Christ child through the Hebrew virgin.

Since an impersonal power called the Holy Spirit or Christ cannot be said to “intercede for the saints according to the will of God” in Romans 8:27 without being Personal, “the Spirit of Christ” must be the Personal “Spirit of God” indwelling New Testament believers. For “the Spirit of God” also became a true man through the Hebrew virgin (Luke 1:35, Matthew 1:20).

Only Oneness Theology brings harmony to all of the scriptural data. For no one can know Jesus' true identity as "LORD but BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (1 Cor. 12:3)."



GLOBAL IMPACT MINISTRIES
www.apostolicchristianfaith.com