

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

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When we speak of God or try to imagine His Being we are at a loss. The finite mind cannot conceive of the infinite...unless the infinite has revealed itself. God has always revealed Himself to man. The Bible is God's revelation of himself to man. In the Bible God reveals himself as three persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. We call this Triune of God – the Trinity.

The word "Trinity" is not specifically stated in Scripture. It is a theological term used to express the Godhead. The Trinity aptly describes the Godhead of God who exists as a threefold personality in one Divine Being.

The Trinity may be defined as One God subsisting in three persons that are co-equal, and co-eternal with one Divine Nature. In other words God is three persons with identical Essence. God is a plurality of persons belonging to the same divine being. You cannot have one without the other. The three persons of the Trinity are not three separate beings they are three beings in one (2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Peter 1:20).

The following Bible verses point to the existence of a Triune Godhead: Genesis 1:26 "us" (a plural pronoun for God); Genesis 3:22,23; Deuteronomy 6:4 is the plural Hebrew word for "Elohim" (the "IM" is plural – meaning more than one). See also: Genesis 11:7; 2 Samuel 23:1-3; Isaiah 6:8; 48:16; 63:7-10; Psalm 110:1; 2:7. In the New Testament: Matthew 28:19; John 5:8; 10:30; 14:16; 20:28; Acts 2:33; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Pet.1:2,3; Revelation 1:4.

When the Bible refers to God as "one" it is referring to the Essence of God. When the Bible refers to or distinguishes between the persons of the Godhead, the names used for each is singular such as: Yahweh, Adoni, or Jehovah.

Jesus Christ is the only visible member of the Trinity (Godhead), John 1:18; 6:46; 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 4:12. God the Father is revealed by the incarnate Christ, by Creation, by His Word the Bible, and by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout Scripture God is referred to as Light. To help us understand the Trinity in a better light, let us look at the characteristics of light: Light is one, but light is composed of three elements which I find astonishing. There is no light apart from all three components that make light, light. For example:

(1). Actinic - is a ray of light consisting of short wave lengths that are neither seen nor felt, a perfect example of God the father.

(2). Luminiferous – is light produced by emissions of light from heat. This type of light is both seen and felt a perfect illustration of Jesus Christ the second person of the Trinity during the incarnation.

(3). Calorific – is light converted into heat. It is not seen, but felt illustrating the Holy Spirit.

Just remember when the Bible refers to God as One it is referring to His Essence. When Divine Persons are the subject God is revealed as three persons. The following verses illustrate this point: 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2.

In Eternity past God the Father planned the Salvation of man before man was ever created, before man ever fell in the Garden of Eden. God sent the Son to fulfill his plan for the salvation of men: Isaiah 14:27; John 4:34; 5:17 & 19-47; 12:44-50; 1 Corinthians 8:6. Especially see Ephesians 3:11. God's Plan contains three phases: Phase one is God's Plan of Salvation, provided by the suffering and death of God the Son on the Cross, John 3:15-18,36; 4:34; 5:17; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 10:7. Phase Two –Includes both the provision of salvation and the Christian life which is revealed by God the Holy Spirit. At the point of faith in Christ, "salvation", the Holy Spirit executes phase two of God's plan for believers throughout their lifetime. John 16:8-11, John 16:34; 1 Corinthians 2:10. Phase three (the believer in eternity) is performed by God the Father, John 14:1, 2.

Thank you, Father, for revealing your incomprehensible self. Thank you Lord for "becoming" in the likeness of human flesh when you came to earth and dwelt with us so that we could see you and know you personally. Without you Lord Jesus we could not comprehend God. Thank you for dying on the Cross to save us from your wrath which we all deserve, in Jesus Wonderful Name, Amen.

For additional information regarding the Trinity see the study on the "Deity of Christ." The "Doctrine Of The Holy Spirit," is forthcoming.