

I. WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

A. The word Trinity itself is not in the scriptures, but is a word that Christians use to describe how God has revealed Himself through the bible. It is the church's best attempt to say faithfully what the Bible says about the God who reveals himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

B. The core claim of the Trinity is that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

a) ***"Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one"-Deut. 6:4***

b) ***"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."-1 John 5:7***

C. The Bible reveals God as:

1. GOD THE FATHER

a) ***"A Father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in His holy habitation."-Ps 68:5***

b) ***"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."-Jn 17:3***

c) ***"yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things"-1 Cor 8:6***

2. GOD THE SON

a) ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."-Jn 1:1***

b) ***"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"-Titus 2:3***

c) ***"For unto us a Child is born... and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace"-Is 9:6***

3. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

- a) ***"³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy SpiritWhy have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."-Acts 5:3-4***
- b) ***"¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty"-2 Cor 3:17***

II. CALLED TO BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY BUT NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND IT

- A. The truth is that God transcends human understanding and because God is unlike anything in creation it is literally impossible to find any earthly illustration to describe the Triune God.
- B. The doctrine of the Trinity isn't meant to make God fully comprehensible, but it's meant to faithfully describe what Scripture revealed by God, and to produce wonder and awe in our worship.

III. THE TRINITY IN CREATION

- A. While Genesis does not explicitly use the term *Trinity*, the doctrine emerges from the full witness of all of Scripture.
- B. The opening chapter of Genesis contains clear indications of plurality within the Godhead, and the New Testament writers understood creation as the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit acting together in perfect unity.
- C. Though the doctrine is revealed progressively through all of Scripture, the seeds of the Trinity are unmistakably present from the very beginning of scripture.
 - 1. ***"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."-Gen 1:1-3***
- D. The Hebrew word *Elohim*, used for God in the very first verse of Genesis, is grammatically plural, yet it consistently takes singular verbs such as

'created' and 'said.' While this does not by itself prove the doctrine of the Trinity, it does suggest a richness and complexity within God's nature.

- E. From the opening verse of Scripture, we see a unity and plurality that is fully revealed later in the Bible as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

IV. THE ROLES OF THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT IN CREATION

A. GOD THE FATHER

1. ***"In the beginning God"***

B. GOD THE SPIRIT

1. ***"And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."***

C. GOD THE SON

- a) ***"Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."-Gen. 1:3***

2. The New Testament explicitly teaches that Jesus participated in creation

- a) ***³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made."-John 1:3***

- b) ***"For by Him all things were created."-Colossians 1:16***

- c) ***"Through whom also He made the worlds."-Hebrews 1:2***

V. THE TRINITY AND CREATION OF MAN

1. ***"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness"-Gen 1:26***

2. ***"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."-Gen 2:7***

- B. The plural pronouns "Us" and "Our" have been understood by many Christian theologians as an early indication of plurality within the

Godhead. While some scholars interpret this as God speaking to His heavenly court of angels, humans are not made in the image of angels but in the image of God, making a strong argument that the Trinity is being revealed in these passages.

- C. The creation of humanity was a work of the Triune God. The Father willed it, the Son created it, and the Spirit gave life to it.(breathed into Man). From the very beginning, the Trinity was actively involved in forming man in God's image

VI. THE TRINITY AT JESUS' WATER BAPTISM

- 1. ***16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***-Mt 3:16-17

- B. The baptism of Jesus is one of the clearest and most dramatic trinitarian moments in all of Scripture. All three persons of the Godhead are present and distinct simultaneously, which makes it one of the strongest cases of the Godhead.

- C. ALL THREE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD ARE PRESENT BUT DISTINCT AND IN THE DIFFERENT PLACES

- 1. THE SON

- a) Jesus standing in the water bodily, being baptized

- 2. THE HOLY SPIRIT

- a) Descending visibly from heaven in the form of a dove

- 3. THE FATHER

- a) Speaking audibly from heaven, "***This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***"

- (1) All three are present and active at the same moment, in different locations, doing different things. This is as

close to a visible, tangible display of the Trinity as Scripture gives us.

VII. THE TRINITY IN REDEMPTION

1. The Father plans it, the Son accomplishes it, and the Spirit applies it.

B. THE FATHER

1. The Father is the architect and initiator of the whole plan of redemption.

C. THE SON

1. The Son did it. He entered history and actually secured our redemption through his life, death, and resurrection.

D. THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Spirit draws, convicts, regenerates, indwells, seals, and sanctifies.

VIII. IS BELIEF IN THE TRINITY ESSENTIAL?

- A. Many of the most respected theologians throughout church history have argued that the Trinity is essential because it is not merely a doctrine about God and salvation, it is the doctrine of who God is. To reject the Trinity is ultimately to reject the biblical revelation of God, the identity of Jesus Christ, the unique role of the Spirit, and the work of salvation.
- B. We can't properly understand salvation unless we understand the Godhead's role in it. To deny the Trinity is to deny God's salvation plan.
- C. Belief in a Triune God is essential because it is foundational to worshiping in Spirit and truth, understanding Jesus as God, the Holy Spirit as God, and even the gospel.

IX. FIVE REASONS WHY THE TRINITY IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR FAITH?

1. IT IS BIBLICAL

- a) To reject the trinity, is to reject the bible as God's infallible and inerrant inspired Word because the scriptures reveal God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. IT IS NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND TRUE GOD

- a) The Trinity is not just a description of God but the *correct* one. It defines the True God therefore protecting us from worshipping a false one.
- b) Believing the Trinity allows us to understand the different attributes and nature of God revealed through the Godhead.
- c) *We come to the Father as our Creator, the Son (Jesus) as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our sanctifier.*

3. IT IS NECESSARY FOR TRUE WORSHIP

- a) What we believe about God affects our worship. If we don't understand God as revealed in the Scriptures we can have a twisted version of God which will affect our worship.

(1) *"²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*-Jn 4:24

4. IT IS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION

- a) If we don't believe the Trinity then salvation is incomplete. The Trinity affirms and protects the belief that Jesus is God, and if He is not God then we have no savior.

(1) The Father sends the Son to the world, the Son redeems, and the Spirit applies redemption.

- b) If we get the Trinity wrong then we will get the gospel wrong. The gospel reveals the full roles of the Trinity. The gospel declares that God the Father sent His Son, the Son died for our sins, and the Spirit rose Him from the dead.(Rom 8:11)

5. IT IS THE HISTORICAL UNIVERSAL BELIEF OF THE CHURCH

- a) The Trinity is part of the Nicene Creed which was universally accepted core beliefs of Christianity forged with a great price. In the creed it recognizes God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.