



3 in 1: Understanding the Trinity

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What is the Trinity???

Trinity is actually a word not found in the Bible. It is a word we use to describe a concept that is supported by the Word of God, though the word itself is not in scripture.

Webster's Dictionary describes it this way...

1. (*Christian Theol.*) The union of three persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost) in one Godhead, so that all the three are one God as to substance, but three persons as to individuality.

In other words, Trinity means that God is One, but He is also Three. He is One God, but He consists of 3 different parts of himself. He is the Father, He is also the Son, and God is the Holy Spirit. All three are God, and any one of them is equally God. Each of them has distinct characteristics and roles that they fulfill, yet they all make up the One, True God. Confused yet??

Let's take a look at when Jesus was baptized to help us understand how God is three persons.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. [14] But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

[15] Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

[16] 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. [17] And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

We see that at the very same time that Jesus (the Son) [1] was coming up out of the water, the Holy Spirit of God [2] descended on Him like a dove. Then a voice came from Heaven and said, "This is my Son!!!" [3] Who's voice was that?? The Father's.

We see very clearly that the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Father are all present and doing something different at the very same time. God is clearly three persons.

Take a look at what Deuteronomy has to say about God being One.

Deut. 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

This verse says, "the Lord is One." Let's see what Jesus has to say about being one with His Father.

John 10:30

I and the Father are one.

Remember this claim is one of the main reasons the Pharisees were out to kill Jesus. They thought it was horrible for anyone to claim to be "one" with God. That means they would have to be God!!! Well, Jesus was truly God and man. For anyone else it would have been a false claim, but for Christ it is the truth. Jesus (the Son) and the Father God are one. They are both equally God.

Ephes. 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- [5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism; [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Again, the scripture clearly states there is One God.

Some of you are about to be baptized in a few days. When you are baptized the pastor's going to say something right before he puts you underwater. Do you have any idea what he might say???

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

There's your answer... He'll say, "IN the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." Then sploosh... under you go.

We baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; because these are the names of the God we serve. Those are His three persons, all wrapped up into One Awesome God. This is the God we serve.

Object Lessons:

- Egg (shell, white, yoke)
- Three Strand Rope (3 strands, 1 rope)

Works Cited:

Webster's 1913 Dictionary.

<http://www.webster-dictionary.org/definition/trinity>
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