

Lesson 3: The Trinity

INTRODUCTION

More than any other doctrine, the way we view God determines how we approach the Christian life. God produced the Bible to tell us about Himself and only what God had chosen of Himself to revealed can be known.

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most fascinating subjects in the Bible yet difficult to comprehend with the natural mind (Romans 8:7). The purpose of this Lesson is not to reason how it is possible, but to show that God's Word confirms that it is true (John 3:33).

OUTLINE

I. The Trinity is Three-In-One

1. By the term "trinity" we have reference to God as being three distinct personalities (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), who being three are one (I John 5:7).

The difficulty in understanding this subject comes from seeing God in His three persons as being distinctly separate in the Scriptures although we know that He is one (Matthew 18:1-4).

2. This the concept of the God-head. Trinity simply means Tri-unity.
3. Some references to the Trinity in the Scriptures:
 - The "US" in Genesis 1:26.
 - The Trinity in Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17).
 - The Trinity in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19).
 - The Trinity in Paul's Prayer (2 Corinthians 13:14).
4. All throughout God's creation, we can notice God's triple signature:
 - The three states of water (ice, liquid and vapor)
 - The three states of time (past, present and future)
 - The three basic elements of matter (proton, neutron and electron)
 - The three dimensions
 - Man as a tripartite being – body, soul and spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:23)

II. The Three Persons of the Triune God

1. *God the Father*

- The Father is the AUTHORITY of the Trinity.
- Jesus submitted to the will of the Father (Matthew 26:39).
- He is the Begetter or Creator of all things.
- He is the personal Begetter of our salvation - we become His child by faith and He becomes our Father, whereby we cry "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:6)

- God the Father is Jehovah
 - He is the self-existent One (Exodus 6:3).
 - He is the “first and the last”, a name that is used exclusively of Jehovah God (Isaiah 44:6).
 - He is the “Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end” (Revelation 21:5-6).
 - He is the “I AM”, a special name God used to show that His authority was with Moses (Exodus 3:14).
 - He is the “eternal God” (Deuteronomy 33:27)

2. *God the Son*

- The name “Jesus” means “Jehovah Saves” (Matthew 1:21)
- His title, Christ, is the same as the Messiah (or the chosen One)
- Jesus Christ is Jehovah who had come in sinless flesh. The names attributed to the Father were same names used of Jesus:
 - He is called Jehovah (Isaiah 12:2-4)
 - There is salvation in no other name but Jesus (Acts 4:10-12).
 - No one can come to the Father except through Jesus (John 14:6).
 - He is called “first and last” (Revelation 1:13-18).
 - It is evident that this talks about Jesus and not the Father (v.18).
 - He is called “Alpha and Omega” (Revelation 1:7-8; 22:12-13).
 - Revelation 22:20 reveals who the “Alpha and Omega” is.
 - Revelation 1:7 mentioned that they “pierced him”.
 - He is called “I am” (John 8:58)
 - The Jews understood that it was a claim for deity that’s why they were going to stone him because He claimed to be Jehovah (John 10:30-33).
 - He is called the “Everlasting Father” (Isaiah 9:6).
- Jesus has always existed:
 - John 1:1 – He was both in the beginning, and was God Himself (1 John 5:7, John 1:14)
 - He shared the glory of God His Father (John 17:5).
 - He was not created – He was Creator!
 - He created all things (John 1:3)
 - God the Father was talking to Jesus and the Holy Spirit in Gen 1:26. Please notice the Spirit in Gen 1:2.
- Jesus is God
 - 1 Timothy 3:16 – God was manifest in the flesh
 - John 1:1 – Jesus was separate yet equal with God (Philippians 2:5-6)
 - Colossians 2:9 – in Jesus was all of God. Godhead – means trinity
 - Matthew 1:23 – Emmanuel – God with us (Isaiah 7:14)
- Other references that testify of Christ’s deity:
 - The Father says of Jesus “let all the angels of God worship him” (Hebrews 1:6)
 - Thomas worshipped Jesus, calling him Lord and God. Jesus did not rebuke him but pronounced a blessing on him because of his worship.

3. God the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is a person and He is as much God as the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Just like the Holy Spirit is active in the work of Creation, He actively indwells in the life of the Christians and empowers the believers for the performance of God's service.
- The Holy Spirit creates (Job 33:4).
- Gen 1:2 – The Holy Spirit was with God in the beginning – He co-exists with the Father and the Word
- 1 John 5:7 – The Holy Spirit is God, just as are the Father and the Word
- John 15:26 – The Holy Spirit comes from the Father and is referred to as a Person – Comforter → HE
- Rom 8:11, Acts 2:32 – The Holy Spirit's power raised up Jesus from the dead.
- The Holy Spirit calls out and separates men for service (Acts 13:1-2; 20:28)

Conclusion

The evidence is overwhelming that the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are one God in three distinct persons. The Scriptures reveals it and we must accept God's Word by faith.