

Explaining The Trinity

'I am the Lord, and there is no other' (Isaiah 45:18). God the Father is our Lord.

'To those who have received a like precious faith with ourselves, in the righteousness of our God and Saviour, Jesus our Messiah' (2 Peter 1:1). 'Awaiting and looking for the blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus our Messiah' (Titus 2:13). Jesus the Son is our Lord.

'In that same hour, Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "I thank You Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have concealed these things. Yes, Father, for such was Your will"' (Luke 10:21). The Holy Spirit is our Lord.

'In the beginning, God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep. The Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) was moving over the face of the waters' (Genesis 1:1 & 2). The Hebrew word for God is Elohim and God is presented as plural in the opening verses of the Bible. The last three letters 'h.i.m' (pronounced heem) is the plural ending in the Hebrew language, so we already see the triune God; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Let Us (plural) make mankind in Our (plural) image' (Genesis 1:26). 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us' (plural) (Genesis 3:22). 'In the beginning (before all time) was the Word (Jesus), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He (Jesus) was present originally with God. All things were created through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made. In Him (Jesus) was Life, and the Life was the Light of mankind' (John 1:1 to 4). 'He (Jesus) is the exact likeness of the unseen God; He is the Firstborn of all creation, for it was in Him that all things were created, in heaven and on earth' (Colossians 1:15 & 16). The three divine Personalities, God the Father, The Son Who is the Word of God, plus the Holy Spirit created everything in unity and in complete harmony. The Latin word Trinity is not found in the Bible, but is used in English to explain the Godhead. Many people are disturbed by the word, mainly because they cannot grasp the concept of our three-in-one God. The concept is very simple.

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are each our Lord. God is One and there is no other, however, believing that Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit is God, is not like believing in three Gods. We need to understand the three-in-one Godhead – three Persons – one God. Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30). That is one in unity but two Persons, each with His own role. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are each our God, although there is only one God, not three. We pray to the Father in Jesus' name, and it is the Holy Spirit Who helps us. 'Whatever you ask of the Father in My name, He may give it to you' (John 15:16). 'I am telling you the truth when I say it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go away the Holy Spirit will not come to you; but if I do go away, I will send Him to you' (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, promised by Jesus and sent to us after Jesus rose from the dead. We can see in the following verse, that the Holy Spirit, the Father and Jesus are three separate Persons, but one in unity and purpose. 'But the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things' (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father in Jesus the Son's, name. The Holy Spirit is as real as God the Father and Jesus the Son. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three Persons but One in unity, and to have this same unity with God, we must be baptised in water in the (one) name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19) and filled with the Holy Spirit of God (Acts 2:38). It is Jesus Who baptised us with the fire of the Holy Spirit. 'I (John) have baptised you with water, but He (Jesus) will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire' (Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16). One purpose of the Holy Spirit is to testify about Jesus. 'When the Holy Spirit comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes from the Father, He Himself will testify regarding Me (Jesus)' (John 15:26). 'The Lord is the Holy Spirit, and where the Holy Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom' (2 Corinthians 3:17). Again in these verses, we can see the Three working together in complete unity.

When Jesus spent many hours in prayer, He was not talking to Himself – He was talking to His Father. When Jesus said He did only what He saw the Father doing (John 5:19), it was obvious He was speaking of a different Person. 'Jesus said to her (Mary), "Do not cling to Me for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to My brethren and tell them, I am ascending

to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God” (John 20:17). These verses make it clear that Jesus the Son and God the Father are two separate Persons. God the Father is the ruler of all things. He is the Head. He sits on His throne ruling the whole universe and He keeps everything in order. ‘The Lord reigns over the nations. The Lord sits on His holy throne’ (Psalm 47:8). ‘The Lord has established His throne in the heavens. His Kingdom rules over all’ (Psalm 103:19).

The purpose of the Son when He came to earth was to reconcile mankind with God the Father. ‘And God purposed that through the Son, all things should be completely reconciled back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, the Father made peace by means of the blood of Jesus’ cross’ (Colossians 1:20). Obviously, Jesus is a distinctly different Person than God the Father, because God calls Him His begotten and beloved Son, and has called Jesus to sit down beside Him in heaven. Jesus now sits on the right hand of the Father. To see where God calls Jesus His Son, we can look up the following scripture references; Psalm 2:7; Matthew 2:15; 3:17; 11:27; 17:5; Mark 1:11; 9:7; Luke 3:22; 9:35; 10:22; Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5; and 2 Peter 1:17. ‘He has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God’ (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus is now the Head of His body of believers and followers. ‘He is the Head of His body, the church ... He alone occupies the chief place’ (Colossians 1:18).

‘For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; the government shall be upon His shoulder and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’ (Isaiah 9:6). This verse says Jesus is both the Son and the Father. That is difficult for some people to comprehend. How can He be the Son and the Father? That can be explained by understanding that Jesus is both our Creator and our Saviour, therefore He is our Father through Creation, and the Father of our eternal life. It was Jesus Who created mankind and before Adam sinned, Adam and God the Father fellowshiped together in the cool of each afternoon (Genesis 3:8). That fellowship was broken when Adam disobeyed, so it was Jesus Who took responsibility for reconciling mankind back to the Father. ‘We were reconciled to God through the death of His Son’ (Romans 5:10). Comprehending this will help us understand how we must worship Jesus as God because He is God. Remember Thomas said to Jesus, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28), and Jesus did not correct him. When we worship Jesus, we are worshipping God the Father.

If it is still hard for anyone to understand the three-in-one concept, we need look no further than our own species. People are three-in-one. ‘May the God of peace Himself sanctify you; and may your spirit, soul and body be preserved sound and complete and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus our Messiah’ (1 Thessalonians 5:23). We are all made up of three parts; spirit, soul and body. When Adam was created, he had the spirit of life breathed into his body, and he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Adam became spirit, soul and a breathing body; three parts, each with its own role and purpose, all wrapped up in one package. Adam was not three people, but one person with three distinctive parts, each with its own role. God is not three People, but One, with three distinctive parts, each with His own role. A married couple, two people, are to become one. ‘For this cause, the man shall leave his parents and be joined to his wife and the two will become one flesh’ (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:31) – two people, but one in unity, each with his/her own role and purpose. If we hold an egg, we hold three parts in one – the shell, the white and the yolk, but it is still just one egg – each part with its own purpose. An apple has the skin, the flesh and the core containing the seeds, but it is still just one apple.

We hope this has helped to explain the Trinity, the three-in-one Godhead, each being God, each Personality with His own role and purpose, but being only one God.

Amen and God bless you.

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