

The Trinity Doctrine – Colossians 2:1-10

Today begins a four-part series

- a. The Trinity – an overall look at the doctrine
- b. God the Father – One God and Father of all
- c. God the Son – Jesus is fully God and fully Man
- d. God the Holy Spirit – third person of the God-head
- e. I will not suppose to answer all the questions – great scholars through the ages have debated this – however, I will attempt to give you some Biblical handles to hold onto and provide some direction for the framework of the debate.

The Christian view of God is that He is three persons existing eternally on one nature or essence. We DO NOT worship three gods... but One God who is himself three distinct persons.

1. The word “trinity” is not found in Scripture; Yet Scripture teaches the doctrine throughout.
 - a. The doctrine is a “progressively revealed mystery.” By its very nature it cannot be figured out by observation or scientific process.
 - i. “One may be in danger of losing his soul by denying the trinity – he may also be in equal danger of losing his mind as he tries to understand it!
 - b. There have been many attempts to use human analogy to help us understand the three-in-one persons of God
 - i. Water – it is steam, liquid, and ice
 - ii. An egg – it is yolk, white, and shell
 - iii. A tree – it is root, trunk, and limbs
2. Why study this confusing doctrine?
 - a. Trinity doctrine is faithful to the witness of the Bible, which presents us with one God in three persons; Father, Son, Spirit.
 - i. The Bible does not seek to explain the trinity any more than it does to explain the existence of God
 - ii. God is... there is no description of where he came from or his pre-human existence... just that He IS and always has been.
 - iii. In the same way the presence of the trinity is an accepted fact throughout scripture
 - b. The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. Its study enables us to answer the question that is central to our seeking after God: What is God like in himself? God exists in the persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet he is one God. It is God’s design to reunite with his creation; for us to know him fully.
 - c. Trinity Doctrine upholds the glory and truth of the incarnation (God with Us!). In Jesus nothing less than very God of very God dwelt among us. If he were not God he could not pay the penalty for sin and if he were not man he could not have born the sin in our stead.
 - i. Jesus said, “He who has seen me, has seen the Father” John 14:9
 - ii. Colossians 1:15 calls Christ “The image of the invisible God”
 - iii. Colossians 1:19 “in him all the fullness of God was please to dwell.”
 - iv. Colossians 2:9 “For in Him dwells the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”
 - d. Trinity doctrine opens up the truth that the eternal God is capable of suffering. God is at one with our suffering, instead of being one step removed.
 - i. It reflects our belief that our salvation is the work of the incarnate God.
 - ii. In order for sinners to be saved, one must see God at one and the same time as the one judging our sin (the Father), the one making payment of infinite value for our sin (the divine Son), and the one empowering and directing the incarnate—

human—Son so that he lives and obeys the Father, going to the cross as a substitute for us (the Holy Spirit). God, to be savior, must then be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. That is, our salvation comes as the Father judges our sin in his Son, who became incarnate and lived his life in the power of the Spirit. Disregard the Trinity and you necessarily undermine salvation

- e. Trinity doctrine confesses the church's experience that the God of the Old Testament both revealed God in Jesus and continues to abide with us in the person of the Holy Spirit.
3. The presence of the Trinity is found in OT and NT
- a. Genesis 1:1-3 & 26 – Creator God, God the Word, God the Spirit moving; “Let US make man...”
 - i. The Beginning is not the beginning of God, but the beginning of human history
 - ii. The same beginning referred to in John 1
 - b. Mark 1:9-11 at the baptism of Jesus
 - i. Jesus in the flesh
 - ii. The Spirit descending like a dove
 - iii. God the Father speaking audibly
 - c. Matthew 28:19 – The baptismal formula
 - i. Baptize in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - d. Galatians 4:4-6 speaks of the three-in-one
 - i. God sent forth his son
 - ii. Because you are now sons; God sends forth His spirit