

# THE TRIUNITY OF GOD

Even though the word Trinity is never used in scripture, the truth of the teaching is constantly affirmed to the reader. The word Bible is not used in the Bible yet it is an acceptable description. The origin of a word does not determine the truth of its meaning.

## I. The Bible describes the Trinity

A. There is one God seen in three Persons who are each Fully God

1. Each person is called God and there is only one - Isa. 44: 8 Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one."

a. The Father - John 8:54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.

b. The Son - John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 20: 26-29 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand [here], and put [it] into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed [are] those who have not seen and [yet] have believed."

*Note* - Jesus praises Thomas for his worship and proclamation

c. The Holy Spirit - Acts 5:3-4 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

*Note* - First of all you cannot lie to an impersonal force or power. Second, playing falsehood to the Spirit is equated as playing falsehood to God.

2. The Bible teaches that there is only one creator: Isaiah 44:24, yet it also shows each person in the Trinity as being the creator.

Isa. 44: 24 "This is what the LORD says--your Redeemer, who formed you in the womb: I am the LORD, who has made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself,

*Note* - Jehovah says He made the heavens by Himself and even asks the rhetorical question, "Who was with me?" He is implying that no one else participated in creation with Him.

a. God is creator - Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

b. Jesus Christ is creator - Colossians 1:16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

*Note* - The NWT adds [other] but it is not in the original text. See their foreword on page 6 of the NWT. The context shows how Jesus Christ is Superior to all things. See 2:8-9 In Jesus dwells all the fullness of the divine quality. All divinity dwells in Christ.

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

*Note* - Jesus cannot be in the category of created beings. If Jesus created all things that were created then He Himself could not be created. He cannot create Himself. You cannot create if you do not exist! You cannot create yourself if you do not exist. Yet, apart from Him *not even one thing* came into existence. In context, John 1:1 should not be [the word was a god] but [the word was God].

c. The Holy Spirit is creator - Psalm 104:30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

*Note* - Gen 2:7 - God made [formed] man and here the Spirit is said to have made man. This is equating the Spirit with God.

**3.** There is only one God who has sovereign power over life and death. - Isa. 43:10-13; Heb. 9:27 Each person in the Trinity resurrected Jesus from the grave.

De 32:39 See now that I, [even] I, [am] he, and [there is] no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither [is there any] that can deliver out of my hand.

*Note* - There is no smaller god with Jehovah. Only He can make alive there is no other.

a. God raised Jesus - Acts 2:22-24 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

b. Jesus raised Himself - John 2:19-21 Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" But the temple he had spoken of was his body.

*Note* - Jesus said he would raise himself. He is equal with God. He raised His body from death. Not a spirit and not another body. See John 20:19-29 His body had the exact same wounds that it suffered before His death. Jesus is equal with God.

c. The Spirit raised Jesus - Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

*Note* - Paul is stating they can have confidence that if the Spirit raised Jesus then He can surely raise you. The Spirit is a person who can raise people from the dead. He is equal with God because only God has that power.

#### 4. There is only one God who is almighty - Ps. 135:5

Ps. 135:5 I know that the LORD is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

a. God is Omnipotent - Job 42: 2 "I know that you can do all things; no plan of yours can be thwarted.

b. Jesus is Omnipotent - Rev. 1: 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

*Note* - In context this is Jesus speaking. Jesus is the only one "who was" or died. Did Jehovah ever die?

See Rev. 1:17,18

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 "I [am] He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

*Note* - Jesus is the first and last the same as God. The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, and the First and the Last are all the same.

Rev 22: 12 "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward [is] with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, [the] Beginning and [the] End, the **First** and the Last."

c. The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent - Zech. 4:6 So he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: `Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty.

*Note* - The Spirit has the equivalent power of Jehovah

5. There is only one God who is every where at once - 1 Kings 8: 27 "But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!

a. God is Omnipresent - Isa. 66:1 This is what the LORD says: "Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. Where is the house you will build for me? Where will my resting place be?"

b. Jesus is Omnipresent - Matt 18:20 For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

*Note* - Jesus and the Father are both Omnipresent

c. The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent - Jn. 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you for ever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

*Note* - The Spirit is a person called he and him not it and is omnipresent making him equal with the Father and the Son.

6. There is only one God who knows everything - 1 Kings 8:39 - then hear from heaven, your dwelling-place. Forgive and act; deal with each man according to all he does, since you know his heart (for you alone know the hearts of all men)

a. God is Omniscient - 1 Jn. 3:19,20 This then is how we know that we belong to the truth, and how we set our hearts at rest in his presence whenever our hearts condemn us. For God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

b. Jesus is Omniscient - Col. 2:2,3 - My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

c. Holy Spirit is Omniscient - Jn. 14: 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

B. God is Three Persons and there is one God is not contradictory

1. It is not impossible and it is not a contradiction. I can believe it without having to understand it fully as long as it is not irrational.

2. God is three persons and God is not three persons is contradictory

"Baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: there are three distinct persons: in the Name, not names; there is one essence." -- Thomas Adams

How can He manifest Himself as three different persons and still be of the same essence?

## II. Reasoning the Trinity

A. Is there anything God cannot do?

Mt 19:26 But Jesus beheld [them], and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

Mr. 10:27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men [it is] impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

Lu 1:37 For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Lu 18:27 And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.

\* God cannot do things that are illogical or sinful. round triangle or lie. The trinity does not fit these categories.

B. Can God be in more than one place at a time?

Deut. 7 What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us whenever we pray to him?

Psalms 139:7-10 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou [art] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou [art there]. [If] I take the wings of the morning, [and] dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Note - The psalmist is stating that there is not a single place one can go that God isn't already there.

C. Then it is not impossible for God to manifest Himself as three distinct persons at the same time in different places.

Matt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Luke 1: 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

*Note* - We have seen that there is only one God. Three are called God or referenced as God or possess divine attributes that only God possesses. Either these three are the one God or the Bible contradicts itself. In the latter case everything else in the Bible would be wrong. However, if God is ever present then He can be manifested in three persons at the same time who all would possess the same attributes and would be credited with doing the same works.

### III. Understanding false views

#### A. What the Trinity is not

##### 1. Tri-theism (Three Gods)

Early in church history some errant teachers believed that there were three that were God but they were only related in a loose association. They lacked unity but possessed an association with one another. They taught there were three Gods rather than three persons within one Godhead.

##### \* Mormonism

1 Cor. 8:4-6 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

##### 2. Sabellianism or Modalism (God changing to different persons but not at the same time)

Originating with Sabellius (AD 200) this teaching erred in believing the Father, Son, an Holy Spirit were three modes of existence or three manifestation of one God. There is not three persons in the Godhead but one God acting in different forms at different times. He is not the Father and the Son at the same time. He becomes the Father, then the Son, then the Holy Spirit.

##### \* Jesus only or Oneness Pentecostals

Matt. 3:16,17 As soon as Jesus was baptised, 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. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

##### 3. Arianism (God the Father is almighty God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are minor gods)

Arian's belief subordinated the Son to the Father to the point of His essence as well as his position. God the Father was the only uncreated Being of the Godhead but Jesus was begotten later and the Holy Spirit came from the Father and Son. Therefore Jesus and the Holy Spirit were not eternal in the sense of pre-existence.

##### \* Jehovah's Witnesses

Isa. 44: 6 "This is what the LORD says--Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

#### B. Overcoming common arguments

##### 1. Why is the Holy Spirit not mentioned as God by being listed with Jesus and the Father?

*Note* - Argument from omission. To say I have two girls does not mean I don't have a son. This is a false argument. You would have to say I have two girls and no sons to make this type of argument true. The Scriptures affirm that the Spirit is a person equal with God.

## 2. Why does Jesus say he has a God? Why does Jesus pray to God?

Phil. 2:5-9 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

### a. Jesus took on a new relationship with the Father when He became a man..

*Note* – Jesus took on himself flesh and became a man as well as being God. Jesus as a man must have God the Father to whom he must pray and serve. If He did not then his humanity could be equated equal with God. Men can not become gods. If the Bible did not say Jesus had the father as His God, it would be teaching false doctrine. It would be saying that humanity could become God. Jesus was fully God and fully human. Humanly he would call the Father God but divinely He would call himself God.

### b. Jesus made Himself subordinate to the Father.

*Note* - Jesus in no less mighty than the Father because He placed Himself in submission to the Father. It is the same as a wife is no less human when she places herself in submission to her husband.

#### Recommended Book List:

"*Why you should believe in the Trinity*" by Robert Bowman, Jr. Baker Book House

"*The Trinity*" by Edward Henry Bickersteth Kregel Publications

"*Oneness Pentecostals & the Trinity*" by Gregory Boyd Baker Book House

Web Sites: We cannot endorse everything about these site nor links from them but they are generally a good source.

<http://www.xjw.com/>

<http://www.bible.ca/indexJws.htm>

<http://www.holyscriptures.com/>

<http://www.exjws.net/>

[http://www.jwic.com/home\\_e.htm](http://www.jwic.com/home_e.htm)