**Systematic Biblical Truth  
The Trinity**

I. General Observations.

A. The Trinity cannot be comprehended by the human mind.

B. God is absolutely and eternally one essence subsisting in three distinct and ordered  
 persons.

C. The Actual word “Trinity” is not found anywhere in Scripture.

1. The idea/concept of the Trinity is taught in both Old and New Testaments.  
 Several passages imply that God exists as more than one person; Genesis 1:26  
 God said **Let *us* make man in *our* image, after our likeness.**

2. There are passages where one person is called “God” or “the Lord” and is  
 distinguished from another person who is also said to be God: Psalm 45:6-7

D. The New Testament has a more complete revelation of the Trinity.

1. Matthew 3:16-17

2. Matthew 28:19

3. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 When we realize that generally in the New Testament,  
 the name “God” refers to the Father, “Lord” refers to Jesus the Son, then it is  
 clear that there is another trinitarian expression here.

4. 2 Corinthians 13:14

5. Ephesians 4:4-6

6. 1 Peter 1:6

II. Three statements for the Trinity.

A. God is three persons.

1. John 1:1 “With”

2. 1 John 2:1 “An advocate WITH the Father…”

3. John 16:7 The Holy Spirit separate from Son.

4. Some have concluded that the Holy Spirit is not a distinct “person” of God   
 but rather the “power of God.”

B. Each person is fully God.

1. God the Father is clearly God—Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God…”

2. Jesus the Son is fully God—John 1:1-4; John 20:18: Isaiah 9:6

3. The Holy Spirit is fully God—Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4

C. There is one God.

1. Up to this point we have no problem with logic with the first two facts. It is  
 logical to say that God is three persons and each person is fully God, that  
 would equal three Gods (polytheism).

2. Scripture is abundantly clear that there is only ONE and only one God.   
 Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 45:5-6

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D. Simplistic solutions must all deny one strand of Biblical teaching.

E. All analogies have shortcomings.

1. A three leaf clover.

2. A tree: roots, trunk, branches.

3. Three forms of water: Ice, liquid, stream

4. A man: a farmer, an elder, a husband.

5. The Human life: Intellect Emotions, Will

F. God eternally and necessarily exists as the Trinity.

1. God cannot be other than He is: unchanging, eternal, fully divine.

2. Errors have come by denying any of the three statements summarizing the  
 Biblical teaching.

-- Modalism—There is one person who appears to us in three different forms  
 (or “modes”).

*What would the ramifications be if this were true?*

-- The Arian controversy—God created the Son.

-- Subordinationism—The members of the Trinity are not all equal.

-- Adoptionism—Jesus lived as an ordinary man until baptism> Jesus was then  
 “adopted” by the Father and He was given God status.

G. Why is the Trinity so important?

1. The atonement is at stake.

2. Justification by faith alone is threatened.

3. If Jesus is not infinite God, should we pray and worship to Him?

4. Disunity in the Trinity would cause disunity in the universe.

III. The different functions of the Trinity.

IV. Illustrations of the Trinity (And their deficiencies).

 





