

The Trinity...The great mystery...One God in Three Distinct Persons – Antinomy or a Paradox

Antinomy = Apparent incompatibility between two apparent truths

Two things are absolutely both true yet they stand incompatible with each other

Several in Scriptures: Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility – Hypostasis of Christ

- We lack comprehension ability to rationalize the incredible depths of God (Ant & Taxes)  
**There is no such thing as a God who is both infinite and comprehensible**

Of course – The Trinity incomprehensible - One God...three persons | **Key Aspects of Trinity:**

- One Essence, Three Persons:** God is one being, but three distinct, coeternal persons
- Equality and Unity:** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal in power, glory...purpose
- Distinctions in Relation:** While sharing one essence, the Persons are distinct: Picture  
Big Idea - We worship an eternal triune God – Every word of this is vital to salvation

Paul knew this as he signed off his letter in 2 Corinthians 13:14 - <sup>14</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All three of the Godhead represented as Paul concludes his letter to the Corinthians

**If the Father is the Architect and the Son is the Agent, the Holy Spirit is the Applier**

Trinity is not something you'll get 100% right, but you cannot get it wrong – **Four things...**

### 1. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are: One God

Deuteronomy 6:4 <sup>4</sup>"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

This short sentence is one of the most foundational statements in all of Scripture (Shema)

- God is unique** - Israel's God is not one among many - World of polytheism, bold rejection  
Rolls Royce Sweptail – A custom built – One of One in the world – Sold for 13 million dollars  
Why God is so valuable...He is One of One...no other like Him – Not angels, gods, not man
- God is undivided** - Hebrew word means "one" sense of **unity or wholeness**, not solitary
  - It's the same word used in Genesis 2:24 – **"the two shall become one flesh."**

Emphasis is not "God is a single person," but "God is one in essence, purpose, and being."

This is why Deuteronomy 6:4 does not contradict the Trinity. Instead, it affirms

One God - With a unified, indivisible divine nature – Consistent with later revelation (F-S-HS)

Creation = Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"

- Very next verse language changes - "So God created man in his own image" (Gen 1:27)

'Us' – 'Our' – 'Our' = Plural | 'His' = Singular...Trinity all the way back to creation | **One God**

### 2. The Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit Are: Fully Divine

- **Father** – Eph. 4:6 'one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.'
  - Paul anchors unity in monotheism – God has No Rival – No Divided Authority
  - Relational language. God is not merely Creator but *Father* to His redeemed people

Father first person in the Trinity...matters – Eternally begets the Son and sends the Spirit

- **What we call the 'subordinate Trinity'** – The Son and Holy Spirit are equal but submit  
We see this in creation – Wives submit to your husbands as unto the Lord...still equal

In cults never see someone trying to diminish the deity of the Father...what about the Son

- **Son** – Jesus Christ fully shares the divine nature of God
  - He is not a created being, not lesser than the Father, and not merely god-like
  - The Son is truly, eternally, and completely God, the second Person of the Trinity

John 1:1-3 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. – Well who could that be? Could be the Father...keep reading  
John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

'And the Word was God' - crazy interpretation, believe John was lying, or Jesus is God

- **In the beginning was the Word** – Jesus pre-incarnate state – Eternally before creation
- **The Word was with God** – Distinction in the Godhead – Intimate fellowship with Father
- **The Word was God** – Jesus is fully God - shares the same divine nature as the Father
- **All things were made through Him** – Son is the agent of creation – Father through Son

**Jesus is called God – Divine Attributes – Does God: Forgives – Receives Worship – One w/F**

Colossians 2:9 - For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

Jesus Christ is God in the flesh...to believe anything else is heresy

- **Holy Spirit** – The Holy Spirit is not a force or an impersonal power
  - He is fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.

Gen 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the heavens & earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- **Who was there at beginning of time...who hovered over the void of the earth** = Spirit Ananias and Sapphira – Property – Sold and secretly kept money – Dropped dead

Acts 5:3-4 <sup>3</sup>But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?...Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."

- Sin is not withholding money – it's lying to God while appearing spiritually generous.
- Deceitful – but catch the defense for HS as God – v. 3 – Lie to HS; v. 4 – Lie to God

So...we know we have three in one...we know all three are fully divine...what about function

### 3. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Are: Distinct in Function

Matthews 3:16-17 <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

At the baptism of Jesus we see the Godhead performing different functions

- Jesus = water | Spirit = anointing & empowering | Father = Speaks approval & delight
- **Role of the Father** – One way to look at role of the Father is that of the fountainhead  
Fountainhead = Natural source water from ground | Authoritative Root of everything
  - **Source** – 1 Cor. 8a "yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist" Worked with the parks department in davenport – Drew what wanted
  - **Sustainer** – 1 Cor. 8b "and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist" All things continue to exist for Him & by His ongoing care.
    - Take hands off wheel – Cosmic ball rolling – This is God **'Through whom we exist'**
  - **Sender** – The Father being the sender of Jesus & Holy Spirit mentioned no less 8x
    - **Son** - 1 John 4:14 "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world."
    - **Holy Spirit** - John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Rescue mission, the person in charge doesn't send randomly, send right person for job
  - **Role of the Son** – The Son is the physical manifestation of God – Reveals God – **Know?**
    - **Savior** – Mark 10:45 For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." – The King who came to serve...how serve...came to die  
Jesus paid your ransom – Ransom was to pay your debt of sin...not paid to Satan...Father Gospel – Jesus didn't come to be a miracle worker – Teacher – Example...a substitute
    - **Mediator** – 1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" – Stands between God and humanity to bring reconciliation  
Jesus as our mediator – All our sins pass through Jesus and saves us by name

I pray that everyone in here has decided to die to self and follow Jesus...Savior / Mediator

- **Role of the Spirit** – The Holy Spirit gets the least attention, but massively important  
He Speaks – Wills – Teaches – Regenerates – Can be grieved – and Loves
- **Helper** - [John 14:16-17](#) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be with you
- Holy Spirit is God's personal presence, proceeding from Father and sent by the Son
- He reveals Christ, applies salvation, empowers holiness, dwells within God's people
- **Illuminator** – [John 16:13-14](#) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you | [The Holy Spirit](#):
  - Guides into Truth - Helps believers understand God's Word and discern what is true
  - Convicts and Corrects – Makes us aware of sin in our lives & leads us to repentance
  - Comforts and Encourages - Times of trouble Spirit provides peace & Reassurance
  - Intercedes our Prayers – When we don't know what pray...communicates deepest
  - Empowers our Service - He actively shapes believers to reflect Jesus in daily lives

Each Person in Trinity has distinct function. Not less God, just distinct in role, one purpose

#### 4. [The Father, Son and Holy Spirit Are Essential to the Gospel](#)

[Matthew 28:19](#) - <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

- Jesus defines means to become Christian. We're follower of & baptized in name of...
- To be baptized means we publicly identify with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

[TA: Believe in the Triune God](#) - Trinity is a core doctrine & don't affirm not saved | Why?

- If Father not God: No sovereign plan of salvation, no final authority to save us
- If Jesus not God: His death cannot fully pay for sin, He cannot conquer death, idolatry
- If HS not God: Salvation is never applied to the heart, no new birth, no transformation
- Take away any person of the Trinity, and the gospel collapses. [Rock Wall at old house](#)

Listen...I know this was a lot...but the subject couldn't be more vital

The Trinity is an antinomy...there is one God in three persons

[We worship an eternal triune God](#)