

We come now to our tenth week in this Christology study. Our topic tonight is Jesus in the Trinity. This is not an exhaustive study on the doctrine of the Trinity. For that, we would have to do exhaustive study on Theology proper, Christology, and Pneumatology in order to cover as much possible material as we could. That would take years of weekly studies.

My goal in this is to not confuse you. As complicated as this topic may be, I want to explain this as simple as I possibly can. I believe simple is best when it comes to this, so I'll start with a question:

### **How do we explain the Trinity?**

This is my personal answer. This is the way I explain it and the way that I think makes the most sense to me.

**GOD IS ONE GOD, ETERNALLY EXISTING IN THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. THE BIBLE ATTRIBUTES DEITY TO EACH PERSON OF THE GODHEAD, DISTINGUISHING THE PERSONS, WHILE MAINTAINING THAT GOD IS ONE GOD.**

That is my best attempt at explaining this reality of the Trinity. The Bible is clear that there is only one God. The Bible also attributes deity to three distinct Persons. This is not a contradiction in the Bible, but a reality.

Well if this is true, then I think it poses 8 questions. Tonight I will ask and answer 8 questions for us about this Trinity.

### **Question #1 -** Why teach the Trinity if the word is not in the Bible?

While the word Trinity is not in the Bible, the word Trinity may be the best possible word that man has used to describe the God of the Bible. Even though the word Trinity is not in the Bible, that does not mean the Bible doesn't teach a triune Godhead.

Chafer writes "The word Trinity is not a Bible term, though unquestionably a Bible truth."  
*Systematic Theology Vol. 7, pg. 307*

**Merriam-Webster.com** - *1. The unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three persons in one Godhead according to Christian dogma.*

**dictionary.com** - *noun, plural, 1. also called Blessed Trinity, Holy Trinity. The Union of three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in one Godhead, or the threefold personality of the one Divine Being.*

### **Question #2 -** Where does the Bible make clear that there can only be one God?

*Deuteronomy 6:4 - Hear, O Israel: the LORD (Jehovah/Yahweh) our God (Elohim), the LORD (Jehovah/Yahweh) is one.*

This text of Deuteronomy teaches that God is one God, not two or more. It is also a very important text because we see two names of God written in this text - Jehovah and Elohim. Jehovah is a singular noun, and Elohim is a plural noun. The Bible teaches in this verse that God is singularly one God, but the Bible teaches that within Him, there is a plural reality.

*Deuteronomy 4:39- know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.*

This is a clear statement of the Bible that there is no other God. In order to be Biblically accurate, we must never say there are three Gods. We must stick with what the Bible declares. The Bible declares that there is only one God.

*Isaiah 43:10,11*

*Isaiah 44:6*

*Isaiah 45:22*

*1 Corinthians 8:4-6*

*Isaiah 37:16*

*Isaiah 45:5,6*

*Deuteronomy 4:35*

*1 Timothy 2:5*

**Question #3** - Where does the Bible make clear that God the Father is God?

This may be the most obvious of all answers. Anyone who takes the Bible seriously will likely never propose that the Father is not God. There are so many verses we could look at to answer this, but I'll take us to just two places in Scripture in order to answer this question.

*John 6:27 - Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.*

*Philippians 2:11 - and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

We see in Scripture this phrase "God the Father" being used on multiple occasions. God the Father is God. Scripture makes that fact very obvious.

**Question #4** - Where does the Bible make clear that Jesus Christ is God?

For most people, this one is a little more tricky. People often make the argument that the Bible never flat out calls Jesus God and that Jesus never claimed to be God. I believe the Bible disagrees with that argument. Let's look at two verses of Scripture that do directly call Jesus God.

*John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (cf. v14)*

*Hebrews 1:8 - But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. (cf. Psalm 45:6)*

We find Jesus directly being called God in both John 1 and Hebrews 1. I've also listed in your notes 10 other references of direct Biblical claims of the deity of Jesus.

*John 20:28*

*Romans 9:5*

*Colossians 2:9*

*Philippians 2:6*

*2 Peter 1:1*

*Titus 2:13*

*1 John 5:20*

*Isaiah 7:14*

*Isaiah 9:6*

*Revelation 22:6, 16*

Also, Jesus didn't walk about saying "I am God" to people. Instead, He let others witness of His deity, such as God the Father, John the Baptist, and the writings of Moses. He also never said that He was the Father. He always clarified that He is the Son. Jesus did, however, use the personal name of God on a few occasions. He said "I am." By His use of the term "I Am," He knew and others knew that He was using a phrase that belonged uniquely to God. I believe that is a direct claim of deity by the Lord Jesus. The phrasing may not sound like it was a direct claim of deity, but I believe the context certainly leads the honest reader of Scripture to that conclusion.

*John 8:24 - I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.*

*John 8:58 - Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*

*Exodus 3:14 - God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

**Question #5** - Where does the Bible make clear the the Holy Spirit is God?

There are two direct statements in the Bible that clarify that the Holy Spirit is God.

*Acts 5:3,4 - 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? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."*

Peter originally told Ananias that he had lied to the Holy Spirit. Peter went on to say that Ananias in lying to the Holy Spirit, he was lying to God.

*2 Corinthians 3:16-18 - But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.*

There we see from the writings of Paul that the Spirit is the Lord. He is God. I've listed in your notes 9 other references that clarify the deity of the Holy Spirit. Each of those references have to do with the Spirit possessing attributes of deity.

*Hebrews 9:14 (Eternal)*

*Psalms 139:7-10 (Omnipresence)*

*Job 33:4 (Creator)*

*2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16 (Giver of Scripture)*

*Luke 1:35-37 (Omnipotence)*

*1 Corinthians 2:10-11 (Omniscience)*

*John 14:26 (Holiness of deity)*

*Matthew 12:31 (Can be blasphemed)*

*John 3:5-7 (Work of deity - regeneration)*

**Question #6** -

Where does the Bible make clear that all three persons are eternally existing?

*Psalms 90:2 -*

*Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.*

God is said to be from everlasting to everlasting. He is eternally existing.

*John 1:3 -*

*All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Jesus transcends creation. Jesus is not a created being. All that has ever been created was created through Jesus. This verse leads the reader to conclude that Jesus is eternally existing, because He is not classified as being created.

*Hebrews 9:14 -*

*how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.*

This verse plainly says that the Spirit is the eternal Spirit.

**Question #7** -

Where does the Bible make clear that there is distinction between the three?

Someone might say "well, if there is only one God, but the Bible says that the Father, Son, and Spirit are all God, wouldn't that just mean that there is one person who presents himself in three

different ways, or modes?" And our answer to that would be "No. The Bible maintains that God is One God, but the Bible also distinguishes between the three persons. God is not one person, but three persons. God is also not three gods, but one God."

Let's look at three references that distinguish the three persons.

*John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

In John 1:1 the word - Jesus - was not only with God in the beginning but that He is God. This verse shows a union between two persons of the Godhead, but also maintains a distinction between the two. John wrote that Jesus was with God and that He was God. There is distinction and unity at the same time.

*John 14:16,17 - And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 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 in you.*

All three members of the Trinity spoken of in one verse. Jesus is speaking. He said that He will speak to the Father, and the Father will give the Holy Spirit to the disciples. If God is one Person, it does not make sense that Jesus would speak to the Father, and that He would speak of another who is the Spirit. Communication between the members declares a distinction between the three.

*Matthew 3:16,17 - 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; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

In these verses, all three members of the Godhead working in harmony at the same time, and each member has a distinct role. Jesus is seen as a man being baptized. The Father is heard speaking from heaven. The Spirit is seen descending on Jesus like a dove. The three members were actively working together at the same time. If there is only one person in the godhead, the three members could not be acting simultaneously and filling distinct roles.

The Bible never abandons the fact that God is one God. The Bible also keeps a distinction between the Father, Son, and Spirit.

**Question #8 -** Are there any places in the Bible where all three members are connected together to describe them as one God?

There are three references I think we should go to in order to answer this question.

*Matthew 28:19 - 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,*

This is the great commission passage, and in it we find that Jesus said the name of the Father, Son and Spirit. He did not say names. He said name. He used a singular noun to discuss three distinct persons. This connects all three together to describe them as one God.

*2 Corinthians 13:14 - The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

These are the closing remarks of Paul to the Corinthians. He connects all three Persons together in this verse. The grace, love and fellowship with God that a believer experiences is a connection with a triune God - Father, Son, and Spirit.

*Isaiah 48:16 - Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there." And now the Lord GOD has sent me, and his Spirit.*

In this verse, the Lord, the Messiah (who was sent), and the Spirit are all involved in God's mission to redeem the Nation of Israel. This indicates that God would be a Trinity. His redemption is a work of three members of the one God. This is also the case when you consider the three at work in the saving of people during the church age (Ephesians 1:3-14).

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