

Christology

Bible Institute at Gulf Coast Baptist Church Spring 2024

Christ: His Equality with God

Christ: A Member of the Trinity

Although the term “Trinity” is not found in scripture, the truth of the Trinity is essential to understanding the divine nature of Jesus Christ. One of the main difficulties in understanding the Trinity is simply because God is not like us. Being God, his nature is different than what we experience as humans. Recognizing this truth instead of trying to understand Him by forcing him into the box of our humanity will help as one studies the Trinity.

The Problem:

1. Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:”
2. Isaiah 43:11 – “I, even I, am the LORD: and beside me there is no saviour.”
 - a. These passages and many more were the basis for Israel’s monotheism -Isa. 44:6, 44:8; 45:5-6, 14, 18, 21-22.
 - b. God has no competition as God. All other gods falsely called so simply do not exist.

The Trinity:

1. Nature - Definition
 - a. “...One LORD” – The oneness of God is reference to His Nature
 - i. Nature is the sum total of one’s essence (substance) and one’s attributes
 1. Essence – God is an infinite Spirit (John 4:24; Ps. 139:8)
 2. Attributes – God’s abilities are both limitless and unique to Him (Eternality, Goodness, Holiness, Immanence, Immutability, Love, Mercy, Omnipotence, Righteousness, Sovereignty, Transcendence, etc.)
2. Person - Definition
 - a. “A person ‘is a complete nature endowed with reason and volition, and consequently a responsible subject of his own actions.’ ‘Volition’ means ‘will,’ the ability to choose what one will do. When we are talking about the Trinity, we’re talking about one nature but three distinct Persons who possess that nature. Each Person is a distinct center of reasoning and choosing.” – from *The Son* (p. 21), by Tim Hoelscher
 - b. “God is three infinite Persons sharing one infinite nature.” – *ibid.*
 - c. The Trinity is not:
 - i. One God playing three separate parts (modalistic seballianism)
 - ii. One God with three persons sharing 1/3 of the divine nature
3. Christ Shares in the Nature of God
 - a. Eternality – Jo. 1:1; 8:58

- b. Omniscience – Jo. 1:47-48; 2:24-25
 - c. Love – Eph. 5:2
 - d. Immutability – Heb. 13:8
 - e. Truth – Jo. 14:6
4. Christ is a Member of the Trinity
- a. Eph. 4:4-6
 - b. Jo. 1:29-34
 - c. Jo. 14:16-17, 26; 15:26
 - d. 2 Cor. 13:14
5. Christ's Equality Within the Trinity
- a. Christ was from Heaven
 - i. Jo. 17:1
 - ii. Jo. 1:11
 - iii. Jo. 3:13
 - iv. Jo. 5:36, 37
 - v. Jo. 8:42; 16:28-30
 - b. Christ's Unique Relationship with the Father
 - i. Jo. 10:30 – The Father and the Son are One (different persons – same nature)
 - ii. Jo. 5:17ff – The Jews understood that Christ's statements made Him “equal with God”
 - c. Others Witnessed to Christ's Deity
 - i. John the Baptist – Jo. 1:30 – John recognized Christ's preexistence
 - ii. God the Father
 - 1. Baptism – Ma. 3:16 – called the beloved Son
 - 2. Transfiguration – Ma. 17:5 – called the beloved Son
 - iii. The Disciples – Ma. 16:16 – Peter recognized Christ's deity

- d. Christ Does the Works of God
 - i. Creation – Jo. 1:3, 9; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2, 10; Eph. 3:9
 - ii. Providence – Col. 1:17; 1 Cor. 8:6
 - iii. Revelation – Jo. 16:12, 13
 - iv. Resurrection- Jo. 10:17, 18; 5:28, 29
 - v. Judgment – Jo. 5:22, 27; Acts 17:31
- e. Christ Shares the Titles of God
 - i. King of Kings and Lord of Lords – 1 Ti. 6:15; Rev. 17:14
 - ii. Savior – Isa. 43:11; Acts 13:23; Phil 3:20
 - iii. First and the Last – Isa. 44:6; Rev. 1:8, 17-18; Isa. 9:6
 - iv. The name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – Ma. 28:19