

# Doctrine of God: The Trinity (Part 1)

Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

# Seeing the Trinity:

> Matthew 3:16-17

> 1 John 5:6-8 (?)

# The Word “Essence”

> Exodus 3:14, God reveals Himself as “I am who I am.”

> The Hebrew word is “Yahweh” or “YHWH”

# The Word “Essence”

- > Anselm said it this way, “God is greater than that which can be conceived”
- > OR the greatest conceivable being

# The Word “Essence”

> God does not merely possess divine (perfect, holy) qualities but *is* divine itself and such qualities flow from who He is

> Example of love or power

# The Word “Essence”

> Another way of saying this is God is necessary:

> Example, again, of love (1 John 4:7-8)

> Without God, there is NO love

## Excerpt from the Athanasian Creed:

“The Father is eternal. The Son is eternal. The Spirit is eternal. And yet there are not three eternal beings; there is but one eternal being.”

# The Catch All Wording of the Trinity:

> We believe there is one being/  
essence and three persons



# The Word “Trinity”

- > The “Trinity” is not a Bible word
- > Scripture refers to the “God-head” (Colossians 2:9)
  - The Greek word is θεότης in Colossians 2:9

# The Word “Trinity”

- > Tertullian (155-200 CE) first coined the term in the Latin, *Trinitas*
- > Though this is not a word of Scripture, it is appropriate because it makes theological sense

# The Word “Essence”

> Essence is equal to *Ontology* or one's being

> The essence of God are those characteristics and features that make God...God

# The Word “Essence”

> Here, we must be careful!

> God is not qualified by external characteristics or merely defined by said characteristics

> God, simply, *is*

# The Word “Trinity”

> God is God but He is also three in *Person*

> Three distinct but co-equal *Persons* are the God-head or the *Trinity*

# The Word “Person”

> Person is not a word found in the Bible, as well, but we see it implied, (John 1:1)

> Jesus really is God and yet is not God the Father

# The Word "Person"

> The Father - Not the Son/Spirit

> The Son - Not the Father/Spirit

> The Spirit - Not the Father/Son

> But each are God

# The Word “Person”

> To understand the attributes of God or what God is like, we must come to the orthodox understanding of God in the Trinity

> Remember, what is said of one of the persons is true of the other two



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