

Hednesford Pentecostal Church

The Trinity

The Trinity

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Summary	4
3. The Basis Of The Doctrine.....	4
3.1. The Unity Of The Godhead	5
3.2. The Father.....	6
3.3. The Divinity Of Christ.....	7
3.3.1. Jesus Claims to Divinity	8
3.3.2. The Father Verifies the Divinity of the Son	8
3.3.3. Jesus Accepting Worship.....	9
3.3.4. The Unity and Equality of the Son with the Father	9
3.3.5. Jesus: The I AM.....	10
3.3.6. The Unchanging Nature of the Son	11
3.3.7. The Pre-existence of the Son	11
3.3.8. Jesus was Never an Angelic Being.....	12
3.4. The Divinity Of The Holy Spirit	12
4. The Working Of The Trinity Within Scripture	14
4.1. The Father.....	15
4.1.1. In Creation	15
4.1.2. In Redemption	15
4.1.3. In the Believer's Life.....	15
4.1.4. In Sanctification.....	15
4.1.5. In Government : The Supremacy Of God.....	15
4.2. The Son.....	16
4.2.1. The Agent Of And Sustainer Of Creation	16
4.2.2. The Redeemer.....	16
4.2.3. In the Believer's Life.....	16
4.2.4. In Sanctification.....	16
4.2.5. The Head Of The Church	16
4.2.6. The Judge.....	17
4.3. The Holy Spirit	17
4.3.1. In Creation	17
4.3.2. In Redemption	17
4.3.3. In The Believer's Life.....	17

4.3.4. In Sanctification	17
5. Early Divergence.....	18
5.1. Sabellianism	18
5.2. Arianism.....	18

1. INTRODUCTION

There is an inherent difficulty we have in using human language to describe the divine nature, since many of the words we would adequately use to describe someone else, are deficient, inappropriate or blasphemous when talking about God. Equally we often use comparative language when describing someone else, but with whom can we compare God. It must be released that when we seek to know and understand the Godhead, we can at best only know in part. Our finite minds can not grasp the infinite.

We cannot dissect God, or put Him under a microscope in order to ascertain His makeup. In truth we can only know about God what He has revealed to us. The primary sources of God's revelation are His Son Jesus Christ and the Scriptures inspired by the Holy Spirit.

The fact that God is a triune being is clearly taught by the Bible, and like many spiritual truths in Scripture, they cannot be totally understood by the human mind. However there comes a point when we have to say that God has not called us to understand everything He is and everything He does, but rather He has called us to trust in Him, believe His word and obey Him.

As the writer of the Hebrew epistle states, understanding comes by faith, and not the other way around.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

2. SUMMARY

The full Christian doctrine demands all three of the following :

The Unity of the Godhead.

The full Deity (co-equal and co-eternal with the Father) of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The subordination of the Son (who was 'begotten') and the Spirit (who 'proceeds' from the Father and the Son) to the Father.

The entire undivided unity of the Divine Essence exists as a Trinity that are equal and alike in nature and attributes. They are distinct in their personalities, each having His own mind and will, and each engaged on His own work, yet essentially one in will, purpose and activity.

3. THE BASIS OF THE DOCTRINE

In the Old Testament the use of the Hebrew plural form 'Elohim' (with a singular verb) gives a hint of a plurality of Persons within the Godhead, which is yet regarded as a Unity.

Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." {27} So God created man **in His own image**; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

That God is *One* is insisted upon throughout the Old Testament, even when the plural form of 'Elohim' is employed.

Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!

In the New Testament the 'Trinitarian formula,' used in Matt 28:19, provides the first express statement of the doctrine.

Mat 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name [*not names*] of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Jesus' teaching gives the clearest revelation of the Trinity, indeed the origin of the doctrine is the teaching of Jesus Himself. Jesus came to bring in the promised New Covenant, to remove the barrier between God and mankind (symbolised by the veil in the temple) and to bring the clearest revelation of the nature and attributes of Almighty God. It is Jesus that taught us to pray to God as "Our Father", it is Jesus that told us about His unity and oneness with the Father, it is Jesus who taught us concerning the ministry of the person of the Holy Spirit. The various Scriptures will be discussed below. Clearly Jesus believed and taught that there was one God, in three persons; and hence those that describe themselves as His followers should follow His teaching on this as well as all other subjects.

Within the Epistles the differing functions of the Three Persons are clearly described, and, yet again, Their essential Unity carefully guarded.

3.1. THE UNITY OF THE GODHEAD

There may be many things that claim to be a god, many cultures have religions which worship many gods (polytheism), the devil is called the "god of this world", Egyptian Pharaohs and Roman Emperors demanded that they were divine but all these are what the Scriptures term "false-gods". According to the Scripture there is only one true God: the Almighty the creator of all things, and He alone is to be worshipped.

Through Moses and the prophet Isaiah God clearly states that there is no other God.

Deu 4:35 "To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD Himself is God; **there is none other besides Him.**

Deu 4:39 "Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; **there is no other.**

Isa 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: **I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.**

Furthermore the Scriptures clearly teach that this one true God is indeed one. That is the Divine God-head is an indivisible unity, there is not more than one true God.

Deu 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, **the LORD is one!**

There are those cults and false religions which teach that Christians believe that there are three Gods, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. But this is not what Christians believe. Christian doctrine, derived from an understanding of the whole of the Scriptures, states clearly that there is only one God, and that this God-head is one, an undivided unity.

The Trinity

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; **and these three are one.**

Misunderstanding can arise from the limitations of human language. Whilst the word person imperfectly describes the Father, Son or Holy Spirit, it is the best word we have. In human terms a person is a totally separate individual which can act independently and in opposition to another person. When we say that there are three persons in the God-head, by that we mean that each are self-conscious and self-directing, but there is no hint that any One Person could act in opposition to Another.

The Lord our God is one, and everything that the three persons of the trinity do, they do in total agreement and unity of nature. They share the same attributes and the same identical nature.

3.2. THE FATHER

The paternal title is used of the first Person in the Trinity.

For the Jews, the title of Father for God was only used in the sense that God was the creator, and was seen as the Father of Adam.

John 8:41 "You do the deeds of your father." Then they said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father; God."

Luke 3:38 the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

The Jews saw Jesus' statements concerning God being His Father as blasphemous, because such statements identified oneness with God.

John 10:30-33 **"I and My Father are one."** {31} Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. {32} Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" {33} The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God."

Eternally the Father has been the Father of His Eternal Son, Whoever was and is the only begotten of the Father.

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the **only begotten of the Father**, full of grace and truth.

The Scriptures say that the Father:

- loved the Son

John 5:20 "For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.

- gave the Son

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

- and on Calvary bruised His Son

Isa 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

Through the Atonement, He becomes the Father of all who believe the Son.

Gal 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. {27} For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

The supreme purpose of the Incarnate Son was to reveal the Eternal Father.

Mat 11:27 "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

If it was not for the redeeming sacrifice of the Son, no one but Jesus would have the right to call God, Father. It is only through Christ we have been adopted as children. By nature we are the children of wrath

Eph 2:3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

3.3. THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST

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

Many cults err from the full Scriptural revelation on the subject of the divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ; they will call him a god or a son of God, but they do not recognise His unique position as the only begotten Son of the Father. Other cults will deny that the Son was eternally the Son of the Father or eternally was part of the God-head, but they say that Jesus became a Son at a point in time.

They will deny that Jesus is the creator, although some say that He was an agency of creation through which God created all things. Some state that initially Jesus was a created being like a high order of angel, who later became the Son of God

Although individual Scriptures taken in isolation may be used to defend such statements, the whole of the Scriptures clearly refute all these non-Christian positions. Such errors of extremely serious, since the failure to accept full Scriptural Divinity and pre-existence of the Lord Jesus Christ means that an individual cannot receive the free atonement that God has made available to all who believe.

The Trinity

Acts 4:10-12 "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. {11} "This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' {12} "Nor is there salvation in any other, for **there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"

3.3.1. Jesus Claims to Divinity

There are a number of instances where Jesus made, or accepted a claim to be God, equal with God, the Son of God or the Messiah. The Jews who heard Him at the time understood the weight of His claims, as there where a number of times they sought to stone Him to death solely because of these claims.

Luke 22:70-71 Then they all said, "Are You then the Son of God?" So He said to them, "You rightly say that I am." {71} And they said, "What further testimony do we need? For we have heard it ourselves from His own mouth."

John 20:28-29 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**" {29} Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus did not refute Thomas' statement, but rather commended the faith which accepts that Jesus Is Lord and God.

John 4:25-26 The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." {26} Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

John 1:49-50 Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" {50} Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these."

John 3:16-18 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. {17} "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. {18} "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3.3.2. The Father Verifies the Divinity of the Son

In the following verse we read of who the Father speaks to the Son and calls Him God.

Heb 1:8-9 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Your Kingdom. {9} You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions."

3.3.3. Jesus Accepting Worship

There are also a number of occasions when Jesus received worship from people around Him. They worshipped Him as the Lord, and He accepted their actions.

John 9:35-38 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" {36} He answered and said, "Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?" {37} And Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you." {38} Then he said, "Lord, I believe!" And he worshipped Him.

John 20:28-29 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "**My Lord and my God!**" {29} Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Mat 28:16-17 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had appointed for them. {17} When they saw Him, they worshipped Him; but some doubted.

Luke 24:51-52 Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. {52} And they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,

If Jesus was not God, then such action would be sinful and blasphemous since it would be a violation of second commandment.

Exo 20:4-6 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; {5} you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, {6} but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.

3.3.4. The Unity and Equality of the Son with the Father

If Jesus were not God, then He could not claim unity and oneness with the Father. It was the fact that these were His claims that caused the Jews to attempt to kill Him on a number of occasions.

In the last supper Jesus describes His oneness with the Father to His disciples. He told the disciples that anyone who had seen Jesus had seen the Father, anyone who had known Jesus had known the Father, and that Jesus was in the Father and the Father was in Jesus.

John 14:7 "**If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also;** and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

John 14:9-10 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? {10} "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

The Trinity

John 14:19-20 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. {20} "At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.

The earliest Church recognised and taught Christ's equality with the Father. For example the Apostle Paul says of Jesus:

Phil 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

1 Tim 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifested in the flesh**, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

3.3.5. Jesus: The I AM

When God appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He replied to Moses question concerning who Moses should say sent him by saying that He is "I AM WHO I AM".

Exo 3:13-14 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?" {14} And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

This phrase simply summarises God unchanging eternal quality and existence. In discussion with the Jews centuries later, Jesus uses the same title "I AM".

John 8:56-59 "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." {57} Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" {58} Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." {59} Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

To the Jews mind such a claim would be blasphemous for everyone but God. Jesus further uses the phrase "I am" when making some startling claims concerning Himself.

- The Bread of Life

John 6v35 And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life**. He who comes to me shall never hunger, and He who believes in me shall never thirst."

- The Light of the World

John 8v12 Then Jesus spoke to them again saying, "**I am the light of the world**. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

- The Way, The Truth, The Life

John 14v6 Jesus said to him, '**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life**. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

- The Resurrection and the Life.

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "**I am the resurrection and the life.** He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

- The Alpha & Omega

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

The Apostle John had a vision of the glorified Jesus in the first chapter of Revelation. In this vision Jesus declares that He is the Alpha and the Omega, and also that He is the Almighty.

Later in the book of Revelation He who sits on the Great White judgement throne says:

Rev 21:6-7 And He said to me, "It is done! **I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. {7} "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and **I will be his God** and he shall be My son.

3.3.6. The Unchanging Nature of the Son

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The Scriptures reveal that the character and nature of Jesus has always been and will always be unchanging. At the incarnation the eternal Son of God put on flesh and became man. But His character and eternal being did not change. He did not evolve into, or become the Son of God through putting on flesh, or through dying on the cross.

Talking of the Son, the writer of Hebrews states how although all creation changes, Jesus remains the same.

Heb 1:8-12 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Your Kingdom. {9} You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness more than Your companions." {10} And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. {11} They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; {12} Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. **But You are the same**, And Your years will not fail."

3.3.7. The Pre-existence of the Son

The Scripture teaches that all created things were made through Jesus, the Word of God, who was God.

John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** {2} He was in the beginning with God. {3} All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

For all created things to be made through Jesus, it necessitates that He Himself was not created, or else all created things were not made through Him.

Col 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. {16} For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.** {17} And **He is before all things**, and in Him all things consist.

Not only was all things created through Him, including the spiritual realm (principalities and powers), but also all things were created for Him. Hence Jesus eternally existed before all things. The title of firstborn designates position not origin. Jesus is the firstborn from the dead in that He was the first to be resurrected. He is the firstborn over all creation in that the Father has given Him a Name above all other names (Phil 2). He is the first born since He has pre-eminence over all sons of God, that is those saved through faith in Him.

John 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

3.3.8. Jesus was Never an Angelic Being

Many cults and false religions attempt to degrade the position and authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, by saying that He was an angelic being. But the Scripture uses the following rhetorical question to show that Jesus never was an angel.

Heb 1:1-8 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, {2} has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; {3} **who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person**, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, {4} **having become so much better than the angels**, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. {5} **For to which of the angels did He ever say: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You"?** And again: **"I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son"?** {6} But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: **"Let all the angels of God worship Him."** {7} And of the angels He says: "Who makes His angels spirits And His ministers a flame of fire." {8} **But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;** A sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Your Kingdom.

3.4. THE DIVINITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the last supper, Jesus described to the disciples the role which the Holy Spirit would play in the new dispensation that was coming; and in doing so Jesus repeatedly refers to the Holy Spirit as "He", rather than "it".

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that **He** may abide with you forever; {17} the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you.

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 things that I said to you.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send **Him** to you.

The Holy Spirit was called 'another Helper'. The Greek word for Helper literally means '**one** called alongside', and can be translated as counsellor, comforter or helper. These all describe the actions of a person. Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "another Helper", in that Jesus Himself was the first Helper to the disciples. Hence the Holy Spirit performs the supporting function to believers that the disciples enjoyed with Jesus for three years. The Holy Spirit is our friend and tutor.

Many cults claim that the Holy Spirit is not a person, not part of the God-head, but is only the active power of God, an impersonal force. But this contradicts many Scriptures. In the following verse Paul speaks of the **power of the Spirit of God**, if the Spirit of God was an impersonal power then this verse would not make sense.

Rom 15:18-19 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient; {19} in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

In the Scripture the Holy Spirit is clearly defined as having a personality. For example:

- The Holy Spirit speaks through the mouths of the prophets, and it is only a person that can speak.

Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this Scripture had to be fulfilled, which **the Holy Spirit spoke** before by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus;

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, **the Holy Spirit said**, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

Acts 21:11 When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "**Thus says the Holy Spirit**, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

- He prays and it is only a Person that can pray,

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but **the Spirit Himself** makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- He testifies and it is only a Person that can testify.

The Trinity

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.**

Acts 5:32 "And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

- He has a mind of His own and only a Person has such a mind.

Rom 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what **the mind of the Spirit** is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

- He can think and has a will and only a person has a will

Acts 13:2-4 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." {3} Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. {4} So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.

Acts 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:

- He can love and only a person can love.

Rom 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

- He can be grieved and such is only be true of a Person.

Eph 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

4. THE WORKING OF THE TRINITY WITHIN SCRIPTURE

Although each of members of the Trinity has their own personality, having their own minds and will, they are always seen working together in complete unity throughout Scripture. In the following examples all three members of the God head are seen at work in creation, in redemption sanctification, and in the life of the believer. Theirs is a unity of purpose, speech, will and action.

In their love for mankind they have each given gifts. Firstly the Father gave the gift of the Son to the world:

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. {17} "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Secondly the Son gave gifts of men to the Church:

Eph 4:11-12 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, {12} for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

And thirdly the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to the believer as He wills:

1 Cor 12:7-11 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: {8} for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, {9} to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, {10} to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. {11} But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

4.1. THE FATHER

4.1.1. In Creation

Gen. 1v26. "Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth'."

4.1.2. In Redemption

John 3v16. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Isaiah 53v10. "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days."

4.1.3. In the Believer's Life

John 14v21 He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to Him.

John 14v23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

4.1.4. In Sanctification

1 Thes 4v3 For his is the will of God, your sanctification;...

4.1.5. In Government : The Supremacy Of God

I Chr. 29v10-12 "...Blessed are You, Lord God of Israel, our Father, forever and ever. Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honour come from You, and you reign over all. In your hand is power and might; In your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all'."

Prov. 21v1. "The King's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes."

Prov. 16v9. "A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."

The Trinity

Dan. 4v34-35. "... For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His Kingdom is from generation to generation. All the inhabitants of earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have you done'."

4.2. THE SON

4.2.1. The Agent Of And Sustainer Of Creation

John 1v1-3. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made".

Hebrews 1v1-3. "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through who also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purges our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

4.2.2. The Redeemer

John 1v29. "The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!'"

Isaiah 53v5. "But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

4.2.3. In the Believer's Life

John 14v21 He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to Him.

John 14v23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word; and My Father will love him and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

4.2.4. In Sanctification

John 17v17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

4.2.5. The Head Of The Church

Eph. 1v20-23. "which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. And put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

4.2.6. The Judge

John 5v22-23. "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgement to the Son, that all should honour the Son as they honour the Father."

Rm. 14v10. "But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ."

4.3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

4.3.1. In Creation

Gen 1:2. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

4.3.2. In Redemption

John 16:8-11. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see me no more; of judgement, because the ruler of this world is judged.

4.3.3. In The Believer's Life

Rm. 8:26. Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Gal 5:22-23. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

Rom 8:2. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Rom 8:14. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.

1 Cor 12:13. For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have been made to drink into one Spirit.

4.3.4. In Sanctification

1 Peter 1:2 ...elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

5. EARLY DIVERGENCE

5.1. SABELLIANISM

Sabellius, in the middle of the third century, in order to avoid what appeared to him as a suggestion that there were three separate Gods, taught that in reality there was no distinction of Personality within the Godhead. He asserted that the New Testament Names - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - were but designations for three manifestations of the One God, temporarily assumed for the purposes of redemption.

5.2. ARIANISM

Although holding that God was one, Arius (325 AD) placed so much emphasis on the Persons of the Trinity, that in effect he divided the Substance of the Godhead. This resulted chiefly from the definition of the Son and the Holy Spirit as being lesser, subordinate Beings whom the Father willed into existence for the purpose of acting as His agents in His dealings with the world and man. He denied Christ's eternal Sonship.