

Fundamentals
of the
Christian Faith

The Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

June 17, 2018

Selected Scriptures

The Fundamentals of the Christian Faith

Lesson 1 – Preview: The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice

✦ Truth produces holiness (Titus 1:1)

Lesson 2 – The Bible

✦ When the Bible speaks, God speaks (2 Tim. 3:16)

Lesson 3 – The Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

A BASIC DEFINITION

Within the one **Being** that is God,
there exists eternally three coequal and
coeternal **persons**, namely,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

✦ When speaking about the Trinity, we are
talking about one **what** and three **who's**.

A. The Trinity is progressively revealed in Scripture

1. Partial revelation in the Old Testament

- ✦ **Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness (Gen. 1:26)**
- ✦ **⁶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever...⁷...Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of joy above Your fellows. (Ps. 45:6-7)**
- ✦ **The Holy Spirit is a distinct person (Isa. 61:1, 63:10)**

2. More complete revelation in the New Testament

- ✦ **All 3 persons of the Trinity are named together (Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14)**

B. 3 statements summarize the biblical teaching

1. God is 3 distinct persons

- ✦ **The Father is not the Son**
- ✦ **The Father is not the Holy Spirit**
- ✦ **The Son is not the Holy Spirit**
- ✦ **John 1:1-2, 14:26; Rom. 8:27; Heb. 7:25**
- ✦ **A person has a mind, emotion, and a will**

➤ Modalism claims God is one person who appears in 3 different forms/modes, at different times

- ✦ **I and the Father are one (Jn. 10:30)**
- ✦ **He who has seen Me has seen the Father (Jn. 14:9)**

The Trinity in Salvation

Total Depravity

- Man is unable and unwilling

Unconditional Election

- The Father elects

Limited Atonement

- The Son atones for the sins of the elect

Irresistible Grace

- The Spirit applies salvation to the elect

Perseverance of the Saints

- God causes His people to persevere to the end

B. 3 statements summarize the biblical teaching

1. God is 3 distinct persons

2. Each person is fully God

✦ **The Father is fully God (Gen. 1:1)**

✦ **The Son is fully God (Isa. 9:6; John 1:1-4, 20:28)**

✦ **The Holy Spirit is fully God (Ps. 139:7-8; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4)**

➤ **Arianism denies the full deity of the Son and the Holy Spirit**

✦ **Jesus is “the firstborn of all creation” (Col. 1:15)**

✦ **Jesus is God’s “only begotten” Son (John 1:14, 3:16)**

NICENE CREED IN 325 AD

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of all things visible and invisible. And
in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
begotten of the Father, the only-begotten;
that is, of the essence of the Father, God of
God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten, not made, being of one substance
with the Father....**

B. 3 statements summarize the biblical teaching

1. God is 3 distinct persons

2. Each person is fully God

3. There is only one God

✦ Gen. 2:24; Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:5-6; 1 Tim. 2:5

✦ Paul uses the plurality of the Trinity to argue for the unity of the Trinity and the Church (1 Cor. 12:4-6; Eph. 4:4-6)

➤ **Tritheism denies that there is only 1 God**

B. 3 statements summarize the biblical teaching

- 1. God is 3 distinct persons**
- 2. Each person is fully God**
- 3. There is only one God**

✦ All analogies have shortcomings

- **3 leaf clover**
- **Tree (roots, trunk, branches)**
- **Water (steam, liquid, ice)**
- **Man (husband, father, son)**

C. Application

- 1. Unity and diversity in marriage**
- 2. Unity and diversity in the Church**
- 3. Unity and diversity between Jews and Gentiles**

**Unity and diversity exists in human relationships,
because unity and diversity exists in God
Himself.**

D. Why do we need the Trinity?

- 1. The atonement is at stake**
- 2. Justification by faith alone is threatened**
- 3. If Jesus is not infinite God, should we pray to him or worship him?**