

BC 8-9 – Three Essentials Things About The Trinity

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: No other faith, no other religion, believes in a triune God三一真神 (Trinity). This is why Christianity is similar to no other religion! Hear the truth about the Trinity today.

Our headings are:

The Unity of God

The Tri-Unity of God

The Economic Tri-unity God

Our goals are: That **knowing the goodness and gloriousness of the Trinitarian God whom you serve**, you will **stand in awe and humility before him**, and you will **work for and worship him better**.

Article 8: According to this truth and this Word of God, we believe in one only God, who is the one single essence, in which are three persons, really, truly, and eternally distinct according to their incommunicable properties; namely, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Father is the cause, origin, and beginning of all things visible and invisible; the Son is the word, wisdom, and image of the Father; the Holy Spirit is the eternal power and might, proceeding from the Father and the Son. Nevertheless, God is not by this distinction divided into three, since the Holy Scriptures teach us that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit have each His personality, distinguished by Their properties; but in **such wise that these three persons are but one only God**.

Hence, then, it is evident that the Father is not the Son, nor the Son the Father, and likewise the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. Nevertheless, these persons thus distinguished are not divided, nor intermixed; for the Father has not assumed the flesh, nor has the Holy Spirit, but the Son only. The Father has never been without His Son, or without His Holy Spirit. For They are all three co-eternal and co-essential. There is neither first nor last; for **They are all three one, in truth, in power, in goodness, and in mercy**.

Article 9: All these things we know from the testimonies of Holy Scripture as well as from the effects of the persons, especially from those we feel within ourselves. The testimonies of the Holy Scriptures, which teach us to believe in this Holy Trinity, are written in many places of the Old Testament, which need not be enumerated but only chosen with discretion. In the book of Genesis God says, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness." So "God created humankind in the divine image"—indeed, "male and female God created them."⁶ "See, humans have become like one of us." It appears from this that there is a plurality of persons within the Deity, when God says, "Let us make humanity in our image"—and afterward God indicates the unity in saying, "God created."

It is true that God does not say here how many persons there are—but what is somewhat obscure to us in the Old Testament is very clear in the New. For **when our Lord was baptized** in the Jordan, the voice of the Father was heard saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved"; the Son was seen in the water; and the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove. So, in the **baptism of all believers** this form was prescribed by Christ: Baptize all people "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." In the Gospel according to Luke the angel Gabriel says to Mary, the mother of our Lord: "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the **power of the Most High** will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called **Son of God**." And in another place it says: "The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, the **love of God**, and the **communion of the Holy Spirit** be with all of you." In all these passages we are fully taught that there are three persons in the one and only divine essence. And although this doctrine surpasses human understanding, we nevertheless believe it now, through the Word, waiting to know and enjoy it fully in heaven.

Furthermore, we must **note the particular works and activities of these three persons** in relation to us. The **Father is called our Creator**, by reason of divine power. **The Son is our Savior** and Redeemer, by his blood. The **Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier**, by living in our hearts. This doctrine of the holy Trinity has always been maintained in the true church, from the time of the apostles until the present, against Jews, Muslims, and certain false Christians and heretics, such as Marcion, Mani, Praxeas, Sabellius, Paul of Samosata, Arius, and others like them, who were rightly condemned by the holy fathers. And so, in this matter we willingly accept the three ecumenical creeds—the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian—as well as what the ancient fathers decided in agreement with them.

The Unity of God

1. Preachers say God is One, and we are right.

"God is One" is in the preface of the 10 commandments and is often repeated in the Holy Scriptures.

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

The Jews call this verse a Kiriathshema – something they recited twice per day. The introduction to this verse is called the **Shema Yisrael – Hear, O Israel**. The fact that it was repeated twice per day showed how important it was. **So why was this**

important? It identified God as one. Isaiah quoted the Lord in exactly the same way. And so did Apostle Paul.

Isaiah 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.**

1Timothy 2:5 - **For there is one God...**

So let there be no doubt that there is only one God. God is one eternal, self-existent being. He alone is God and there is none else beside him. He is omnipotent 无所不能, he alone. He is omnipresent无所不在 – only he can be. He is omniscient 无所不知 – only he knows all things. He is infinite, perfectly good, and self-sufficient, not needing anything from man...

But what is even more interesting is the word “one” (echhad). It means “a great one” – not an “ordinary one.”

2. Muslims and Jews often attack Christians, accusing us of worshipping 3 gods, but we don't, we may not.

3. What lessons can you learn from the fact that there is “one true God” who is great?

a. Since there is one God, only he is to receive worship... all other gods of all other religions are false. To worship any other God is a perversion. Don't join in pagan worship. **Don't do it to make people feel comfortable. Refuse to join them so that they feel uncomfortable.**

b. Take this as a warning to not adore sports or movie stars or view anything in this world as a god. This is not an idle warning. God pronounced many curses on those that worship other gods. Don't make yourself into God...or your children...or your spouse. God is jealous and he might take away whatever you make into a god.

The Tri-unity God

1. Let's talk about this word “Trinity,” a word that is not found in the Scriptures, but taught in it without doubt.

But first, consider the remarkable parallels in society to the Trinity.

Man's soul engages in 3 activities: the intellectual, the volitional意志, and the emotional. Matter exists in 3 forms: gasses, liquids, and solids. We experience time in 3 dimensions: the past, the present, and the future. There are 3 kingdoms or orders: the mineral, the plant, and the animal. The rainbow is dominated by 3 primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. While these are not proofs of the Trinity, they make you wonder if God did not intend for you to marvel at these things and corroborate佐证 what you read in the Bible regarding the Trinity.

2. The Bible teaches this one and only God exists in 3 distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All 3 persons have the incommunicable attributes不能传达的属性 of God alone. Incommunicable attributes are attributes that cannot be given to man. For example: all power, all knowing, present everywhere.

3. Where can you see that there are 3 persons in the Godhead?

You begin to see evidence God was more than one person in the first chapter of the Bible.

Genesis 1:27-28 - So **God created** man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them...

The word for God is “elohim” which is a unique plural word. “Im” at the end of a word signifies plurality. Abram, after God promised that he would be the father of all nations, became Abrah –im.

4. What about descriptive teaching about the Trinity?

a. At the baptism of God the Son (Jesus) John witnessed all 3 persons of the Triune God. (The Father speaks from heaven, the Holy Spirit comes down.)

b. The baptismal formula announced by Jesus clearly taught the Trinity. In the baptismal form the minister will say: I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (You are only baptized into God and into one “name!”)

c. The angel's advent message to Mary revealed the triune God. The Father spoke, the Holy Spirit worked through Mary, the Son was born.

d. The apostolic blessing (Benediction祝福) of Paul is clearly Trinitarian.

2Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

e. There were many general teachings about the Trinity in the Old Testament that left the Jews with no excuse:

Isaiah 61:1 "The **Spirit** of the **Lord GOD** is **upon Me**, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted...

5. Now let's get specific? Let's prove that each of the 3 persons is of the Trinity!

a. The Father

John 5:18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said **that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

The Jews did not deny the Trinity. They denied that Jesus was part of the Trinity. They killed him for this claim.

1Corinthians 8:6 – yet for us **there is one God, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we for Him...

b. The Son

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God...**

This “Word” who was “God” was the Son. He came and lived among the Jews 2000 years ago. He was Creator also.

Colossians 1:16 - 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...

c. The Holy Spirit was called "God" by Apostle Peter.

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit ... You have not lied to men but to God.**"

This is where most cults邪派 (Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarians, etc.) fail; they depart from the Trinity. Before modern cults there were some who believed that Jesus was not God, but **God only adopted Jesus as his son after he was born. (Adoptionists)** Others believed Jesus was not God and **God simply changed forms from one person to another and Jesus was one form! (Modalists)** Others believed that the **Holy Spirit is not God, but that he was only a force sent out by God.** The Bible proves otherwise.

6. Consider some lessons:

a. You cannot comprehend理解 the Trinity. God is so great that he is not contained in one person but in 3. **Can you then argue that since you don't fully understand the Trinity you must reject it?** No, the Bible says it. God's Word is true. You must humbly accept it and know that your finite mind cannot fully comprehend the great doctrine of the Trinity.

b. Your Trinitarian God is not the same god Muslims worship, though they argue this. Further, don't ever concede承认 that we have 3 gods, as Muslims charge.

c. You cannot be a Christian without believing in the Trinity. It is foundational to faith. The Bible teaches **Christ must be the object of your faith** and the Bible teaches that **your faith must be in God.** Conclusion you must believe Jesus is God.

The Economic (Work of) Tri-Unity God

1. The Father is the cause and source of all things.

While the Son and the Spirit were involved in creation, their plan was from the Father. He was the foreordainer of all things and so is rightly credited with creation. (See Psalm 90.)

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing...4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world...

2. The Son is the Word (John 1), wisdom (Proverbs), and image (Colossians 1:15) of the Father.

He is your Savior and Redeemer by His blood. He is your eternal King who rules over you and protects you.

Ephesians 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

3. The Holy Spirit is the eternal person coming from the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit is your Sanctifier. He does this by dwelling in your hearts. **He seals you for eternity.** He prays for you and he purifies your faulty prayers. What comfort!

Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,**

4. Lessons:

a. You must observe the workings and ways of each person of the Trinity to worship God better....The ignorant cannot worship properly. Sincerity is not enough. You will **grow in awe as you consider the work of the Trinity.**

b. You must learn to emphasize the work of each person of the Godhead when you bring the Gospel to the lost. It is not enough to say, "Jesus loves you." Teach of election, redemption, and sanctification. Bring the full Gospel to the lost.

c. Bow the knee to the one who is so awesome in power and so gracious in your salvation.

Conclusion:

There is 1 God in 3 persons who perfectly work together. All 3 are necessary for your salvation. The Father chose you, the Son redeemed you, and the Spirit sealed you. If 1 of these persons were not God, you could not be saved from your sins. Period.

Brothers and Sisters:

1. You worship this Triune God, Jehovah God. You don't worship Allah, or Brahma, or Buddha. Those are all false gods who cannot see, hear, think, or act. None can alter the events of the world. None can secure you for eternity.

2. What does accepting this great doctrine mean to you? Accepting this doctrine will **humble you.** You will **love the Lord.** You will **worship him better.** You will **serve God with confidence,** knowing he is your Creator and Preserver. You will lose your **fear of the future,** for God's Holy Spirit seals you (and assures you of your salvation) to the end of the world.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, you are serving an idol. Maybe you've made idols of famous people, money, children, or career. But Jehovah God, is the one and only God. If you surrender to him and let him be the center of your life you will experience his great blessings, love, and care. If you reject him, by his great power, he will crush you and banish摒弃 you to hell forever. The choice is yours.