

An Attempt To Listen To God

Introduction to The Trinity

By

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Introduction to The Trinity

Introduction

There is no theme, of which I am aware, that requires a greater need for reverence than that of considering divine Persons.

It is a universally acknowledged fact that the word "trinity" is never found in the scriptures. Where it originated is unknown, however, it appears the Greek word "trias" was first used by Theophilus (A.D. 168-183), or from the Latin "trinitas", first used by Tertullian (A.D. 220). We do know it was used to convey the doctrine of the three divine persons being one in unity, and perfectly equal in every attribute.

There is a need for reverence when discussing divine persons because God is not a subject for debate! When our Lord was here, though He was fully God, yet being man He had a reverential fear for God (Heb. 5:7). With such an example, it behooves us to follow His steps (1 Pet. 2:21). Never once did the Lord ever speak in an irreverential way about, or to the Father. The word "Abba" (Rom. 8:15) does not mean "Daddy". The passage is indicating the universality of the blessing we have, so that whether we are Jews or Gentiles, we can call God Father.

A sense of the Holy will produce carefulness to the utmost degree when speaking about the Godhead. Speaking carelessly or frivolously about any member of the Godhead is a wicked sin. Despite the corruption of a satanic world, the people of God need to remember that "our God is still a consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29). Such is the awe with which angelic beings have toward God, and though they have never sinned, they cover themselves. (Isa. 6:2)

There is also the danger of trying to understand divine mysteries by human wisdom and rationale. No created being, either celestial, terrestrial or infernal can comprehend God. Man flaunting his intelligence would try to explain away the Trinity, or the Oneness of God. It would be much easier for a microbe to grasp the brilliance of an Einstein than for man to comprehend God in His fulness. Therefore, wisdom requires that we limit ourselves to the terminology of the scriptures. Very often, void of any intention of speaking error, we may speak of the first, second, or third Person of the Godhead. Subconsciously this creates a distorted view, giving the impression of a hierarchy in the Godhead. Perfect equality in every way characterizes the Persons of the Godhead.

Foundation Stones

When our Lord was on earth He told a parable which had a definite message relative to foundations. A solid foundation would stand the test of time and weather, but a poor foundation would crumble and fall (Matt. 7:25). King Solomon, who was the wisest human who ever lived, apart from our Lord, was given the task of building a temple for God. It was to be a magnificent structure, all manner of exotic woods, beautifully carved, and some of it was covered with gold. But, what would have been the value of all this workmanship if by the end of the first sandstorm the building was lying in pieces all over the ground? The foundation must be solid. In those ancient buildings massive stones were used to form the foundation (1 Kgs. 5:17). The church is built on the foundation of Christ (1 Cor. 3:11-12), and in the millennium the city will have precious stones for its foundation (Rev. 21:19). Following this example, for the establishing of the doctrine of the trinity we also have a number of stones, not stones of earthly substances, but the rocks of the eternal character of God.

Foundation Stone. No. 1

"Where is information to be found about the theme and the existence of the Trinity?"

At times, saints find themselves in situations where they are put "on the spot." They are presented with the question of proving the existence of God. Clearly, if an individual does not believe God is, then they must base their belief on certain facts, thus the responsibility of the atheist is to prove by facts that God does not exist.

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How can one prove that God is?

The other night I saw something interesting. There was a set of lights very close together moving across the sky. It was an airplane. How could I prove to anyone that someone is in control of that aircraft? Intelligence tells me that due to its moving according to a planned route, someone had to be in control. When one looks at creation, whether at outer space where all the planets including the earth, moon and sun move in precise speeds across a precise course, it becomes evident that someone is in control. We can be assured, for all the scientific and archaeological evidence that has ever become known, and that will ever become known, points unreservedly to the existence of God. The rejection of God is not based on scholarly intellect, but it is a manifestation of the darkness and rejection of a sin darkened heart and mind (Rom.1:21).

Apart from the miracles of revelation and prophecy, the Bible itself does not set out to prove the fact of God. God never gave the scriptures to prove His existence rather, one of it's purposes is for us to understand that which the Almighty can do. This is our first impression about God, and what an impression. He is presented as the Creator, and maintainer of all, although divine persons themselves are uncreated, being in perpetual existence. Furthermore, He is the source of all that is good: "Every good gift, and every perfect gift . . . is from the Father of Lights." (Jam. 1:17)

There can be no doubt as to the existence of God by one of the most evidential laws in the world, that of "cause" and "effect". This law is the recognitions that every "effect" has a previous "cause", and that the "cause" is always greater than the "effect."

Scripture	Reference
"I am the LORD your God . . . I am holy."	Lev. 11:44
"I the LORD . . . am holy."	Lev. 21:8
"Once have I sworn by My holiness."	Psa. 89:35

Scripture	Reference
Joshua said: "He is an holy God."	Josh. 24:19
Hannah said: "There is none holy as the LORD."	1 Sam. 2:2
Habakkuk said: "Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil."	Hab. 1:13
The angelic beings cry: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts."	Isa. 6:3
The singers sang: "Praise the beauty of His holiness."	2 Chron. 20:21
David said: "His Name is Holy."	Psa. 103:1
The Psalmist wrote: "His works and ways are holy."	Psa. 145:17
John said: "God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all."	1 Jn. 1:5
The Victors cry: "Who shall not fear thee, O Lord . . . for Thou only art holy"	Rev. 15:4

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Evolutionists and atheists have to acknowledge this planetary system in which we live and the entire solar universe is an "Effect". That being so, then the "Cause" of creation must be a Creator. Furthermore, consider the major phenomena around us: the law of gravity, the directional currents of wind and seas, the electrical energy, life, the fact of time, conscience, beauty, space, morals, feeling, variety, complexity, will, and intuition. All these are effects which demand a cause. That cause is either happenstance and evolution or God.

Having said this, when it comes to proving the existence of the Trinity, we cannot turn to external evidences. It can be argued:

- a) The human being is composed of body, soul and spirit.
- b) Space is composed of length, breadth and height.
- c) Time is composed of past, present and future.

These are all very interesting, but they do not prove the Trinity, nor do they give any evidence for it. The only source of information we have concerning the Trinity is the Bible. As the holy men of God (2 Pet. 1:21) spoke in the Old Testament, some of their inspired words were:

- a) "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psa 119:105)
- b) "For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light." (Prov. 6:23)
- c) "When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness." (Job 29:3)

Furthermore, the Bible never seeks to prove the Trinity, but it does present evidence to make such knowledge absolute. The scripture of truth (Dan. 10:21) is God's revelation to man about Divine Persons. Consequently, while there is abundant evidence to prove the existence of God from creation, we cannot prove the Trinity by such things. Our only source of information is the scriptures. This then brings us to:

Statement	Reference
The Lord he is God; there is none else beside Him	Deut. 4:35
The Lord our God is one Lord	Deut 6:4
There is none beside Thee	1 Sam. 2:2
Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be any after me	Isa. 43:10
I am the LORD; and beside me there is none else	Isa. 43:11
I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God	Isa. 44:6

Foundation Stone No. 2

"Can we believe the Bible"?

Before this can be answered, there is another and even more vital and fundamental question. It will cause us to make a major decision: "Can we trust the Author of the Bible?"

Clearly there is no credibility in accepting the information given by a person of questionable character. Their witness cannot be trusted. Therefore, what does God reveal about Himself? Again, how do others describe Him?

- a) What does God tell us about Himself?
- b) How do others describe Him?

Statements such as these present two truths:

- a) God, the Author of the Bible, is, infinitely and immutably Holy.

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- b) Since the Bible is one of His works, then it must be Holy. This means, it's teachings are true, and believing such, we now add:

Foundation Stone No. 3

"Does God Himself speak?"

Of this we are not left in any doubt for within the sacred scriptures we read:

Statement	Occurrences
The LORD (Jehovah) spake	199 times
Saith the Lord	239 times
The Lord (Adonai) spake	143 times
The Lord said	20 times
God said	46 times
God spake	13 times

Notice the different words for "LORD", "Lord", and "God". There are three "trunk" names for God in the scriptures: Jehovah or Jah which is normally written as all capitals, thus "GOD", "LORD"; Elohim which is usually written capital "G" small "od", thus "God". Elohim which is normally written capital "L" small "ord", thus "Lord". Each have their own significances.

Foundation Stone No. 4

"What does God reveal about His Person"?

Clearly God has revealed many things about Himself, but we in this paper are interested only in His "Oneness", His "Solitariness".

What does God reveal about that aspect of Himself?

Not surprisingly, when our Lord was on earth He taught the same truth and not because it was simply that which He had been taught. Rather, it was because He, who was and is the Truth, could speak nothing but the truth. "Jesus answered . . . The Lord our God is one Lord." (Mk. 12:29)

From these references, there can be no mistaking:

- The LORD is One.
- There was none before Him.
- There will be none after Him.
- There is none apart from Him.
- He dwells in solitary aloneness and dignity.

These have been our four foundational stones.

- Our only source of information is the Bible.
- We can believe the Bible.

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- c) God, the Author of the Bible has spoken.
- d) He has revealed that God is One.

If this was all that God had revealed concerning Himself, then there would be no problem, we could grasp that. However, we would not have the full truth concerning the Godhead. There are three Persons in the Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is where our tiny minds enter the realm of the incomprehensible. It is here we start to either develop man made ideas to explain the Three in One, or we will ultimately bow in wonder and worship.

Other aspects of the Trinity will be discussed in future documents.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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