

What the Bible Says About the Trinity

By R. Philip Roberts

I. Introduction

The Bible teaches the concept that God is a complex unity – three persons and one God. This concept of God is called the Trinity. Thomas Aquinas once wrote about this doctrine:

When we speak of the Trinity, we must do so with caution and modesty, for, as St. Augustine saith, 'Nowhere else are more dangerous errors made, or is research more difficult, or discovery more fruitful'.

II. What is the Trinity?

It is the truth that the Bible has revealed that God is “three persons or centers of consciousness within one Godhead.” (Ankerberg and Weldon, *The Trinity*, page 7). This concept refutes the idea that:

- A. There are three Gods (Tritheism)
- B. God takes on various forms as father, spirit and son (Modalism)
- C. There are three separate beings that became gods – Mormonism

III. What does the Bible say that leads us to accept the idea of the Trinity? Remember that the word “trinity” is not used in the Bible, but the following truths can be found there:

- A. There is only one true God: “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and man...” (I Tim. 2:5; Deut. 4:35; 6:4; Isa. 43:10).
- B. The Father is God: “There is actually to us one God the Father...” (I Cor. 8:6; John 17:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:3; Phil. 2:11; Col. 1:3).
- C. Jesus Christ the Son is God (John 1:1; Rom. 9:5; Titus 2:13; 2 Pet. 1:1; Isa. 9:6).
- D. The Holy Spirit is a Person, is eternal, and is God (Acts 5:3,4; John 14; Heb. 9:14; John 16:13).
- E. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons with equal authority (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 13:14)

The Bible also speaks that all three Persons of the Godhead have exercised equal authority and functions, placing them in essence equal to each other:

1. All three raised Jesus from the dead:

The Father	(Rom. 6:4)
The Son	(John 2:19-21; 10:17,18)
The Holy Spirit	(Rom. 8:11)
And God	(Acts 3:26; I Thess. 1:10; Heb. 13:20)

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2. All three created the world:

The Father (Eph. 3:9-14; 4:6)
The Son (Col. 1:16, 17; John 1:1-3)
The Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:2; Psa. 104:30)
And God (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3)

3. All three save and regenerate:

The Father (I Pet. 1:3)
The Son (John 5:21; 4:14)
The Holy Spirit (John 3:6; Titus 3:5)
And God (I John 3:9)

4. All three justify sinners:

The Father (Jer. 23:6; 2 Cor. 5:19)
The Son (Rom 5:9; 10:4; 2 Cor. 5:19, 21)
The Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:11; Gal. 5:5)
And God ((Rom. 4:6; 9:33)

5. All three sanctify the saved:

The Father (Jude 1)
The Son (Titus 2:14)
The Holy Spirit (I Pet. 1:2)
And God (Ex. 31:13)

6. All three propitiate God's anger against sin:

The Father (I Jn. 4:14; Jn. 3:16; 17:5; 18:11)
The Son (Matt. 26:28; John 1:29; I Jn. 2:2)
The Holy Spirit (Heb. 9:14)
And God (2 Cor. 5:19, 21; Acts 20:28; I John 4:10)

IV. Conclusion

The Bible says all three are God –

The Father (Eph. 4:6)
The Son (Titus 2:13; John 1:1; 20:28)
The Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3, 4)
And God (Deut. 4:35; Isa. 45:18)