

Sunday School Lesson for the Month March 2015

What The Bible Says About The Trinity! (1John 5:7)

(Sunday, March 1, 2015)

The doctrine of the Trinity is a distinctive mark of Christianity. It must be understood, however, that it is not possible to “prove” the Trinity from the standpoint of human reason. The Trinitarian nature of God comes to humans a divine revelation. It is interwoven throughout the Old and New Testaments. Thus, the Bible presents God as a rational Spirit being who is infinite in His attributes of love, holiness, wisdom, power, majesty, justice, truth, and goodness. It also presents him, as one who exists externally in three persons yet is still one in substance and in purpose.

I. There is one God!

- A. In the Old Testament, God is revealed in the Shema [**Deut. 6:45**], with which every Jewish synagogue service is opened; in the Decalogue [**Exod. 20:3**]; and by the prophets [**Isa. 45:5-6**].
- B. In the New Testament, God is revealed in the words of Jesus [**John 10:30**], the words of James [**James 2:19**], and the words of Paul, [**I Cor. 8:4-6**]. He is described as the father “of whom are all things” (vs.6) and in whom “we live, and move, and have our being” [**Acts 17:28**].
- C. Adam and Eve believed in one God, but sin gave birth to polytheism, because in his guilt, man manufactured gods whom he could appease. Sinful humans feared demonstrations of natural power, so they worshipped the wind, the sun, fire, and so on. Today material things often become gods in people’s lives.

(Sundays, March 8, 15, 2015)

II. The one God exists as three persons.

- A. The first mention of the Trinity is discovered in Genesis 1:1, when Moses used the plural form of the divine Name. “In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.” Our God is so great in His being and in His attributes that to limit him to one expression or manifestation of himself is to ignore his majesty and power.
- B. Several passages use more than one Hebrew word for God, making a distinction between God the Father and God the Son [Ps. 45:6-7; 110:1; Hos. 1:7]. Other remarkable passages refer to the Angel or Jehovah [Gen. 16:7-14; 22:11-16; Exod. 3:2-5; Judges 13:20-22].
- C. The amazing fact of the New Testament is the way in which it presents the doctrinal of the Trinity without any struggle or controversy. The teaching of Jesus is Trinitarian throughout. He speaks to the Father and of the Holy Spirit, and he does so without apology and without explanation [John 14:16-17; 15:26].
- D. Paul gives an Apostolic benediction in 2 Corinthians 13:14; which is a prayer directed to Christ for his grace, to the Father for his love, and to the Holy Spirit for his fellowship. Here the deity and equality of each person of the Godhead are taken for granted. God exists as three persons, and each of the three is equal in power, and glory, being one in substance.
- E. It is also important to note that in the Great Commission [Matt. 28:19-20], Jesus instructed his followers to go into all the world “baptizing them in the NAME (not names) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” This is another indication of the Unity and oneness of the Trinity.

(Sundays, March 22, 29, 2015)

III. These Three!

The Father is God! On many occasions Jesus prayed to God the Father [Mark 14:36; John 11:41; 17:11]. In *1 Corinthians 8:6*, Paul declares, “*To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things.*” Again, Paul identifies himself as “an Apostle sent by Jesus Christ and God the Father” [Gal. 1:1 NIV].

The Son is God. John wrote, “In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God....The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us [John 1:1,14].” For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily” [Col. 2:9]. Hebrews 1:3 is one of the strongest statements in the New Testament that declares the deity of Jesus. He is said to be the exact expression of the substance of God. **What is substance?** It is whatever is necessary to be God. The Son is declared to be the exact expression of that substance. Also, the attributes of Deity ascribed to God alone are also ascribed to the Son:

- ***holiness** [John 6:69; Heb. 7:26]
- ***immutability** [Heb. 1:11-12; 13:8]
- ***Omnipotence** [Matt. 28:18]
- ***Omniscience** [Matt. 9:4; John 16:30]
- ***life** [John 1:4; 11:25; 14:6]
- ***eternity** [John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5; Heb. 1:8]
- ***Omnipresence** [Matt. 28:20]
- ***judgment** [Matt. 25:31-46]
- ***Creation** [John 1:3, 10; Col. 1:16-17]

The Holy Spirit is God. Peter declared in his words to Ananias that the Holy Spirit is God [Acts 5:3-4]. Paul also declared it [1 Cor. 2:11] and Jesus implied in the Great Commission [Matt. 28:19-20] that the Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son as Deity.