

The Trinity

One of the core doctrines of Christianity is that there's only one God:

Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.”

1 Kings 8:60: “That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else.”

Isaiah 44:6-8: “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. And who, as I, shall call, and shall declare it, and set it in order for me, since I appointed the ancient people? and the things that are coming, and shall come, let them shew unto them. Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.”

Christianity does *not* teach that there are three separate gods, or that there are many gods. Instead it teaches that there's only one! As it says in Deuteronomy, the Lord our God is one Lord.

However, the Bible *does* teach the concept of the Trinity. That means God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all one God. Theologians teach that God is one being who is composed of three persons. This is a difficult concept to understand, but it's what the Bible teaches.

It's true that the Bible never mentions the word “trinity”.

Instead it uses the term “Godhead”, which means the same thing:

Acts 17:29: “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.”

Romans 1:20: “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”

Colossians 2:9: “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”

We can see the concept of the Trinity in all the times when God used plural pronouns to refer to Himself. That hints that He's a plural being:

Genesis 1:26: “And God said, Let **us** make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

Genesis 3:22: “And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:”

The apostle John taught that God the Father, God the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), and God the Spirit are three persons and yet one being:

1 John 5:7-8: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.”

In this passage the apostle John teaches the concept of the Trinity, even though he doesn't use that word to describe it. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three persons and yet a single being. They're all God and yet there's only one God.

There has been an occasion when all three persons of the Trinity manifested themselves at the same time. This was when Jesus was baptized:

Matthew 3:16-17: “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

At this moment the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus and God the Father spoke audibly from Heaven. All three persons of the Trinity made themselves publicly visible in the same place and at the same time.

Jesus is God

How do we know that Jesus is God? Well, this is something that's taught throughout the Bible. For example, there's a Messianic prophecy which says that the Messiah would be “the mighty God”:

Isaiah 9:6: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

We also have the testimony of Jesus Himself. There were multiple times when Jesus made Himself equal with God, which was a claim to be part of the Trinity:

John 5:17-18: “But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.”

John 10:30-33: “I and my Father are one. Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”

Jesus never denied being God. In fact, the apostle Paul said that Jesus did indeed make Himself equal with God:

Philippians 2:6-8: “Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and

became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Another way we can see the divinity of Jesus was the fact that He allowed people to bow down and worship Him. The reason this is important is because God requires us to worship Him alone, and no one else. When the apostle John once tried to worship an angel he was immediately stopped:

Revelation 22:8-9: “And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things. Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.”

Yet Jesus had no problem when people bowed down and worshipped Him! He never tried to stop them:

John 9:35-38: “Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”

After Jesus rose from the dead, Thomas actually called Jesus “God”. Jesus didn’t correct him when he did this:

John 20:26-29: “And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood

in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.”

The Bible makes a clear case that Jesus really is God.

The Holy Spirit

Does the Bible say that the Holy Spirit is God? Yes it does. There are several ways that it teaches this. First of all, our bodies are the temple of God. The reason for this is because the Holy Spirit dwells within us:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.”

1 Corinthians 6:19: “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?”

As you can see, the apostle Paul taught that the reason our bodies are the temple of God is because the Holy Spirit dwells within us. That means the Holy Spirit must be God.

The apostle Peter also taught that the Holy Spirit was God. When Ananias lied about the money he gave to the church, Peter

said that he had lied to the Holy Spirit – and that was lying to God:

Acts 5:3-4: “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”

If lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God then the Holy Spirit must be God.

In conclusion, the doctrine of the Trinity is solidly Biblical. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are all God – and yet there's only one God. It's a great mystery how one divine being can be composed of three persons, and yet that's what the Bible teaches.