

The Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity (which may be one of the most difficult doctrines of the Bible) teaches that there's one God who's composed of three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible does *not* teach that there are three different gods. God is very clear that there's only one God:

Isaiah 44:6: "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."

Isaiah 45:5: "I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:"

Isaiah 45:21: "Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me."

Jesus Himself testified that there's only one God, not three:

Mark 12:29: "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:"

It's true that the Bible doesn't use the term "Trinity". Instead it uses "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.”

The Trinity is a Biblical doctrine. There’s one God, who’s composed of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:

1 John 5:7: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

At the baptism of Jesus, all three persons of the Trinity appeared:

Mark 1:9-11: “And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

Luke 3:21-22: “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

Even though there's just one God, there are times when God refers to Himself using plural pronouns. This is because He's one being who's composed of three persons. God's use of plural pronouns when referring to Himself points to the doctrine of the Trinity.

For example, God said that when Jacob spoke to Him, he was speaking to "us":

Hosea 12:4: "Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us;"

When Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, He told him that he hadn't received "our" witness. This is referring to the witness that God had given to Israel:

John 3:11: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness."

God also used a plural pronoun when referring to Himself when He created mankind:

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."

When Adam ate the forbidden fruit, God said that he had become like "us":

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:"

There are other references like this throughout the Bible, but these establish the point.

Now, there are differences between these three persons. They each have their own role, their own ministry, their own focus, and their relationship with one another. That is an enormous subject that's beyond the scope of this paper. The point is that the Bible does indeed teach the doctrine of the Trinity.

How is it possible for God to be one being and yet three persons? No one really knows. We know it's true because God Himself tells us that it's true, but that type of being is far beyond our own experience. There's no one else like Him in the entire universe. All analogies and examples fall short.

That being said, it's not surprising that the nature of God is beyond our understanding. God is infinitely greater than us, and His nature is greater than us as well.