

GCA – February 25, 2024

More Trinity

(1) The Father is God. (2) The Son is God. (3) The Holy Spirit is God. (4) The Father is not the Son. (5) The Son is not the Holy Spirit. (6) The Holy Spirit is not the Father. (7) There is only one God.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons. The Bible speaks of the Father as God (**Phil. 1:2**), Jesus as God (**Titus 2:13, John 20:28**), and the Holy Spirit as God (**Acts 5:3-4**).

There are plenty of allusions to the Trinitarian nature of God in the OT. Like **Psalms 2** (“kiss the Son”). Or **Isaiah 9:6** – “For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace ... The zeal of the LORD of armies will accomplish this.”

John 1:1 -- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (Compare with Genesis 1 – God and His Spirit formed and made everything.)

Jesus is God and, at the same time, that He was "with God"-thereby indicating that Jesus is a distinct Person from God the Father.

John 1:18 -- No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained (exegeomai, ex-ayg-eh'-om-ahee) Him.

And in **John 16:13-15** -- **13** “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. **14** He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. **15** All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

So we see that although there is a close unity between them all, the Holy Spirit is also distinct from the Father and the Son. They have separate roles within the Christian life and experience.

So, how does that effect us / our ecclesiology.

Trinitarian church function

1Corinthians 12:1-7 -- Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. **2** You know that when you were pagans, you were being led astray to the mute idols, however you were led. **3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is accursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. **4** Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. **5** And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. **6** And there are varieties of workings, but the same God who works everything in everyone. **7** But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for what is profitable.

Trinitarian baptism

In the baptism of Jesus, we see the Father speaking from heaven and the Spirit descending from heaven in the form of a dove as Jesus comes out of the water

Mark 1:9-11 -- In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon Him; ¹¹ and a voice came from the heavens: "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

While the three members of the Trinity are distinct, this does not mean that any is inferior to the other. Instead, they are all identical in attributes. They are equal in power, love, mercy, justice, holiness, knowledge, and all other qualities.

One passage which most clearly brings all of this together, it is **Matthew 28:19** -- "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinguished as distinct Persons. We baptize into the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each Person must be deity because they are all placed on the same level.

Jesus would not have us baptize in the name of a mere creature. Therefore, each of the Persons into whose name we are to be baptized must be deity. Third, notice that although the three divine Persons are distinct, we are baptized into their name (singular), not names (plural). The three Persons are distinct, yet only constitute one name. This can only be if they share one essence.

(Compare: **Acts 8:14-17** -- Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.)

Acts 19:1-7 -- It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. 2 He said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" And they said, "Into John's baptism." 4 Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. 7 There were in all about twelve men.

So, the trinity is a biblical reality, even if its very existence stretches our concept of how reality works. The metaphysics of heaven are different than the physical realities of this world. And we cannot limit Heaven by our physical limitations.

Trinitarian prayer

Can you pray to the Father, the Son, and/or the Holy Spirit?

According to the Bible, we should pray to God the Father (Jesus taught: Our Father who art in Heaven), through God the Son (whatever you ask in my name), by means of God the Holy Spirit (Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for *us* with groanings too deep for words; Romans 8:26).

Trinitarian eschatology – Satan, Antichrist, and false prophet mimics the trinity

Rev. 5 -- ¹²Then I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth *made* of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; ¹³and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. ¹⁴And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ¹⁵Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the ^[h]commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man HID THEMSELVES IN THE CAVES and among the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶and they *SAID TO THE MOUNTAINS AND TO THE ROCKS, “FALL ON US AND HIDE US from the ^[i]presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the ^[i]wrath of the Lamb, ¹⁷for the great DAY OF their ^[k]WRATH has come, and who is able to stand?”

Rev. 14 -- ⁹Then another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, ¹⁰and he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed ^[e]in full strength in the cup of His rage, and he will be tormented with fire and ^[f]brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.

Trinitarian salvation

John 6:37-40 -- All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never cast out. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. ³⁹Now this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

The Father and the Son send the Spirit. The Spirit seals us until the day of our redemption, keeps us in the faith, intercedes for us as we pray, and will guide us to our Heavenly destiny.

All three persons of the One God are working on our behalf to the praise of the glory of our One God.