

DO WE WORSHIP THREE GODS?
2 COR 13:14 / 3-3-21 / WED

I. HOW IS THE TRINITY DEFINED?

A. What does our “Baptist Faith and Message” say about it?

“There is one and only one living and true God....The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. (Article One).

B. The early church struggled with this concept and eventually settled on two statements to explain it...

1. “One in Essence”

2. “Three in Person”

C. What are the implications of these statements? It means the Father is God, the Son is God and the Holy Spirit is God, but they are not three gods but one God.

D. Isn't this an absurd belief?

II. WHAT DOES THE TRINITY MEAN?

A. First, consider what it doesn't mean.

1. It doesn't mean we believe in three Gods. This is called **“Tritheism”**

2. It doesn't mean the Father, Son, and Spirit are different forms of God. This view says the Father became the Son who in turn then became the Spirit. This is called **“Modalism”**.

3. It doesn't mean that the Father, Son and Spirit are all “parts” of God. This implies they each are 1/3 God.

B. Where do we find this doctrine in the Bible?

1. It's implied in the Old Testament.

a. The unity of God is implied-**Deuteronomy 6:4--
Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one**

b. The diversity of God is also implied-**Genesis
1:26—"Then God said, "Let us make
mankind in our image, in our likeness"**

2. It is directly declared in the New Testament, both unity and diversity.

a. The unity of God is declared-I Cor. 8:4 & 1 Tim. 2:5.

I Cor. 8:4-- "....There is no God but one."

1 Tim. 2:5—"For there is one God..."

b. The diversity of God is also declared.

**Father-Gal. 1:1—"Paul, an apostle—sent not from men
nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father,
who raised him from the dead."**

**Son-John 20:28—" Thomas said to him (Jesus), "My
Lord and my God!"**

**Spirit-Acts 5:3-4-- 3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it
that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to
the Holy Spirit... 4 You have not lied just to human
beings but to God."**

c. All three are mentioned together-I Peter 1:2, 2 Cor. 13:14
& Matt. 28:19.

1 Peter 1:2

**2 who have been chosen according to the
foreknowledge of God the Father, through the
sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus
Christ and sprinkled with his blood:**

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

- C. The word “Trinity” isn’t found in the Bible.

III. HOW CAN WE ILLUSTRATE THE TRINITY?

- A. One illustration is water, which can be solid, liquid, or steam.
- B. Another illustration is an egg which has a shell, egg white and egg yoke.
- C. Still another is a person, who can be a father, son, and husband all at the same time.
- D. An old one is a pretzel that was said to be invented by a monk who was trying to explain the trinity.

IV. WHY DOES THE TRINITY MATTER TO US?

- A. The Trinity reminds us that God did not create us because he was lonely.
- B. The Trinity also reminds us that God is beyond our ability to comprehend.
- C. The Trinity tells us that both the Son and the Spirit are just as much God as the Father, and therefore should be worshipped.
- D. The Trinity also tells us its alright to pray to either the Father, the Son or the Spirit.