

**DO BAPTISTS WORSHIP THREE GODS?
2 COR. 13:14 / 5-6-18 / AM**

A. Wayne Gruden in his textbook on Systematic Theology defines the doctrine of the trinity with three mutually interdependent statements...

1. God in three persons.
2. Each person is fully God.
3. There is one God.

B. All three are equally God.

Father—**Isa. 45:5--I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God.**

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

Holy Spirit---**1 Cor. 3:16—Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?**

C. There have been several misunderstandings of the trinity over the years.

1. Tri-theism—abandons the unity within the Trinity and teaches there are three Gods.
2. Modalism—expresses Trinity in terms of three modes or manifestations of one God at a time but not a triune God.
3. Arianism—subordinates the Son to the Father but not being equal to the Father.

D. How does the O.T. express the Trinity? By emphasizing the plural nature of the Godhead.

1. **Gen. 1:1—"In the beginning God."** The word for God in Hebrew is "Elohim" and it is plural.
2. **Gen. 1:26—"Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness..."**

E. How does the N.T. express the Trinity?—Matt. 28:19 and 2 Cor. 13:14.

F. All analogies used to try to understand and explain the Trinity are inadequate.

1. Three leaf clover—each leaf is only part of the clover and alone isn't a three leaf clover.
2. Water—steam, liquid and ice—water cannot be all three at the same time.
3. Man—son, husband, and father. However, there is a time when a son is neither a husband or a father.
4. Atom—comprised of neutrons, electrons and protons. However a hydrogen atom does not have a neutron.

I. **FIRST, THE TRINITY IS PRE-UNDERSTOOD IN THE BIBLE.**

- A. In other words, the Bible assumes the fact of the Trinity without any explanation—1 Peter 1:2.
- B. This is in keeping with the necessity of faith in all questions concerning God and His Word—Heb. 11:6.

II. **SECOND, WE CAN SEE THE TRINITY IN ACTION IN THE BIBLE.**

- A. Each person in the Trinity can be seen in specific actions in the Bible. For example....

1. In Creation.

Father—**Gen. 1:1**—“**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.**”

Spirit—**Gen. 1:2**—“**....the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.**”

Son—**John 1:1-3**—“**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.**”

2. In Salvation.

Father—**John 3:16**—“**For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...**”

Son—**John 3:36**—“**Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life...**”

Spirit—**Eph. 1:13**—“**....When you believed, you were marked with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit....**”

- B. So although the Trinity is three expressions of one God, all three can be seen in action throughout the Bible.

III. **WHY IS THE TRINITY AN ESSENTIAL DOCTRINE IN THE BIBLE?**

- A. First, without the trinity our atonement or salvation is at stake because if Jesus isn't God how could His death be an adequate sacrifice for our sins?
- B. Second, without the trinity our concept of Jesus is at stake because if he isn't God why should we worship him and pray to him?
- C. Third, without the trinity our concept of monotheism is incorrect and we do worship three Gods and not one.