

“The Doctrine of the Trinity”

1 Corinthians 13:14

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I. Introduction

- A. We are looking together at the great doctrines of the Bible
 - 1. Scripture
 - 2. God the Father
 - 3. God the Son
 - 4. God the Holy Spirit
- B. Today, I want to look at the doctrine of the Trinity
 - 1. We should “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3)
 - 2. The doctrine of the Trinity is an essential doctrine of Orthodox Christianity
 - 3. Augustine, the celebrated church father of the fifth century, said of the Trinity, “In no other subject is error more dangerous, or inquiry more laborious, or discovery of the truth more profitable.”
 - 4. The Trinity has been called “the greatest mystery of all revealed truth”
- C. Some would say, “The Trinity is not in the Bible”
 - 1. The word means “tri” and “unity” or “three in one”
 - a) One God
 - b) Three persons
 - c) Coequal and coeternal
 - 2. Some say it is a contradiction
 - a) It is not
 - b) God is one in essence but three in persons
- D. The doctrine of the Trinity is not explicitly taught in the Bible, but it is clearly implied in the Bible
 - 1. It is revealed in Scripture progressively
 - a) Old Testament and New Testament
 - 2. It is incomprehensible
 - a) Man is fallen and finite
 - 3. It’s dangerous to deny or distort the doctrine
- E. Definition of The Trinity
 - 1. Within the one being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal persons, namely The Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. One being or one in essence is God
 - 3. Three persons, eternal, and coequal
 - 4. The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit

II. The Biblical Basis for The Trinity

- A. There is one and only one God
 - 1. (Deuteronomy 6:4)
 - 2. (Isaiah 44:8)
 - 3. “For there is one God...” (1 Timothy 2:5)
 - 4. Christianity is monotheistic

- 5. The false view of the Trinity is called “Tritheism”
- B. There are three distinct persons who are God
 - 1. The Father is God
 - a) (John 6:27)
 - b) (1 Peter 1:2)
 - 2. The Son is God
 - a) (John 1:1)
 - b) (Hebrews 1:8)
 - c) (John 20:28)
 - 3. The Spirit is God
 - a) (Acts 5:3-4)
 - b) (John 14:16)
- C. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all three distinct persons who are God
 - 1. The Bible teaches that there is only one God
 - a) One in essence or being, yet three distinct persons
 - 2. The false view of the Trinity is called “modalism”
 - a) Jesus prayed to His Father (John 1:1)
 - b) Jesus prayed to the Father to send the Comforter
 - 1) Pentecost

III. Shadows of The Trinity in the Old Testament

- A. “In the beginning God”
 - 1. (Genesis 1:1)
 - 2. A plural form for God
 - 3. “Created” is singular
- B. “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness”
 - 1. (Genesis 1:26)
- C. “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil”
 - 1. (Genesis 3:22)
 - 2. “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
(Isaiah 6:8)

IV. The Sunlight of Complete Revelation of The Trinity is Seen in the New Testament

- A. The Great Commission and baptismal formula
 - 1. (Matthew 28:19)
 - 2. “Name” not “names”
- B. The baptism of Jesus
 - 1. (Matthew 3:16-17)
- C. “And I will pray The Father, and He...”
 - 1. (John 14:16)
- D. “But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life”
 - 1. (Jude 20, 21)

- E. “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied”
 - 1. (1 Peter 1:2)
 - 2. (Ephesians 4:4-6)
 - 3. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

V. The Beauty of The Trinity

- A. God is love
 - 1. (1 John 4:8)
 - 2. (2 Corinthians 13:14)
 - a) The Father is love
- B. We are saved
 - 1. Jesus’ incarnation
 - 2. Jesus is our propitiation
 - 3. Jesus is our mediator
- C. We worship
 - 1. The communion of the Holy Spirit
 - 2. How we pray
 - a) (John 4)
 - b) The Lord’s Prayer