

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY

1 John 5:7

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: What does anyone know about the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity? Who has a thorough grasp, a clear understanding of the doctrine of the Trinity as described in the Bible? There are countless things in this world that nobody understands very clearly and no human being has ever or ever will explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity. God made man in a plural sense, giving each person a body, soul and a spirit, yet that is hard to explain or describe for how does one put all three together into one? No one understands the works of God and certainly no one can understand God's being. However the Bible does reveal three great things about the Trinity.

I. THE BIBLE CLEARLY TEACHES THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY (1 John 5:7)

1. Throughout the Scriptures, God reveals Himself as triune Being, one in three and three in one. All are equal in all things and co-eternal.
 - Not three equal but separate Gods.
 - Not one God manifested in three personalities.
 - But one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. The Trinity is a doctrine found in the Old Testament Scriptures as well as the New Testament.
 - Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:1-2; 26
 - "El" is found in a thousand combinations in the Old Testament which is the word God used of Himself and "Elohim" is the plural which is used over 5,000 times in the Old Testament referring to God.
3. The New Testament clearly declares the doctrine of the Trinity.
 - In relation to the Incarnation.
 - Matthew 1:20-23
 - In connection with Jesus' Baptism.
 - Matthew 3:15-17
 - In connection with the Great Commission.
 - Matthew 28:19-20
 - Notice it is "baptizing them in the NAME (not names)..."
 - In connection with the Lord's Promise.
 - John 14:16 ("another comforter, exactly like me)
 - In connection with the Apostolic Benediction.
 - 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - God the Father is God, God the Son is God, God the Holy Spirit is God. The LORD our God is one LORD. (Romans 1:7; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3-4)
4. The Christian faith does not stand upon nature and logic, it stands upon the Word of God ALONE and the Bible teaches the doctrine of the Trinity.

II. ALL THREE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD ARE EQUALLY GRACIOUS

1. God the Father is described as the Fountain of all Grace. (*Ephesians 1:3-6*)
 - It was God, the Father, who designed redemption, devised the plan and chose when and how it would take place.
 - Galatians 4:4-6

2. God, the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the channel of all grace. (*Ephesians 1:7-12*)
 - Apart from Christ there is no grace and man cannot deal with God except through Jesus Christ.
 - Chosen of God? Then chosen in Christ.
 - Blessed of God? Then blessed in Christ.
 - Adopted as a child of God? Then adopted in Christ.
 - Accepted of God? Accepted in Christ.
 - Redeemed by God? Redeemed in Christ.
 - Forgiven by God? Forgiven in Christ.
 - Justified before God? Justified in Christ.
 - Sanctified by God? Sanctified in Christ.
 - Know God? Know Him in Christ.
 - An inheritance from God? In Christ.
 - Called of God? Called in Christ.
 - There is no other way the Grace of God can reach sinful man except through Jesus Christ.

3. God, the Holy Spirit is the Administrator of Grace. (*Ephesians 1:13-14*)
 - God, the Holy Spirit is who applies the blood of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, to the believer who is a redeemed sinner.
 - He regenerates the dead by omnipotent power.
 - He calls the redeemed with irresistible grace.
 - He gives faith to the believer by almighty operations of grace.
 - He seals the believer into everlasting glory.
 - All three Persons in the Godhead are equally gracious and therefore all three must be equally praised.
 - "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
 Praise Him all creatures here below!
 Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"
 - Sometimes God the Father is presented alone as upon Mt. Sinai as He gave the law to Moses.
 - Sometimes God the Son appears alone as when He will when He comes back.
 - Sometimes God, the Holy Spirit is alone but the results, the consequences are all the same.
 - Whether one Person of the Trinity is presented alone, they are still all three together and the result is always mercy, grace, redemption and salvation.

III. THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY BRINGS UNITY AMONG BELIEVERS AS NOTHING ELSE

1. In baptism, the believer publicly avows his/her consecration to God, being baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, thus declaring publicly his/her commitment and consecration to:
 - Obey the Will of the Father.
 - Live for the Glory of the Son.
 - Submit to the Leadership of the Holy Spirit.

2. Thoughts about the Holy Trinity should stimulate within the believer a desire to be one with other believers as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one.
 - ***John 17:20-22***
 - Every believer ought to devote him/herself as a son/daughter of the triune God to unity and be in:
 - One in purpose - the Glory of God.
 - One in labor - the Cause of Christ

- One in Love.
- ***Philippians 2:2-5***

3. For Christ's sake, as a child of God, for His glory, each believer needs to learn by the Grace of God:
 - Patience with One another.
 - Esteem for One another.
 - Forgiveness of One another.
 - Forbearance with One another.
 - ***"...And the glory which thou gavest Me, I have given them, that they may be one even as we are one..." (John 17:22)***

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible clearly teaches the doctrine of the Trinity.
2. All three Persons in the Godhead are equally gracious.
3. No doctrine in the Bible more clearly and forcibly inspires unity among believers than the doctrine of the Trinity.
4. ***Ephesians 4:1-6***