



14 – 20 Oct, 2018

The Trinity, part 1

**‘Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man,
and then I will show you a man
that can comprehend the Triune God’ John Wesley**

The Holy Trinity (Mat 3:16-17; 17:1-13)

- † The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; three persons in one God
- † Trinity comes from ‘Tri’ meaning ‘three’ and ‘unity’ meaning ‘one’
- † Each person in the Trinity is fully God and there is one God
 - the Father is God, *‘Grace to you and peace from God our Father’ (Phi 1:2a)*
 - Jesus is God, *‘looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ’ (Tit 2:13)*
 - the Holy Spirit is God, *‘But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God’ (Act 5:3-4)*
- † The Trinity as a doctrine is central to the Christian faith
- † We do not understand it fully. If we could explain God, He would not be God
- † The Trinity is exposed clearly by Christ before His ascension: *‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (Mat 28:19)*
- † The Nicene Creed clarifies the Trinity

Each Person of the Trinity is of the same essence, yet distinct

- † *‘I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father’ (Joh 16:28)*
- † *‘Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you’ (Joh 16:7)*

The Trinity is inseparable (Joh 14:9-29; 16:5-7)

- † The Father and Son are one. They are two persons and yet one God (Joh 10:30)
- † The Father and the Spirit are one God (Mat 10:19-20)

- † The Son and the Spirit are one God; Jesus promises that He will return and stay with the disciples although He has to leave in a while. Where the Son abides, the Spirit abides and God abides (*1Joh 3:24; Mat 28:20*)

The office of each Person in the Trinity

- † The office of the Holy Spirit is the Advocate, Comforter, Helper, Spirit of Truth, Who remains with us forever (*Joh 14:15-17; Act 1:4-5*)
- † The Son is 'through Him all things were made'. His office is
- our Savior
 - our Priest; He intercedes with the Father (*Joh 14:16*)
 - our King and Judge; He is authorized by the Father to execute judgment (*Joh 5:22*)
 - our elder brother (*Gal 4:6-7*)
 - Christ is the Way to our Father; No one can come to the Father as a son except through Christ. Otherwise, they come to the Father as a judge (*Isa 35:8*)
- † The Father is Almighty and has a different office. The Father is the Creator. Jesus executes the Father's will. Jesus speaks the Father's Words. We in return should seek the Father's will and words

The Trinity is revealed in the Old Testament as one God

- † God is described as being '*one Lord*' in Deuteronomy 6:4 and declares in *Isaiah 44:6: 'I am the first and I am the last; apart from Me there is no God'*
- † Some statements that point to the Trinity from the day of creation onwards:
1. God said, '*Let us make mankind in Our image, in Our likeness*' (*Gen 1:26*)
 2. God continues in verse 27 to say, '*So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them*'
 3. God said, '*The man has now become like one of Us*' (*Gen 3:22*)
 4. God said at Babel, '*Come, let Us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other*' (*Gen 11:7*)
- † In the Old Testament, God is rarely referred to as 'Father' and when the people of Israel spoke of themselves as 'sons', they had in mind the relationship that would exist between the king and his subjects, a fatherly relationship in that sense

The Trinity is fully described in the New Testament

- † Only when Christ was incarnated, the full picture of God's Trinitarian being became clear. Paul wrote: '*when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are his*

sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father' (Gal 4:4-6)

- † The Trinity was apparent at the baptism of Jesus when the Spirit descended like a dove and the Father spoke (*Mat 3:16-17*)
- † Jesus taught the Trinity when He spoke of sending the Holy Spirit from the Father (*Joh 15:26*)
- † In the early church, each member of the Trinity was named in the apostolic benediction (*2 Cor 13:14*) and the baptism (*Mat 28:19*)

The Trinity and prayer

- † The Son taught us to direct our prayers to the Father (*Mat 6:9-13*)
- † It is through Christ that we can cry Abba (*Rom 8:15*)
- † The Holy Spirit prays in us (*Rom 8:26-27*)

As Christ loved the Father and obeyed Him, even to the death, so must we love Christ and obey Him, with the help of the Holy Spirit

Bibliography

1. David F. Wells. *What's the Trinity? Basics of the Faith* (P & R Publishing, New Jersey, 2001)
2. Elmer Towns: <https://www.churchgrowth.org/the-holy-trinity-god-the-father-son-and-holy-spirit/>

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit' Mat 28:19

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity

13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Protestant Church in prayer

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| <p>الصلاة الربانية أبانا الذي في السموات ليتقدس اسمك ليأت ملكوتك ليتك مشيئتك كما في السماء كذلك على الأرض خبرنا كفافنا أعطنا اليوم واعفُ لنا ذنوبنا كما تغفر نحن أيضًا للمذنبين إلينا ولا تدخلنا في تجربة لكن نجنا من الشرير لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد إلى الأبد أمين</p> | <p>قانون الايمان نحن نؤمن بإله واحد أب قادر على كل شيء خالق السماء والأرض وكل ما يرى وما لا يرى و ربّ واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق مولود غير مخلوق ذو جوهر واحد مع الأب هو الذي به كان كل شيء الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء و تجسد بالروح القدس من مريم العذراء وصار إنساناً وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي وتأم وقبر وقام أيضًا في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب وصعد إلى السماء وهو جالس عن يمين الأب وسيتأتي أيضًا بمجد ليدين الأحياء والأموات الذي ليس لملكه نهاية ونؤمن بالروح القدس الربّ المحيي المنبثق من الأب والإبن المسجود له والمُجمد مع الأب والإبن الذي تكلم بالأنبياء ونعتقد بكنيسة واحدة، مقدسة، جامعة، رسولية ونعترف بمعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا وننتظر قيامة الموتى وحياة الدهر الآتي أمين</p> |
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