

Can We Believe In TRINITY



A Comic By

Dr. Johnson C. Philip
Dr. Saneesh Cherian

The Doctrine of Trinity

Questions That Young People Ask

(Revised) Edition 2



Dr. Johnson C. Philip

Dr. Saneesh Cherian

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Acknowledgement

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Thanks to brother Paulose (Manorama) for proposing that the time for Etracts has come. That proposal became the seed for our series of ongoing comics.

Thanks to Mrs. Santha Johnson who pointed out some typos.

We are grateful to Dr. Joseph John (Professor) who took considerable time to list typos and also suggested several valuable revisions.

We are grateful to them all, and release this revised edition with a grateful heart.

Ideas have consequences, so please be sure to send this easily readable comic to as many of your contacts as possible via WhatsApp and also via Facebook.

The Authors

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Meet Anil, a Bible student on the left.
Dr. S the theology professor in middle,
and Anand, a booklover at right.

Anil and Anand are full of questions.
They love to ask questions and Dr. S
loves to talk to them.

Surprisingly, Dr. S only has only
questions most of the time. Let us see
what happens when Dr. S asks back so
many questions!

Let me guess! You guys have more questions to ask of me. Right? I love questions!



We know Dr. S that you are very tolerant of questions and that is why we wish to ask some very tough questions about Trinity today!



Trinity? That's a good topic to awaken even the sleeping. Fire your questions, provided you are willing to accept some questions from me too!



Sure Dr. S!
Since you
answer all our
questions
patiently and
without
irritation, we
will also answer
all your
questions
patiently and
without getting
irritated or
impatient!

Okay, then start your questions!



Dr. S, can you begin with an easy and concise definition of the doctrine of Trinity?

Sure
Anil!



The definition is simple: God is one, but exists eternally in three persons.



Is it true that the word
'Trinity' is not found in the
Bible?

That is true. But so
what?

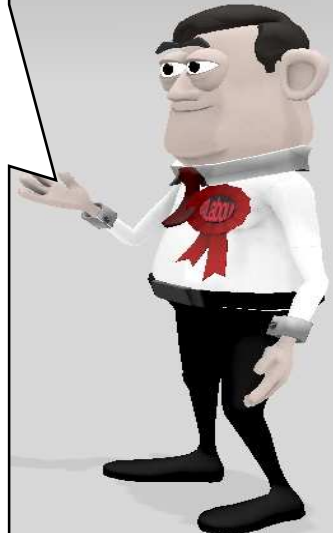


Is it right to use a word not found in the Bible?

Look at the
following words:

Sunday School
Backslider
Biblical Living
Mission
Gospel Tract

Do you find
them in the
Bible?

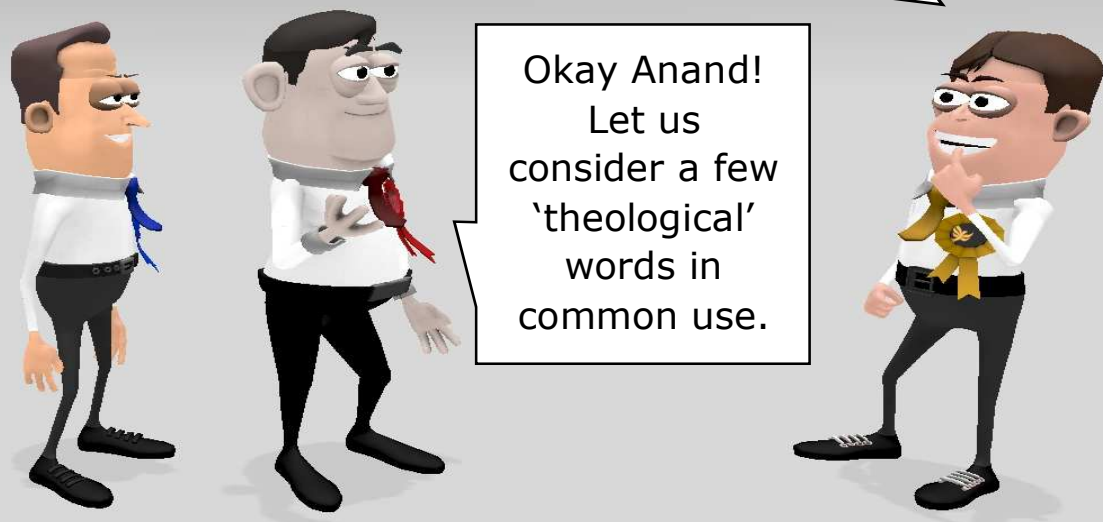


Oh, they are not found in the Bible, but we do use them for convenience/accuracy of expression!

Then why be prejudiced against the word Trinity?



Dr. S, the examples you gave are only "Christian" words not found in the Bible. But Trinity is a theological word not found in the Bible!



Okay Anand!
Let us
consider a few
'theological'
words in
common use.

Do you find theological words like Eternal Security, Millennium, Calvinism, Canon, etc. in the Bible?

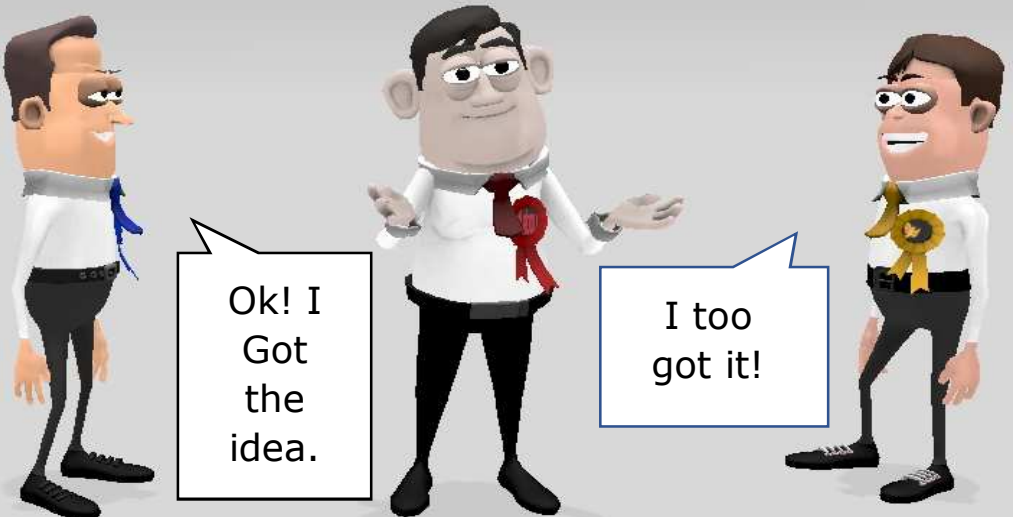
I guess they are not there in the Bible!



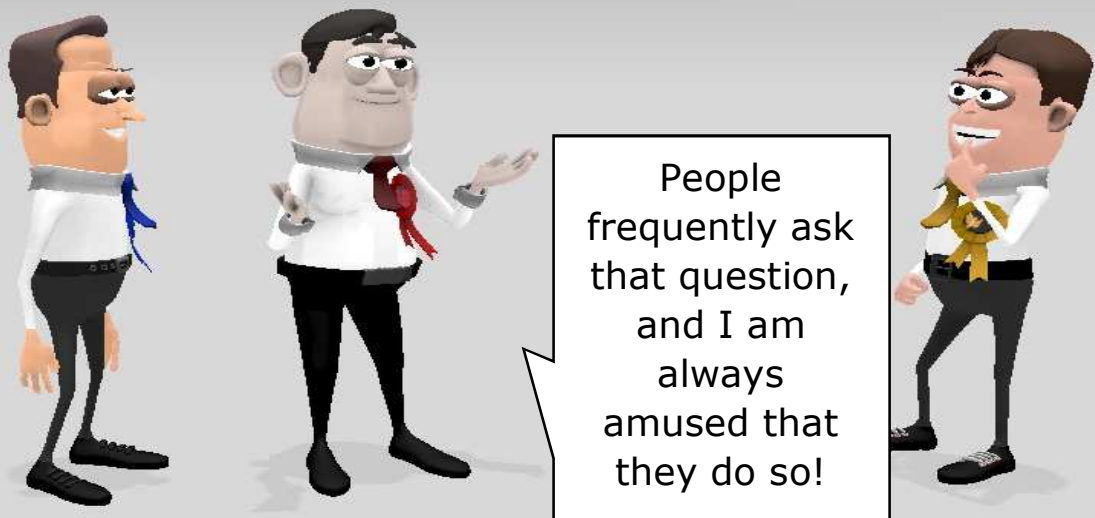
Then WHY this prejudice against the word Trinity?
Should we not be fair everywhere?

Ok! I Got the idea.

I too got it!



But Dr. S, how can $1+1+1$ be equal to 1. It is not logical because the sum ought to be 3!



Tell me. Is God a person or a number?



Since God is a person and not a mere number, how can anyone use arguments like $1+1+1=3$ to disprove the doctrine of Trinity?



Dr. S, since God is a person, not a number, please tell me how can three persons be one person?



The definition does not say that God is one person.
It says that God is one! Is there a difference?



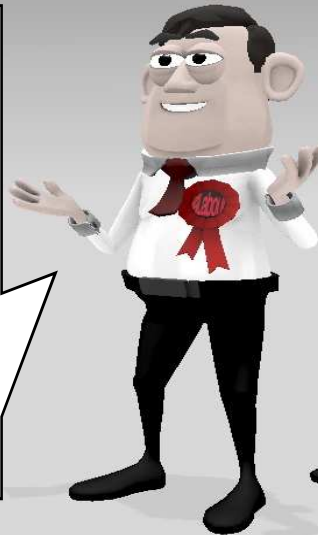
There is a
vast
difference
between
saying that
God is one-
person and
that God is
one.



There is a widely accepted saying that whether we are
Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims or Christians, we are ONE.
NOBODY disputes this statement.



But Anil,
does this
statement
say or imply
that all
Indians
together are
ONE
person?



It does not mean that all Indians are ONE person.
Rather, it means that there is a UNIQUE oneness
among Indians so that we can say Indians are ONE.



Good
deduction! Can
you list a few
words/phrases
where the word
ONE is used in
a similar
manner?



They are ONE, about husband and wife. They are ONE
about a determined team. They were ONE about
military teams. I can list MANY other unique plural-
one's that are there in our common vocabulary.



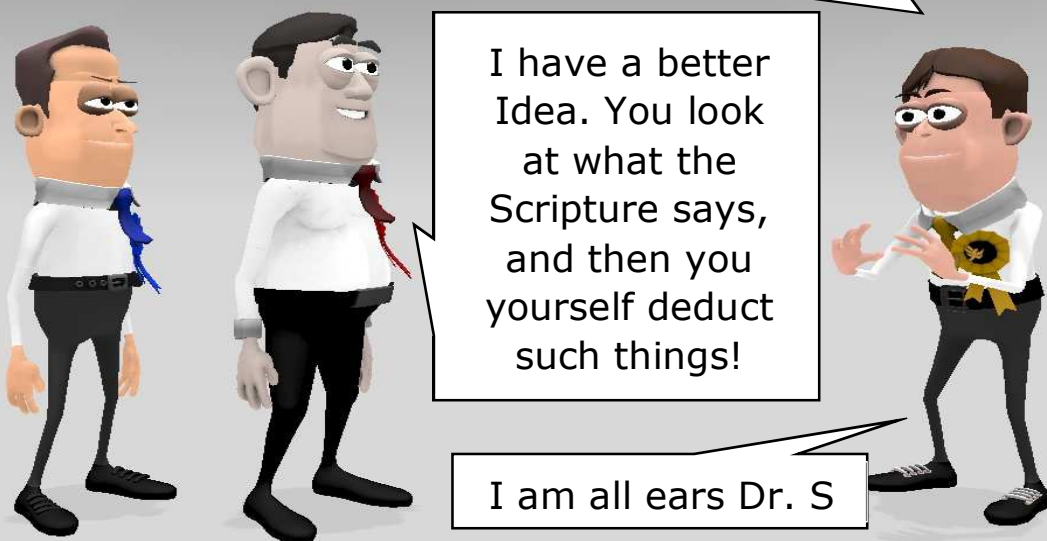
So, you know
that ONE does
not always
means one
person. It can
have unique
meanings
depending
upon usage.



Now you can appreciate the truth better that we see from the Bible that there are three eternal and co-equal persons, but one God. It is a DIVINE oneness.



Someone told me the other day that God is only ONE person who appeared in three different forms. What do you say?



Of all the possible verses, let me choose three representative ones. Matthew 3:17, Matthew 12:18, and 2 Peter 1:17. For convenience let me quote them:



And lo a voice from heaven, saying,
This is my beloved Son, in whom I
am well pleased. Matthew 3:17

"Here is My servant, whom I have
chosen, My beloved, in whom My soul
delights. I will put My Spirit on Him,
and He will proclaim justice to the
nations" Matthew 12:18

For He received honour and glory from God the Father
when the voice from the Majestic Glory said to Him,
"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" 2
Peter 1:17



Anand, now the logical question
is: if there is only one person,
who acted as three, then could he
have said the above to HIMSELF?
Or could one person have said to
himself that "Father, into THY
hands I commit my soul"? Please
note that on some occasions the
Father spoke audibly from heaven
when the Lord was on the earth?

I had not examined those verses from that angle. Now that you ask, a logical deduction is that TWO separate people are needed to make the above statements.

"into THY hands I commit my soul" makes sense only if Jesus and Father are different. So it is clear to me now that one God three manifestations cannot be true.



But Dr. S, isn't the 'plurality in Godhead' concept introduced by the New Testament writers? After all, we do not read of it anywhere in the Old Testament.

Anil, I almost expected that question from one of you.

Let us look again into Scripture-based data to decide if you are right.



Please read Genesis 1:26 the first one third!

It reads:

"And God said,
Let us make
man in our
image, after our
likeness"
Genesis 1:26



What about the
plurality there? The
use of 'us'?

Rulers often use the word "we" and "us" to talk about themselves. So God the ruler of Universe could have used that word in the same way and it would not indicate plurality of Godhead.

Ok, then what do
you say about
the expression in
Genesis 3:22,
the first part?

What does it
say?



It says: "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil" Genesis 3:22a



What do you say about the expression "one of us"?

Can a single person use this expression about himself?



Dr S, I had not noticed this verse earlier. The expression "one of us" can be used only when there is a plurality of persons!

Then what about your claim that plurality of Godhead was introduced by the New Testament writers?



I now realize that the concept of trinity is there in the Bible right from the first book onward!



But Dr. S, why all this obsession with Trinity. Can't we just ignore this doctrine, seeing many people don't like it? That will make everyone very happy!



So, you feel "give no offense to anyone" is a good strategy in doctrinal matters Anand?



You're right Dr. S! Everyone would be happy if we ignore doctrines that displease them.

Looks promising, isn't it? Let us examine this approach objectively!

That would be helpful Dr S!

Are there any who dislike justification by faith?



I gather that plenty of Christians dislike the doctrine of justification by faith.



What about the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith?

Many people dislike that doctrine. They would prefer it to be grace PLUS works for salvation!




What about the doctrine that salvation is only through Christ and that Jesus is the ONLY saviour?


I know many Christians who dislike that doctrine!




Ok, what about the doctrine that Bible alone is the word of God and that Bible alone is the final authority in matters of doctrine and practice.



I know a LOT of Christians who simply hate this Bible-alone doctrine!



Anand, you say we should not offend anyone. So, we need to abandon all doctrines that offend people. So here are the last four doctrines that you said many people dislike:

- 
- Justification by faith alone
 - Salvation by grace alone
 - Christ as the only Saviour
 - Bible as the only revelation

So, WHAT do you say we should do with the above doctrines?

I say, let us abandon ALL such doctrines that make people unhappy or upset. This will make Christianity a happy faith!

That is a small cost to pay for mutual harmony!



In other words, destroy the Christian faith for that is a small cost to maintain mutual harmony with people who are unhappy with doctrine!

Oh no!! I would NEVER take that stand Dr. S!

I would NOT want to take lead in destroying our precious Christian faith!



But that is exactly what you have done when you say we should stop talking about faith alone, grace alone, Christ alone and Bible alone.




This approach is called 'burning a mansion for the sake of killing a rat'. For the sake of some unhappy people, you are advocating that the fundamental pillars of the Christian faith be destroyed. Do you really mean to do it Anand?

No Dr S, I would not want to work against our precious faith. I had not realized that trying to suppress a given doctrine to make people happy ultimately works against our precious faith!

I also realize NOW that we should not ignore or suppress the doctrine of Trinity merely to please those who do not like or accept this doctrine. Thanks for enlightening me!



Thanks Dr S for answering our inquiries patiently. It is clear to me now that Trinity is a doctrine found throughout the Bible.




It is also clear to me that many arguments such as $1+1+1=3$ are not applicable here.


Trinity is a divine oneness that man cannot comprehend with his human logic alone. I am grateful to you!



Anil and Anand, it was great to have a time like. Come back with any other questions you have in mind! True Christian faith encourages inquiry!



Thanks
Dr S!



Thank you
very much
Dr S!



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