

Doctrines Made Simple 003

Capsule Series For Busy People

The Doctrine Of TRINITY Part 03

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Bible Doctrines Made Simple 003
Capsule Series For Busy People

The Doctrine Of TRINITY 03

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Dr. Johnson C. Philip

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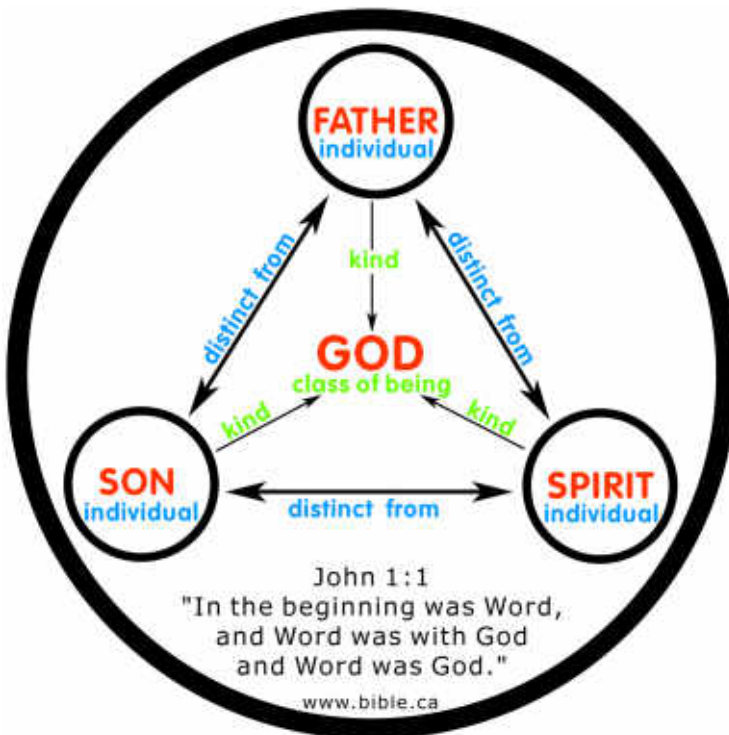
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Dr. Johnson C. Philip
Dr. Saneesh Cherian

The Doctrine of Trinity 03

As we said in the last article, by now it is clear to any careful student that the Bible claims that each of the three persons is God, but also that there is only ONE God. So what is the solution???



Picture: A symbol used to explain Trinity. Remember, this is only a symbolic representation and not an actual depiction!

When the Bible makes a statement, we need to accept that statement on the basis of faith -- because it is God's word. God cannot err, and therefore God's word cannot contain error. It will not teach or promote error. If we feel that something in the Scripture is contrary our understanding, or human logic, we still need to accept it as true by faith -- because it is a proclamation by God.

However, often when people face difficulties of human logic on reading the Bible, they immediately resort to human logic to solve it. Obviously, human logic cannot solve or explain statements made by the infinite God. Finite human mind cannot fathom the infinite, and therefore often human 'logical' explanations tend to be totally in error.

For example, most people think of 'mathematical' oneness as soon as they hear that God is one in three persons. Then they reject that concept because they argue with their human logic that $1+1+1$ is 3 and not 1. They are right that $1+1+1$ is 3 and not one, but they in their human logic forget that God is no mathematics. Nor is He bound by the laws of mathematics. Thus any mathematical argument to prove or disprove Trinity is completely invalid.

Since the human mind is enmity to God, any attempt at explaining trinity with the help of logic would end up in error. This is the reason why people are unable to understand what kind of unity or 'oneness' is trinity.

Many people find it difficult to accept the statements of the Bible because they try to equate the oneness of God with mathematics. The moment people abandon mathematics to accept that the biblical doctrine of God is not to be proved or disproved on the basis of mathematics, part of their difficulty will vanish. We need to realize that there are numerous kinds of uni-plurality in the world. For example, we all frequently claim that in marriage man and woman become one. Everyone accepts this matrimonial uni-plurality and nobody questions it when people say that "they" (the husband and wife) are one.

We often say about God-fearing families that they are one. This is not mathematical oneness. When a singer completely absorbs his audience into his song with his hart touching presentation, we often claim that the audience became one with the singer. This is not mathematical oneness.

Often when a soccer, football or volleyball team wins against an extremely tough team, we say that the team members played as one. This is not mathematical oneness.

We often say that though there is a huge diversity of language and culture, people of our nation are one or that we are one nation made up of hundreds of millions of individuals. This is not mathematical oneness.

A few years ago I visited Sharjah for delivering a series of five messages on Bible and science. The auditorium was packed with so many that there was hardly any standing-space left. Everyone was so absorbed in these lectures that the 60 minutes of lecture each day looked like 5 minutes to everyone. One of my cousins said "Johnson uncle, when you begin to speak you and the audience become a single organism in in sync with each other". She was right. But this was not mathematical oneness.

Man knows of many kinds of onenesses that are not mathematical in nature. People easily accept these onenesses because they know that there are many kinds of onenesses. Trinity also is a real oneness, but it is not mathematical in essence.

As demonstrated above, we know of many kinds of onenesses. Thus when we approach the concept of God in the Bible (Father, Son, Holy Spirit each one as God, but only One God not three), we need to approach the Bible with the full realization that here is ANOTHER kind of oneness that God has revealed.

The proper expression for this is, 'the DIVINE oneness'. Divine oneness should not be equated with mathematical oneness. Rather, just as there are many kinds of onenesses (family oneness, national oneness) known to man, this is another kind of oneness revealed by God to mankind. Thus the right expression for it is "divine oneness".

An effort to explain 'divine oneness' in human terms is futile. Human understanding and human logic cannot comprehend the divine nature. For example, concepts such as omnipresence are impossible for man to fully understand because -- as atheists ask -- if God is everywhere, then is He in hell also. And if He is in hell, then what is the difference between Him and the others there. Obviously, humanly speaking there is no logical answer for that question. We just believe the Bible that God is present everywhere, but that He is not necessarily present in Hell.

Similarly, when the Bible says that Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are God, but that there is only ONE God, we accept this by faith. Our human logic is unable to comprehend it. The moment we have the humility to accept the above fact, the doctrine of Trinity becomes easy for us to accept and understand through the eyes of our faith in the Scripture.

There will be one more book in this series that will handle the major questions related to Trinity.



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About The Authors

Dr. Johnson C. Philip is an expert in Quantum-nuclear Physics and has done research about the inner structure of Protons and Neutrons (Hadrons). He has authored hundreds of books and he hopes to join hands with Dr. Saneesh Cherian to produce more than 100 volumes of these compact Bible/Science books to bless your spiritual life.



Dr. Saneesh Cherian is an expert in Communication and Sociology. Having completed two doctorates in theology and a masters in Sociology from a prestigious University, he has been working towards his next doctorate.



Together the two writers have authored several major books in Apologetics and Theology, Theology Dictionary and Bible Encyclopedias.

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