

# In Defense of the Trinity

Getting Back on Track  
Session:4

# **Does the Bible Teach the Doctrine of the Trinity?**

**But wait! The word  
trinity is never used  
in the Bible!**

**Matthew 28:19**

**“Go therefore and  
make disciples of all  
nations, baptizing  
them in the name of  
the Father, the Son,  
and the Holy Spirit.”**

**“For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whoever thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved of by men.”**

Halfpoint #79096667  
5/3/18

**Romans 14:17-18**

# Genesis

## 1:26

“Then God said,  
Let us make  
man in our  
image.”

# Titus 2:11-13

- **God's grace has appeared bringing salvation for all people.**
- **The appearing of God's glory is our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.**
- **He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness.**

# Titus 3:4-6

- **The Kindness of God our Savior** appeared...he saved us
- **Not by works, but according to his mercy....through the washing of regeneration and renewal** by the Holy Spirit.
- **He pour out his Spirit on us through Jesus our Savior.**

## John 16: The Spirit

- “Will speak what He Hears.”
- “Will guide the apostles into all truth.”
- He will take from Jesus what is His...and Everything Jesus has is from the Father.

**Remember, some doctrines  
are built by making a  
cumulative case from the  
text of scripture.**

# **Philosophical Challenges to the Doctrine of the Trinity**

# **Philosophical Challenges to the Trinity**

## **Three in One?**

- **Some claim that the God of Christianity is really three gods in one God.**
- **Other claim that God is three persons in one person.**
- **So which is it?**

# **Philosophical Challenges to the Trinity**

## **Three in One?**

- **The answer is neither. Both are logically incoherent.**
- **Rather, the one being we call God, comprises three persons.**

# **Philosophical Challenges to the Trinity**

## **Three in One?**

- **A “being” is the quality, substance, or essence that makes you what you are.**
- **A “person” is that which makes you who you are.**

# Three in One?



- **It is a single entity comprised of 3 angles.**
- **Three angles in one figure.**

- **Three angles make up one entity, the triangle.**
- **Three persons make up the one being known as God.**

# **Philosophical to the Trinity Challenges**

- **They are all equal in divinity and glory.**
- **We call them “The Father,” “The Son,” and “The Holy Spirit” in regards to roles they play in relation to us.**
- **On its face, the doctrine is logical and rational.**

# **Philosophical to the Trinity Challenges**

**Challenge: Each angle is not a triangle whereas each person in the trinity is God.**

**Response: When we say that Jesus *is* God it is not a statement of identity like “Tullius is Cesero” where you have two names of the same person**

# Philosophical to the Trinity Challenges

## Response:

- **Rather you have an *is* of predication...Like saying “the couch is **red.**”**
- **You Don’t mean that the couch is a color, rather it has the property of being red.**
- **So when we say that Jesus is God, the Spirit is God, and the Father is God, we mean they all share equally the same attributes of divinity, power, and glory.**

## **The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity**

- **God is by definition the greatest conceivable being.**
- **As such, He is perfect.**
- **A perfect being must be a loving being.**

# **The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity**

- **Love is a moral perfection.**
- **God therefore, must be a perfectly loving being.**
- **It is in the very nature of a loving being to give oneself away.**

# **The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity**

- **A Loving person reaches out to another person, rather than centering on oneself in isolation.**
- **So if God is perfectly loving, he must, by necessity be giving himself to another.**

## **The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity**

- **But who, is God giving himself to?**
- **It cannot be a created person, since creation is a part of God's will, not His nature.**
- **It is a part of God's essence to love.**

# **The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity**

- **Therefore, there could be a possible world where God is perfectly loving and no created persons exist.**
- **Furthermore, created persons have not always existed, God has always existed.**

## The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity

- Therefore, the “other” to **whom** God’s love is directed, must be internal to God himself.
- God is not a single, isolated individual. He is an eternal, triad of persons, in a self-giving relationship.

# **The Case for the Necessity of the Trinity**

- **The result is remarkable!**
- **For in every other religion starts with creation and then love is given.**
- **In the trinity, love is already in existences and is expressed in and given to creation.**