

THE "TRINITY" December 18, 2016

If you are a Bible reader then you have probably read Matthew 28:19, 20. We call this the Great Commission of Jesus Christ. Jesus commanded that when believers in Christ are baptized they must be baptized "in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit". There are three persons named here. Bible scholars have come up with one word that describes the relationship of these three persons. That one word is "Trinity". That word literally means "three in one", that is, three persons or things that form ONE unit. The three persons in Jesus' command are said to comprise the "Trinity". They are the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Is God really three persons? How then can it be said that there is only one God?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock. I preach for the Gandy church of Christ.

The word "Trinity" is not a Bible word. But the idea of the Trinity is strongly implied in the Bible. When we assemble the Bible passages that pertain to this subject then the "Trinity" idea begins to take shape in our minds. Even though there is much mystery that still lingers about this great subject, nevertheless there are some clear Bible statements that suggest the doctrine of the "Trinity".

Matthew 28:19, 20 is the location where you can find Jesus' statement of the great commission. Jesus said that all power in heaven and earth had been given to Him. By that authority Jesus commanded His people to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20 ESV) Jesus did not say baptize them in the "names" (plural), but in the name of those three persons, as if they all have the same name. How can the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have the same name? The answer is that they are all ONE in deity, in their divinity, in Godliness. The word "divinity" means "God-like". In the King James Version of the Bible that idea of "God-likeness" is preserved in the word "Godhead." That word is written 3 times in the King James Version of the New Testament.

Jesus' apostle Paul expressed that idea when he told the Athenian philosophers that "Being the offspring of God, we [humans] ought not to think that the

Godhead [that is "God-likeness"] is like gold or silver or stone, engraved by art and man's imagination." ([Acts 17:29 MKJV](#)) It was also the apostle Paul who wrote to the Christians at Rome, Italy, saying that people are without excuse for disbelieving in God, because, "The unseen things of Him [God] from *the* creation of *the* world *are* clearly seen, being realized by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead (God-likeness)...." ([Romans 1:20 MKJV](#)) Still again, it was Paul who wrote to the Colossian Christians, building up their faith in Jesus Christ, by saying, "In Him (in Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." ([Colossians 2:9 MKJV](#)) All the likeness of God was fully living in Jesus Christ.

God-hood (or God-likeness) lived in all three of the persons that the Bible identifies as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Many Bible passages bring out this truth. Jesus' baptism is a great example. John the Baptizer, Jesus' cousin was baptizing people in the Jordan River. Jesus came to John to be baptized. But "John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "**Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.**" Then [John] consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." ([Matthew 3:14-17 ESV](#)) We can clearly identify the three persons of the Trinity in this episode. Jesus was called "my beloved Son" by a voice from heaven, obviously the Father's voice. But just before the voice was heard the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the bodily form of a bird, a dove. And so, in this passage we see "the Father" who speaks, "the Son" who was baptized, and "the Holy Spirit", who descended upon Jesus. Well, the Holy Spirit immediately went to work in Jesus. The next verse says, "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." ([Matthew 4:1 ESV](#))

We also find the Trinity in the preaching of Jesus' apostle Peter. Peter's sermon on the birthday of the church of Christ is the only one preserved from that great day. You can read it in Acts 2. In verse 32, Peter said, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing." ([Acts 2:32-33 ESV](#)) In this sermon Peter says that the exalted Jesus received from the Father the promised

Holy Spirit who filled the apostles on that day of Pentecost. In this passage then we find The Son, The Father, and The Holy Spirit; the Trinity.

Jesus' apostle Paul wrote about the Father and the Son being ONE God. He was giving warnings to the Corinthian Christians about eating meats offered to idols. Paul said, "This is what I say about eating meat [offered to idols]: We know that an idol is really nothing in the world, and we know that there is only one God. It's really not important if there are things called gods in heaven or on earth--and there are many of these [so-called] "gods" and "lords" out there. For us there is only one God, and he is our Father. All things came from him, and we live for him. And there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. All things were made through him, and we also have life through him." (1 Corinthians 8:3-7 ERV)

In that same New Testament book of 1 Corinthians when he was talking about the spiritual gifts that had been bestowed upon the Corinthian Christians, the apostle Paul made this remarkable statement, Paul wrote, "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they are all from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve, but we serve the same Lord. And there are different ways that God works in people, but it is the same God who works in all of us to do everything." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 ERV) In this passage we find God, who is the Father, the Lord, who is the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were all working together in the same church by giving the Corinthians the gifts, the service, and the good works they needed. That is a remarkable passage. The Father, Son, and Spirit work together; they are a unit!

But there are many more verses that teach the Trinity; these verses actually teach the ONENESS of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself talked frequently about His relationship with His Father, and His relationship with the Holy Spirit. The night before His crucifixion Jesus gave some comfort to His apostles by saying this: "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." (John 15:26 ESV) We find all three of the Trinity in this verse. After Jesus' departure from the earth, he ascended to His Father. Jesus then received from the Father the Helper, who is the Holy Spirit. Jesus then sent the Helper to His apostles. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were working together to bring to the world the saving message of salvation from sin.

The Trinity's ONENESS of purpose is also seen when Jesus was healing people on the Sabbath day. The Jewish leaders objected to Jesus healing on the Sabbath day, and they were persecuting him because of it. Jesus had this to say to them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working." This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he will." (John 5:17-21 ESV) Jesus was only doing what his Father was doing. The Father and the Son are ONE. Jesus even applied this to raising the dead! Did you hear that last phrase? "As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomever he will. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man." (John 5:21-27 ESV) Because Jesus was also a human being, the Father gave him authority to execute judgment. Jesus will decide your case, and mine. Will you receive eternal life, or will you receive eternal punishment? Jesus will decide. "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead." (Acts 17:30-31 ESV)

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are in complete agreement. They are ONE. They compose the Trinity. The three have worked together for the salvation of the world by bringing to your ears and mine the Gospel of Jesus Christ. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of

his own will he [the Father] brought us forth by the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures." ([James 1:17-18 ESV](#)) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, [born again] to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." ([1 Peter 1:3-5 ESV](#)) "[Jesus] came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but [born] of God." ([John 1:11-13 ESV](#)) "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...." ([Titus 3:4-6 ESV](#)) God the Father sent a Savior, His Son Jesus the Christ. The Savior then sent the Holy Spirit to renew our minds with the message of the Gospel. Friends, look at what the Godhead has done for you; the Godhead wants you to be saved!

Visit a church of Christ near you and begin to serve the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.