

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY



By Dr. Luther Smith

AGENDA

1. What is the Doctrine of the Tri-unity (“the Trinity”) of God.
2. The Scriptural Proof for the Tri-unity (“the Trinity”) of God.
3. The “ontological” nature of the Tri-unity God, and the Scriptural Proof.
4. The “Administrative” nature of the tri-unity of God, and the Scriptural Proof.

WHAT IS THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD (I.E. THE TRINITY)

The Tri-unity (or Trinity) of God is defined as “God is one, [and] at the same time consists of three persons, without negating the unity of God.”

THE WESTMINSTER CONFSSION

III. In the unity of the Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

WHAT THE DOCTRINE DOES AND DOES NOT TEACH

- The doctrine **DOES NOT** teach “Tri-theism.” (Three gods)
- The doctrine **DOES NOT** teach polytheism (many gods)
- The doctrine **DOES** teach monotheism (one God)
- The doctrine **DOES** teach this one God is found in three “Persons.”: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- This doctrine is a “paradox,” and is a “mystery, but **NOT** a “contradiction.”

SCRIPTURAL PROOF OF THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

Deuteronomy 6:5: Shema

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is **one**!

Shema Yisrael, Adonai eloheinu, Adonai **echad**

*Let us observe this term “**echad**”:*

WHAT IS THIS TERM “ECHAD?”

It is a term that represents plurality or “compound unity” between nouns (person, places, or things). Where else is this term found in Sacred Scripture?

Genesis 1:5

“God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, **one** day.”

Genesis 2:24

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become **one** flesh

WHAT IS THIS TERM "ECHAD" CONT.

Numbers 13:23

23 Then they came to the valley of Eshcol and from there cut down a branch with a single **cluster** of grapes; and they carried it on a pole between two *men*, with some of the pomegranates and the figs.

Ezra 2:64

“The **whole** assembly numbered 42,360.

Jeremiah 32:38-39

38 "They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for *the good of* their children after them.

ANOTHER TERM

Yachid

This term, represents *absolute singularity* rather than *compound unity*.

Genesis 22:2

Now it came about after these things, that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." **2** He said, "Take now your son, your **only** son, whom you love, **Isaac**...

Proverbs 4:3

When I was a son to my father, Tender and the **only** son in the sight of my mother,

ANOTHER TERM CONT.

Yachid

Psalm 22:20

20 Deliver my soul from the sword, My **only** *life* from the power of the dog.

Proverbs 4:3

When I was a son to my father, Tender and the **only** son in the sight of my mother,

Judges 11:34

When Jephthah came to his house at Mizpah, behold, his daughter was coming out to meet him with tambourines and with dancing. Now she was his one *and* **only** child; besides her he had no son or daughter.

ANOTHER TERM CONT.

Yachid

Amos 8:10

"Then I will turn your festivals into mourning And all your songs into lamentation ; And I will bring sackcloth on everyone's loins And baldness on every head. And I will make it like *a time of mourning* for an **only** son,

Zechariah 12:10

"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an **only** son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

OTHER SCRIPTURAL PROOFS OF THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

1. El vs. Elohim (Exo. 20:2-3 “God” vs. “gods”)

"I am the LORD your **God**, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery .**3** "You shall have no other **gods** before Me.

2. The term “us” in Sacred Scripture

Then God said, "Let **Us** (plural noun) make man in Our image, according to **Our**(plural noun) **likeness**(singular noun); and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **27 God** (plural noun) created man in **His** (singular personal pronoun) own image, in the image of **God** (plural noun) **He** (singular personal pronoun) created him; male and female **He** (singular personal pronoun) created them.

ISAIAH 48:12-16

12 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. **13** "Surely My hand founded the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together. **14** "Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these things? The LORD loves him; he will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon, And His arm *will be against* the Chaldeans. **15** "I, even I, have spoken; indeed I have called him, I have brought him, and He will make his ways successful.

Question: Who is speaking?

ISAIAH 48:12-16 CONT.

16 "Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now **the Lord GOD has sent Me**, and His Spirit.

Question: Who has God sent?

THE "ONTOLOGICAL" NATURE OF THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

“Ontos” is Greek for “Being.” Essentially, this means that all three persons are the one God because they share the same nature.

1. God the Father is the one God

John 6:27

"Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

1 Corinthians 1:3

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:1

Paul, an apostle (not *sent* from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead), **2** and all the brethren who are with me.

THE "ONTOLOGICAL" NATURE OF THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

2. God the Son is the one God CONT.

John 1:1-3, 18

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God.

Titus 2:3

looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

2 Peter 1:1

Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

THE "ONTOLOGICAL" NATURE OF THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD CONT.

3. God the Holy Spirit is the one God

Acts 5:1-4

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, **2** and kept back *some* of the price for himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. **3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back *some* of the price of the land? **4** "While it remained *unsold*, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to men but to God.**"

Hebrews 10:15-17

And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying, **16** "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," *He then says*, **17** "AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE."

THE ADMINISTRATIVE (FUNCTIONAL) NATURE OF THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

1. **God the Father Sent the Son**

(John 6:44, 8:18, 10:36, 1 John 4:14).

The Father Elects, the Son does not.

(John 6:39, 44, Eph 1:4-5)

2. **Jesus redeemed man, not the Father**

(2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Pet. 2:24)

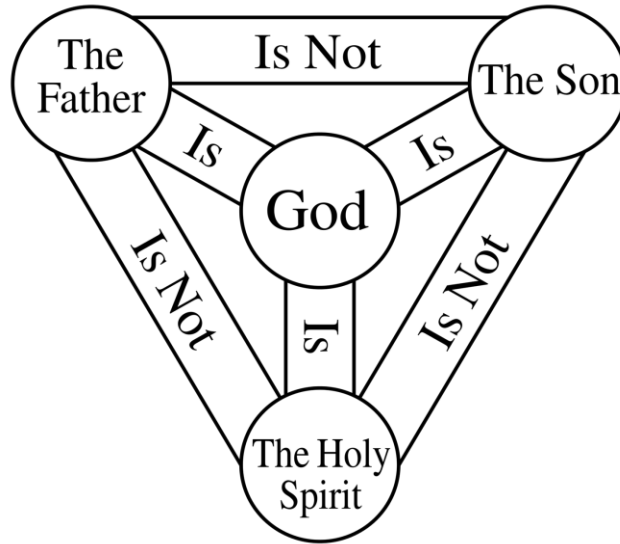
**The Son came down from heaven, not
the Father**

(John 6:38)

3. **The Holy Spirit lives in man, not the Son,
or the Father**

(1 Cor 6:19. ; 2 Tim 1:14).

LETS DISCUSS



IT!