

Big Words You Need to Know, Love, and Share

Week 2: Trinity

Emmaus Bible Church | 01/08/2017

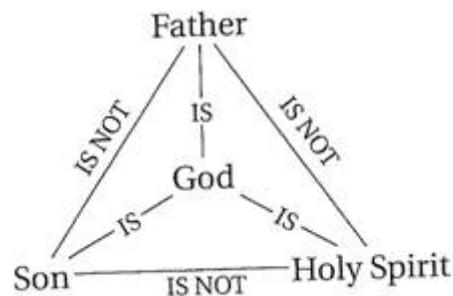
Definition: *There is one God who exists coeternally and coequally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit.*

DEFINING OUR TERMS

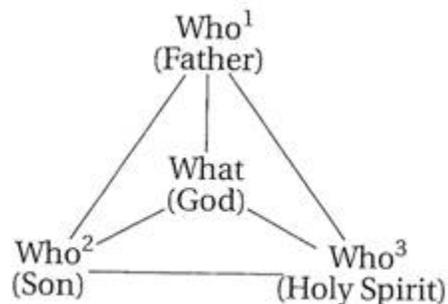
- The term Trinity refers to the “tri-unity” (three in oneness) of God.
- God is three persons.
- Each person is fully God.
- There is one God.

Got it?

- God is three persons not just one person.
- There is one God not three.
 - The Father is God.
 - The Son is God.
 - The Holy Spirit is God.
 - The Father is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.
 - The Holy Spirit is not the Son, and the Son is not the Holy Spirit.
 - The Son is not the Father, and the Father is not the Son.
- This diagram has proven helpful



- What is the difference between the one and three then?
 - God is one essence but three persons.
 - *Essence* answers the question: “What are you?”
 - *Person* answers the question: “Who are you?”
 - We are saying that the Trinity is *one What (being)* and *three Who's (persons)*.



BIBLICAL TESTIMONY

- A sampling of OT Examples
 - Gen. 1:26-27, Here God speaks and refers to himself with the pronoun “our”, no doubt indicating early reference to the Trinity.
 - Gen. 3:22, similar to 1:26-26 with the plural pronoun
 - Psalm 110:1 and Mt. 22:41-46, Jesus shows that there are two persons referred to as Lord
 - Isa. 63:10, The Holy Spirit is referred to in terms distinct from God and with capabilities of personhood.

- A sampling of NT Examples
 - Mt. 3:16-17, At the baptism of Christ we have all three members of the Trinity acting independently.
 - Mt. 28:19, similar to above; distinct personhood but united authority
 - 2 Cor. 13:14, all three members mentioned together
 - Jude 20-21, same as above
 - Col. 2:9, Christ as God
 - Acts 5:3-4, Holy Spirit referred to as God

SOME CONTEMPORARY HERESIES THAT DENY THE TRINITY

- Mormonism: denying the Trinity by promoting a version of the historical heresy of polytheism (multiple gods).
- Jehovah’s Witness: believe that Jesus was a created being and not God incarnate. Historically this heresy is Arianism.
- Oneness Pentecostalism (Modalism): believes that God is one person who reveals himself in three forms or *modes*. Historically this heresy is Sabellianism.

PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS

- Love
- Community
- Unity and Diversity
- Salvation