

The Mystery of the Godhead

Dr. Jay Zinn • 1/10/10 • River's Edge Church

On January 5th I awoke from a dream that confirmed a leading I'd been sensing to do a series on the Godhead. In my dream I was with a small group of people in an unfamiliar city straight out of a sci-fi movie. It was a desolate place, abandoned streets, homes and stores with no signs of life.

We made our way through the city through a maze of old homes—built side-by-side. As we passed through one dilapidated house after another, we came out into an overgrown courtyard and were suddenly overpowered by a small gang of people.

Upon the threat of death they forced us to answer a difficult riddle. They gave us clues like they really wanted us to get it, but for each clue we failed to answer, that person died on the spot and was disposed of. Our captors showed no joy in the deaths of my companions. They actually grieved at our failure to answer the clues as if they'd lost one of their own.

When my turn came, I'd been praying fervently to God to reveal the answer to me so no one else would die. Suddenly, I saw a pattern of "threes" in the riddle. I said to one of the captors nearby, "It's like an atom with the proton, neutron, and electron sort of thing," and he whispered in my ear, "You're on the right track, keep going."

Then a word of knowledge dropped into my spirit and I blurted out, "It's the Godhead! It's about the Trinity of the God." The clues they gave, that no one else had caught, had all been pointing to the principle of three-in-one. Clues like a triangle, liquid, dimensions and so on. Our captors shouted and leaped for joy at the answer. So did the surviving party of our group. Then I woke up.

As I lay in bed wondering about the dream, it dawned on me that I'd been thinking about doing a series on the Trinity and perhaps this dream was a confirmation to that. So I asked God for the interpretation. He took me first to the following scripture:

- **Matthew 13:33** – The Woman (False Church) w/ leaven placed in 3 measures of Flour.
(Gen. 18:1-6) - Assault on the Tri-Unity of the Godhead. Leaven=False Doctrine.

The Lord showed me the "ghost" **city** represented the church in an abandoned, broken place. She had departed from the fundamental truth of the Triune Godhead. This picture represented the outcome of a leavening of the truth of the Trinity with false doctrine in the last days.

The **captors** represented those who had embraced the false doctrine and fell under a curse to never speak about this doctrine again until someone came from the outside to restore the truth back.

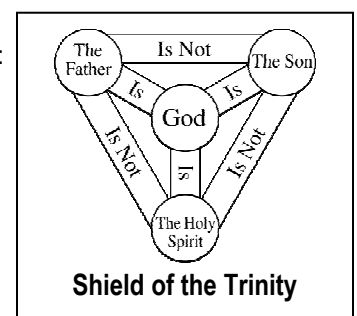
The members of my captured group and those unable to answer the clues, represents those who would die a spiritual death not knowing God as a Triune God.

The answer to the riddle laid in the pattern of the three-in-one. Only an outsider could speak the truth of the Trinity and thus set everyone free through the restoration of that revelation.

Interesting that the Early Church Fathers had to deal with the revelation of the Godhead in the two heretical extremes of *Unitarianism* (one God w/o three distinct personalities) and *Tritheism* (rejects oneness of the Godhead; teaches there are three Gods).

Athanasian Creed (formulated in 5th century church to combat two extremes):

"Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold to the [whole, universal and true] Faith. That Faith which, unless everyone keeps whole and undefiled, without doubt shall perish for all eternity.



“And the true faith is this:

1. That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;
2. Neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance.
3. For there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit.
4. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit is all one, the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.
5. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit.
6. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated.
7. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.
8. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal.
9. And yet they are not three eternal but one eternal.
10. As also there are not three uncreated nor three incomprehensible, but one uncreated and one incomprehensible.
11. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Spirit almighty.
12. And yet they are not three almighties, but one almighty.
13. So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God;
14. And yet they are not three Gods, but one God.
15. So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord;
16. And yet they are not three Lords but one Lord.
17. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;
18. So are we forbidden by the true and universal religion to say, There are three Gods or three Lords.
19. The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten.
20. The Son is of the Father alone; not made nor created, but begotten.
21. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.
22. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.
23. And in this Trinity none is afore or after another; none is greater or less than another.
24. But the whole three persons are coeternal, and coequal.
25. So that in all things, as aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.
26. He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity.
27. Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation that he also believes correctly about the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
28. For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man.
29. God of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and man of substance of His mother, born in the world.
30. Perfect God and perfect man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.
31. Equal to the Father as touching His Godhead, and inferior to the Father as touching His manhood.
32. Who, although He is God and man, yet He is not two, but one Christ.
33. One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh, but by taking of that manhood into God.
34. One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by unity of person.
35. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man, so God and man is one Christ.”

2007—controversial novel called, *The Shack*, by Wm. Paul Young. (7 million in print)

Mack—story’s main character on a spiritual journey from pain toward a deeper revelation of God.

God the Father—characterized as a large African-American woman named, **Papa**.

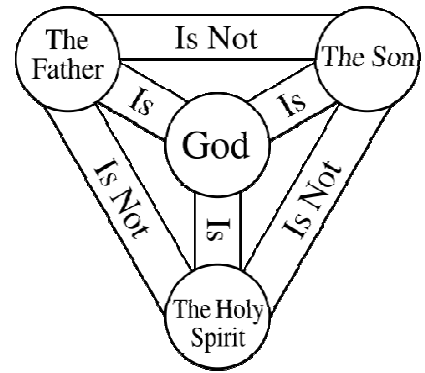
God the Son—characterized as a handy man named, **Jesus**.

God the Holy Spirit—characterized as a small Asian woman named, **Sarayu** (wind)

(Pages 106-107& 147-148 in the book)

The Oneness of God: (by itself is Unitarianism)

“The Lord is God, there is no other [God].” **Dt. 4:35, 39**
“The Lord our God is one Lord.” **Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29; Ga. 3:20**
“Apart from me there is no God. **Isa. 44:6, 8**



The Threeness of God: (by itself is Tritheism)

“In the beginning God (*Elohim*—a uni-plural word).” **Gen. 1:1**
“God (*Elohim*) said, ‘Let US make man in OUR image...’ “ **Gen. 2:26**
“God (*Elohim*) said, “Man has become as one of US.” **Gen. 3:22**
“The Lord our God is one (*Echad*—a compound unity noun).” **Dt. 6:4**
“The [Holy] **Spirit** of the Lord (**Father**) is on me (**Son**).” **Isa. 61:1**

The three Persons of the Godhead depicted in the New Testament...

The **Father’s** Voice spoke from heaven)
The **Son** of God in the Jordan River) **Matthew 3:16-17**
The **Holy Spirit** descends as a dove)

Baptizing them into the name of...
the **Father**,)
and of the **Son**,) **Matthew 28:19**
and of the **Holy Spirit**.)

The **Father** hears the Son’s prayer)
The **Son** asks the Father) **John 14:16-17** (*Jesus* asks the *Father* for the *Spirit*)
The Father gives the **Spirit** of truth)

We have access to the **Father**)
Through the **Son**) **Ephesians 2:18**
By the **Holy Spirit**)

Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (**Son**))
And the love of God (the **Father**)) **2 Corinthians 13:14**
And fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**)

...three that bear record in heaven:
the **Father**)
the **Word** (Son)) **1 John 5:7-8**
and the **Holy Spirit**)

The one on the throne—**Father** God)
The Lamb before the throne—the **Son**) **Revelation 4&5**
The seven lamps—the **Holy Spirit**)

The Scriptures reveal each distinct member of the Godhead as ...

- GOD.**
Father — Jn. 6:27; 1 Pt. 1:2; Ro.1:7
Son — Jn. 1:1,18; Tit. 2:13; Ro.9:5
Holy Spirit — Acts 5:3-4
- CREATING** heaven and earth.
Father — Ex. 20:11
Son — Col. 1:16-17; Jn. 1:3; He. 1:2,10
Holy Spirit — Gen. 1:2; Job 26:13; Ps. 104:30
- ETERNAL.**
Father — Dt. 33:27; Ps. 90:2
Son — Micah 5:2; Jn. 1:1; Php. 2:6
Holy Spirit — Heb. 9:14
- OMNIPRESENT** (all-present).
Father — Jer. 23:23-24
Son — Eph. 1:23; Mt. 18:20
Holy Spirit — Heb. 9:14

5. OMNISCIENCE (all-knowing).
Father — Pr. 15:3; Heb. 4:12; 1 Jn 3:20
Son — Jn. 21:17; Co. 2:3
Holy Spirit — 1 Cor. 2:10

6. OMNIPOTENT (all-powerful).
Father — Mt. 19:26
Son — Php. 3:21; Rev. 1:8; Mt. 28:18
Holy Spirit — 1 Cor. 12:8-11

The Bible reveals the Tri-Unity nature of God both in *natural* and *Biblical* illustrations:

Natural Illustrations:

- 1. **Rainbow**) yellow
) red
) blue
- 2. **Water**) liquid
) ice
) steam
- 3. **Sun**) light
) energy
) fire
- 4. **Space**) breadth
) length
) depth
- 5. **Atom**) proton
) neutron
) electron
- 6. **Man**) soul
) body
) spirit

Biblical Symbolic Illustrations:

- 1. **Celestials**) Sun (light source) *Father*
) Moon (blood red) *Son*
) Stars (H.S. in saints) *Holy Spirit*
- 2. **Noah's Ark**) 1st Story (base) *Father*
) 2nd Story (door) *Son*
) 3rd Story (window) *Holy Spirit*
- 3. **Mercy Seat**) One Cherub *Father*
) Seat (blood-sprinkled) *Son*
) One Cherub *Holy Spirit*
- 4. **Ark Contents**) Tables of Law *Father*
) Golden Pot of Manna *Son*
) Aaron's Budded Rod *Holy Spirit*
- 5. **Aaron's Rod**) The Bud (beginning) *Father*
) The Flower (fragrance) *Son*
) The Almond (fruitfulness) *Holy Spirit*
- 6. **Burning Bush**) The Voice *Father*
) The Bush *Son*
) The Fire *Holy Spirit*

In conclusion, it is readily seen that the Tri-Unity of God is reflected in his creation and the symbolic language of Scriptures. The nature of the Godhead is a mystery to us, but when understood in the light of the revelation in the Bible, it helps to grasp the balance of the *one*-ness of God (compound unity) and the *three*-ness of God (three divine personalities in the Godhead). To exclusively emphasize one or the other leads to heretical views that the early church fathers fought to correct. In their minds, to believe otherwise of the Triune nature of God was tantamount to risking the loss of one's secure and eternal position with God.

It is my conviction that, in the last days, there will be an increasingly subtle attempt to destroy this fundamental truth about the Triune nature of God. Once it takes its course in Christendom, the curse of the *apostasy* of the saints will not be far behind. This essential doctrine of the faith will be challenged more aggressively by the false religions of the world as we see the end approach. It will pave the way for the Harlot Church—Babylon, and the antichrist himself. This is why we must know this, understand it, and defend it without compromise.

“The Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity”

