WHO IS JESUS CHRIST – WHAT ABOUT THE TRINITY?

Introduction

If you have ever asked this or a similar question, you are not alone. You need not be concerned that you do not understand the concept of trinity as no one else in the world understands it either.

Trinity Concept Not in Bible – 3rd Century Invention

First of all let me say that neither the word '<u>trinity</u>' nor its concept of "God in 3 <u>separate</u> persons" is ever taught in the Bible. It was adopted at the Council of Niceae in 325 AD. Trinity is a 3rd century invention by so called 'church fathers' who were converted Greek philosophers steeped in Greek (pagan) philosophy and worldview prior to their conversion. Any trinitarian scholar attempting to explain the trinity will always resort to quoting from these men instead of from the Bible as the concept is unknown in the Bible. The best answer they can manage when hard pressed is 'We can never understand the trinity because it is a mystery' or some variation.

Christianity Monotheistic – One God

We need to be reminded that Christianity is staunchly monotheistic (one God) as opposed to pagan religions which are polytheistic (many gods). There is no such thing as a plurality of persons in the Godhead. We introduce a plurality when we use the word 'persons'. Anyone who pictures 3 different persons in their minds and then say with their mouths that they are really one cannot help but be confused. They say one thing but are actually thinking another. Anyone with such an understanding of the Godhead are polytheistic in their thinking regardless that they may say that God is one in order to align their verbal confession with the Bible.

LORD (all capitals) = Yahweh

In Mark 12:28-31 Jesus taught us the most important commandment. He begins by quoting Deut 6:4 which starts with " Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one." Deut 6:4 is known as the 'Shema' to the Jews. Every Jew is taught to memorize the Shema from a very young age. This is still practiced by many Jews today. Shows us how important monotheism is to the Jews. Christianity has its roots in Judaism. Jesus Himself was born a Jew. We received the Old Testament from the Jews. The Old Testament is scripture as much as the New Testament is scripture. Scripture never contradicts scripture.

It is important to begin the Shema with a declaration of the oneness of God because it is only possible to give the love of all our heart, soul, mind and strength to one (Mark 12:29-30). It is not humanly possible to do so for 3 or more. This only leads to confusion. Our God is not the author of confusion. He never changes (Malachi 3:6). He is still one now as He was one then.

Allow me to take you further. The word LORD (all capitals) refers to Yahweh - the Name of the one God of the Old Testament. A prophecy in Isaiah 40:3 (quoted in Matt 3:3,Mark 1:2,Luke 3:4) speaks of John the Baptist as 'the voice of the one crying in the wilderness' whose life mission was to prepare the way of the LORD or Yahweh. We know from scripture that John prepared the way for Jesus. This tells us that Jesus is the LORD or Yahweh Himself - the one true God of the Old Testament come in the flesh.

'Son of God' or 'God the Son'?

Whenever we see the title 'Son' in the Bible eg. 'Son of God' or 'Son of Man' they always refer to the incarnation of God in flesh or the humanity of Jesus Christ and never to a second eternal person in the Godhead. You will notice that the Bible never teaches us regarding a 'God the Son' nor an 'eternal Son of God'. These titles cannot be found in the Bible. The Bible only teaches us of a 'begotten Son of God'. Let me explain the diff. If you substitute a name say Mark into the titles - eg. 'Mark the son' and 'Son of Mark' - you will see the difference. 'Mark the son' refers to Mark himself while 'son of Mark' refers to Mark's son. Likewise 'eternal' refers to timelessness while 'begotten' refers to a specific point in time. It was at a specific point in history that God became flesh. Before that God existed as Spirit and continues to exist as Spirit (John 4:24). Let's be careful when terminology not found in the Bible is introduced. God warned us not to add or subtract from His Word (Rev 22:18-19).

The Titles – Father, Son, Holy Spirit

What about the title 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit'? The fundamental moral nature of God is His holiness hence the title 'Holy Spirit'. God is the Father of all creation. He is also the Father of born again believers and of the humanity of Jesus Christ hence the title Father. The title 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' speaks of the titles or roles of the one true God in His relationship to man. These titles do not refer to different persons in the Godhead. There is no plurality of persons in the Godhead. Colossians 2:9 tells us so clearly "For in Him (Christ) dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." Here is another way to explain it, I started off a son, became a husband to my bride and then a father to my child, but I'm still one person with one name. When I'm a son to

my dad I never stop being a husband to my wife. I'm just playing a different roll in my life at that moment. I still have one mind, one spirit and one flesh. I didn't become a husband to my wife until many years after I had already been a son to my dad. That roll came later, but it did not divide who I am. Also, if I were to sign a check I would not sign it husband, father or son. They would not cash, or remit payment for it. I would have to use my full name, Robert Agee, for it to have worth. Same with the name of God. The power, or authority, is in the name, not the titles.

Jesus - Both God and Man

John 1:1 says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." and John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us..." God and His Word are one just as a man and his word are one. We cannot separate a man from his word and say that they are separate persons. God's Word is God expressing Himself. In the Old Testament God spoke through the mouth of His prophets but when the fullness of time came God expressed Himself in flesh in order to make Himself known like never before. If we want to know what God is like we need only to look at Jesus through the things that He said and did. Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Col 1:15). Jesus was fully God and fully man. As man He hungered, thirsted, slept, prayed, bled and died. As God He healed, raised the dead, had control over the elements, forgave sin.

To see specific evidence that God the Father is indeed in the Son of God, let's look at Isaiah 9:6. This portion of Scripture is referring to the coming Savior of the world. Here's what it says: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

We clearly see that the son who was born is also known as "The everlasting Father" and "The mighty God". God's Word is very clear. But, lest we call the debate over prematurely, let's look at the New Testament as well. In John 10:30, Jesus himself is speaking and says, "I and my Father are one." Later on, as Jesus is talking to his disciples, Philip asked Him to show them the Father. Jesus answers by saying "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

What is the Mystery?

Trinity is not a mystery as some may have us believe. The only great mystery mentioned in the Bible is found in 1 Tim 3:16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness : God was manifest in flesh..." Notice that we are told that God and not some separate person of the Godhead was manifest in flesh. God did it so that He could suffer, bleed and die for you and I. Why did He do it? That is a divine mystery which I can never fully understand - the depth of God's love for me a filthy sinner. I do not know how nor could I fully comprehend why God manifested in flesh but I will be forever grateful to Him that He did in order to pay the price for my sins. He will always be the first love of my life. Romans 1:20 states that the Godhead can be understood: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:. "

Closing Thoughts

What I have written may seem new or even strange to you but let me assure you that there are many Christians in the world today who have not nor will ever accept the concept of trinity. We must discard this 3rd century invention, and the confusion that it has created, returning to our 1st century roots. The early Church never knew nor taught the modern day concept of trinity which has since evolved into its modern form over the centuries.

Let me end with these thoughts : - The Creator became the creature but never stopped being the Creator ! - The God of eternity became a man of time but never stopped being the God of eternity ! - The High Priest became the Lamb but never ceased being the High Priest ! - He was all powerful who had no power but yet always had all power ! - The virgin Mary's God who became her son yet was still her only God ! - The Good Shepherd became the sheep but never stopped being the Good Shepherd ! - The bright and morning star became the lily of the valley but never ceased being the bright and morning star became David's offspring but never stopped being the root of David who became the Son in redemption who never ceased being the Father of all creation ! - Our God became a Man and never stopped being our God !