

This is a controversial issue. You will find that teachers and students of the Bible disagree strongly about this subject. My position is to see what all the verses of the Bible say about it, and only that way will we find the truth. God is the author of the whole Bible, so therefore, it will not contradict itself. I will readily admit there are some verses I don't understand, but that just means I don't have revelation about them yet.

Verses quoted in this brochure will be from the King James version, only because it is nearly the oldest and the most well-known of the translations.

Matt. 28:19 is the great commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Those three make up what people call the Trinity.

What is God?

In Deut. 6:4, it says that there is one God. That is hotly affirmed. But one of His names is Elohim. The *im* ending is plural in the Hebrew. You can see that in seraphim and cherubim. In John 17 Jesus uses the word *one* in His prayer to the Father. Look at verse 11: "...that they may be one even as we are one." And verse 21, "That they all may be one..." And in verse 22, he repeats the underlined

phrase. Notice in the last part Jesus said, "We are one." And in the same way, He prayed that we be one. Gal. 3:20 says, "God is one." Gal. 3:28 says, "You are all one in Christ Jesus"! When people are in total agreement, we say that they are one. This is the agreement or unity that is between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Three in One?

There are some pastors and speakers I know and respect highly who teach that God is only one Being, but is manifested in three different ways. For instance, he said that he is a pastor, he is a father, and he is a husband. So they say just like that, God is the Father, He is the Son, and He is the Holy Spirit. But I can show you that this is not right. Look at Matt. 3:16 -17. This is when John baptized Jesus in the river. (The story is told also in Mark 1:9-11, and Luke 3:21-22.) "And Jesus, when he was baptized went up straightway out of the water; and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him; and lo, a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." Here we see them in three places at the same time. Jesus is in the water, the Father's voice is coming from heaven, and the Holy Spirit is in the air between them, coming down like a dove.

In John 14:16, we read of Jesus talking to His disciples. "I will pray the Father and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." Here you don't see all three, but all three are involved. Jesus is on the earth, praying to the Father in heaven, and promises to send the Comforter ~ the Holy Spirit. A very similar verse is in John 15:26.

Here are two more verses that name all three of them: Eph. 4:4-6. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord (Jesus), one faith, one baptism; One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Paul, the author of Ephesians says here that there is one Spirit, there is one Lord Jesus, and there is one God the Father. And the last one is II Cor. 13:14. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion (fellowship) of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

I believe that the word *God* is a title that includes the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. So when I say Jesus is God, or the Holy Spirit is God, I am not saying they are the Father. But this gets sticky here, be-cause Isa. 9:6 calls Jesus the Everlasting Father! In John 14:9, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father." I believe He could say that because they are so much alike.

The Holy Spirit

He is an equal part of the Godhead. He is not an it. In Rom. 8:16 and 26 (KJV) “The Spirit itself...” That word *itself* means self-same. In other places that same word is translated himself. John 16:13-14, the Spirit is spoken of as He, numerous times! He has feelings, Eph. 4:30, “Grieve not the Holy Spirit.” Heb. 10:29, (Amp) “insulting and outraging the Spirit...” He has a voice, Acts 8:29, “Then the Spirit said to Phillip...” also, Acts 11:12, 13:2, 16:6-7 and many more. He has abilities. Acts 2:4, the gift of tongues. Rom. 8:27, He searches our hearts, and makes intercession for us. Rom. 8:11, He raised Jesus from the dead and will do the same for us. He dictated the Bible, II Pet. 1: 20-21. He teaches and reminds, John 14:26. He leads into all truth and tells us things to come, John 16:13. He is the One behind each of the gifts, I Cor. 12:7-11. And He decides which gift to give to each one of us! I Cor. 12:11.

Who's Who?

Here are some interesting questions: Who is our Shepherd? In Psa. 23:1, it is Jehovah. But in John 10:14, it is Jesus! Who is our Light? In Psa. 27:1, it is Jehovah, and in John 8:12, it is Jesus. Who is our Savior? In II Tim. 1:10 and John 4:42 it is Jesus. But in I Tim. 1:1, 2:3, and 4:10, it is God! Who is the creator? In

Gen. 1:1, it is God. But in John 1:3 and 10 (KJV!) it is Jesus! I Tim. 3:16, “God manifested in the flesh.” Matt. 1:23, “Emmanuel means God with us.” Col. 2:9, “For in him (Jesus) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead (all three) bodily.” But ~

Jesus became totally man

Phil. 2:6-8 says He emptied himself of all His God powers and attributes and became a human! He operated on earth as a man. He didn't do any miracles until He was baptized and the Holy Spirit came on Him, John 1:29-34 and John 2:11. He didn't do miracles as God, but as a man. How else could He say that we are supposed to do the same things? John 14:12. But you may argue, He knew things. Yes, by the word of knowledge, the same gifts that are available to us too, I Cor. 12:8. But how could He not sin? By the same way you and I can keep from sinning! The temptations (Matt. 4) were real. If He could not have sinned, then to call them temptations is a lie! And, He should not expect US to be holy like He is. I Pet. 1:16.

People have complained that we are bringing Christ down to our level. He did that Himself! (Phil. 2:6-9). And it's been said that we are bringing ourselves up to His level. He did that too! (Eph. 2:6).

Examining the Doctrine of the Trinity



A mini Bible Study
By Cheryl Boone