

## **This We Believe – God is 3-in-1**

*September 12 & 13, 2009*

The word “trinity” is not in the Bible. It’s our attempt to describe what the Bible teaches.

- “tri” – three
- “unity” – one

From the very beginning of the Bible, we get hints of the trinity

- **God said, “Let Us make human beings in Our image, to be like Us.”**  
*Genesis chapter 1 verse 26 (3)*

Each part / person of the trinity is distinct

- **The Father sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.** *1 John chapter 4 verse 14 (943)*
- **Jesus said, “Now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as My Father promised.”**  
*Luke chapter 24 verse 49 (808)*
- **As Jesus came up out of the water, He saw the heavens splitting apart and the Holy Spirit descending on Him like a dove.** *Mark chapter 1 verse 10 (761)*

Individually, each part / person of the trinity is God

- **We know that there is only one God, the Father....** *1 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 6 (874)*
- **There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ...** *1 Corinthians chapter 8 verse 6 (874)*
- **You lied to the Holy Spirit.... You weren’t lying to us but to God.**  
*Acts chapter 5 verses 3 & 4 (833)*

Collectively, each part / person of the trinity is God

- **Jesus said, “Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”** *Matthew chapter 28 verse 19 (760)*

As God, each part / person of the trinity has a unique roll (*from Ephesians chapter 1*)

- God the Father - chose us, adopted us
- God the Son - purchased our freedom through His blood, forgave our sins, brings us into God’s family
- God the Spirit - makes us part of God’s family by living in us, guarantees us heaven, prays for us (*Romans chapter 8*)

The Father & Son are not a father & son...or even men

- **God is Spirit, so those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth.**  
*John chapter 4 verse 24 (812)*

(over)

Let God be God...in all His mystery & incomprehensibility

- ***Then Job replied, “I know that You can do anything, and no one can stop You. ...I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. ...I had only heard about You before, but now I have seen You with my own eyes. I take back everything I said....” Job chapter 42 verses 1 - 6 (414)***
- ***Isaiah said, “I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of His robe filled the temple.... Then I said, ‘It's all over! I am doomed, for I am a sinful man.’” Isaiah chapter 6 verses 1 - 5 (521)***
- ***When the people heard the thunder...and when they saw the flashes of lightning and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood at a distance, trembling with fear. And they said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen. But don't let God speak directly to us, or we will die!” Exodus chapter 20 verses 18 & 19 (60)***

God is...incomprehensible, unfathomable, deep, profound, vast, beyond us & our ability to understand or grasp

So how do we describe / explain God?

- We don't
- Because God is not like anything we know or ever could know humanly
- Our ability to grasp who God is and understand God is limited by our own thinking & our language

So let God be God

- Don't simplify God, reduce Him to our level or try to explain away the mystery (contradictions?!) around Him
- Don't “put God in a box” in an effort to make Him easy to understand, deal with, control or explain
- When it comes to the challenging & difficult questions we all have about God, learn to be OK with saying “I don't know.”
- Study God as He is, as he presents himself in the Bible
- Acknowledge the limitations we bring to this as humans
- Live with the mystery of God, just like we live with mystery in so many other areas of life

Next Week: Prayer is Crucial