

The Mystery That Is The Triune God

To meditate on the three Persons of the Godhead is to walk in thought on holy ground.

Our sincerest effort to grasp the incomprehensible mystery of the Trinity must remain forever futile, and only be deepest reverence can it be saved from actual presumption.

In my article ‘*Can We Understand The Trinity Of God?*’ on this website I have **only** given a very basic way in which we can relate to a Triune God in a simple relationship with Him.

Some people who reject all that they cannot explain have denied that God is a Trinity.

Subjecting the Most High God to their cold, level-eyed scrutiny, they conclude that it is impossible that He could be both One and Three.

Such people forget that their whole life is enshrouded in mystery.

They fail to consider that any real explanation of even the simplest phenomenon in the physical creation lies hidden in obscurity and can no more be explained than can the mystery of the Godhead.

Every human being lives by faith, the non-believer as well as the true Christian. One by faith in the physical laws that govern this physical world in which we live, the other by faith in its Creator God.

Every human throughout their entire life constantly accepts without understanding.

Job 28:20-28 [NIV] *“Where then does wisdom come from? Where does understanding dwell? It is hidden from the eyes of every living thing, concealed even from the birds of the air. Destruction and Death say, ‘Only a rumour of it has reached our ears.’ God understands the way to it and he alone knows where it dwells, for he views the ends of the earth and sees everything under the heavens. When he established the force of the wind and measured out the waters, when he made a decree for the rain and a path for the thunderstorm, then he looked at wisdom and appraised it; he confirmed it and tested it. And he said to man, ‘The fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to shun evil is understanding.’”*

There is so much in life that human wisdom will never explain, only the Creator God knows.

We call the fire that comes from the black thunder cloud “*electricity*” and lecture learnedly about it. We produce the like of it by rubbing silk and glass together, but what is it?

Where did it come from and where does it go?

Science has done much for the human race to satisfy its thirst for knowledge but there are depths that it **cannot** penetrate, on which it swims as a mere superficial film.

This world, after all our scientific study, is still a miracle, inscrutable, magical and more, to whoever meditates on it.

The following penetrative, almost prophetic words were written more than a century ago, but all advances of science and technology since have invalidated one word.

“We harness the mighty energy that rushes through our world, we subject it to fingertip control in our cars, kitchens and factories. We make it work for us like Aladdin’s jinn, but still we do not know what it is. We cover our deep ignorance with technical words, but are ashamed to wonder, we are afraid to whisper, mystery.”

The Christian Church has not hesitated to teach the doctrine of the Trinity. Without pretending to understand, repeating what the Word of God, the Holy Spirit inspired Christian Bible, teaches.

What God declares the believing person confesses without the need of further proof. Indeed, to seek proof is to admit doubt, to obtain proof is to render faith superfluous. [Hebrews 11:1; Hebrews 11:6]

This was the attitude of Abraham, who against all physical evidence, believed God and waxed strong in faith, giving God the glory. [**Romans 4:18-22**]

Reflection on revealed Truth naturally follows the beginning of Christian life, but faith first comes to the hearing ear or eyes, **not** to the meditating mind. [**Romans 10:17**]

Is this to dismiss scholarship as valueless in the sphere of revealed religion? By no means. The scholar has a vitally important task to perform within a carefully prescribed precinct. His task is to guarantee the purity of the text, to get as close as possible to the Words as originally inspired by the Holy Spirit. [**2 Timothy 3:16**] He may compare scripture with scripture until he has discovered the true meaning of the text, but right there his authority ends.

No human scholar must ever sit in judgement upon what has been written by Holy Spirit inspired men.

After the meaning of the text is discovered, that meaning judges him, never does he judge it.

The doctrine of the Trinity is truth for the heart, the “*human spirit*” alone can enter into this place of holiness as the Holy Spirit gives the depth of understanding. [**John 16:13**]

Jesus Christ did not hesitate to use the plural form when speaking of Himself along with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

John 14:23 [NIV] *“Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.’”*

This is spoken in the context of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of the disciples of Jesus Christ.

John 10:30 [NIV] *“I and the Father are one.”*

This is the clearest statement of Jesus Christ’s divinity He ever made. Jesus Christ and the Father are not the same person, but they are one in essence and nature.

It is important that we think of God as Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the Persons nor dividing the substance.

Remember we are not in the human realm but in the spirit realm which is outside any physical limitations.

Only in this way may we think rightly of God and in a manner worthy of Him.

It was Jesus Christ’s claim to equality with the Father that outraged the religious leaders of His day and led at last to His crucifixion.

John 14:28 [NIV] *“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”*

How do what we have read that Jesus Christ and the Father are One not conflict with this statement of Jesus Christ?

The old theologians that were authors of the Athanasian Creed spelled out with great care the relationship of the three Persons to each other filling in the gaps in human thought as far as they were able while staying within the bounds of the inspired Word of God, the Christian Bible.

*“In this Trinity, nothing is before or after, nothing is greater or less, but all three Persons coeternal, together and equal, Jesus Christ is equal to His Father, as touching His Godhead, **less than the Father, as touching His Manhood.**”*

To redeem humanity the Eternal Son did not leave His Father’s side on the throne of the Eternal Godhead, while walking on earth.

John 1:18 [NIV] *“No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”*

Note the present tense.

John 3:13 [King James] *“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.”*

We have to accept mystery, but not confusion. In His incarnation the Son of God veiled His deity but did not void it.

The unity of the Godhead made it impossible that Jesus Christ should surrender nothing of His deity. When Jesus Christ took upon Himself the nature of a human being, to enable Him to shed His life blood on our behalf, He did **not** degrade Himself or become even for a time less than He had been before.

God can never become less than Himself.

For God to become anything that He has not been is unthinkable.

The Persons of the Godhead, being One, have one will.

They work together always, and never one smallest act is done by One without the instant acquiescence of the other two.

Every act of God is accomplished by the Trinity in unity.

As human beings we are driven to conceive of God in human terms, as a result we fall short of the ultimate truth.

One of the real but understandable errors is to conceive the Persons of the Godhead as conferring with one another and reaching an agreement by interchange of thoughts as humans do.

The dialogue involving the Father and the Son recorded in the scriptures is always to be understood as being between the Eternal Father and the man Jesus Christ.

The instant, immediate communion between the Persons of the Godhead which has been from all eternity knows not sound, nor effort, nor motion.

In scripture the three Persons are shown to act in harmonious unity in all mighty works that are wrought throughout the universe.

The work of creation –

Genesis 1:1 [King James] *“In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.”*

Attributed to the Father.

Colossians 1:13-16 [King James] *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by*

him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

Attributed to Jesus Christ the Son.

Job 26:13 [NIV] *“By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.”*

Attributed to Holy Spirit.

Psalms 104:30 [King James] *“Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.”*

The renewing of the surface of the earth attributed to the Holy Spirit.

The incarnation –

Luke 1:35 [NIV] *“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”*

Accomplished by the three Persons in the Godhead though only the Son became flesh and dwelt among us.

Christ’s baptism –

Matthew 3:16-17 [King James] *“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.”*

The Son came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and the Father’s voice spoke from heaven.

Work of atonement –

Hebrews 9:14 [King James] *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and God the Father all involved, operating in unity.

The resurrection of Christ –

Acts 2:32 [King James] *“This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.”*

God the Father.

John 10:17 [King James] *“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.”*

The Son of God.

Romans 1:4 [NIV] *“and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God, by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Salvation of the individual human being –

1 Peter 1:2 [King James] *“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”*

The work of all three Persons of the Godhead.

Indwelling of God’s power –

John 14:15-16, 23 [King James] *“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” ... “Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”*

When we obey God, all three Persons will dwell within us.

The doctrine of the Trinity is a truth for the heart.

The fact we cannot explain it satisfactorily, instead of being against it, is in its favour.

If such a truth had to be revealed for our salvation, no-one could have imagined it, for it is outside the human physical realm and human intellect.

This is where faith in God and His Word, the Christian Bible, comes in.

Hebrews 11:6 [King James] *“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

Without this humble attitude of mind we cannot please God.

Hebrews 10:38 [NIV] *“But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.”*

Faith in God is the basis of our Christian life.