

THE GODHEAD

Int.

1. Aim: To explain some of the view that there are three in the Godhead.
2. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily". Col. 2:9
 - a. The word Godhead is about the same as Godhood
 - b. They are about the same as the words "Divinity" and "Deity".
3. QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GODHEAD *** How many are there in the Godhead?
 What does the Bible teach? Is the word "trinity" found in the Bible? Is the Godhead really triplets? Is there one God or three?
4. Our view of the Godhead is important because it influences what we believe and practice.
5. Theories about the Godhead:
 - a. Tritheism
 - i. Doctrine that there are three gods
 - ii. Mormons believe in many gods and that the number of gods can increase
 - iii. Not true - Deut. 6:4 - there is one God
 - b. Arianism
 - i. Taught that God is eternal - that Christ was created by God because he is the son and that Christ created the Holy Spirit
 - ii. Jehovah's Witnesses hold this view - Jn. 1:1ff
 - c. Sabellianism - a follower of Sabellius - 3rd century philosopher from Egypt
 - i. There are some who say there is only one in the Godhead.
 - ii. According to this view God is one person and manifests himself to the world in three different ways or modes. He plays all three roles, but not simultaneously, but successively.

- iii. Ill. - Greek Drama actors in Greek drama wore masks - one person would play different roles - would wear a different mask to play a different character
 - iv. Those groups who teach "Jesus only" in godhead hold this theory
 - v. If Jesus and God are the same person then Mary is the mother of God, because Mary was the Mother of Jesus. If Mary is the mother of God, then God is the creation of mankind and is on the same level as man.
6. The word "trinity" is not found in the Bible, but the fact is taught. It is mysterious and I cannot fully understand it. But there are many things that are true which we cannot fully explain. [How can God be everywhere? How can God be all knowing?]

Discussion

I. USE OF THE TERM GODHEAD

- A. Found three times in N.T. and not at all in the O.T. KJV
 - 1. Acts 17:29 "Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."
 - 2. Rom. 1:20 "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."
 - 3. Col. 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."

B. In the Other translations they use a different word or phrase

1. **NKJV** Acts 17:29 = Divine Nature Rm.1:20 = godhead Col. 2:9 = godhead
2. **ASV** - Acts 17:29 = Godhead Rom. 1:20 = divinity Col. 2:9 = godhead
3. **NIV** - Acts 17:29 = divine being Rom. 1:20 = divine nature Col. 2:9 = deity
4. **RSV** - Acts 17:29 = Deity Rom. 1:20 = Deity Col. 2:9 = Deity

C. These are the only three times the term *Godhead* is used

1. In each case it refers to the deity or the divine nature.
2. But it does not specify how many persons are in that divine nature.
3. These verses do not tell us if there is one, two, three or 10,000.
4. We must learn this from other places in the Bible.
5. There are many verses that teach there are three in the *Godhead*.

II. THREE MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD

A. Mt. 28:18-20

1. Jesus was ready to leave the earth and go back to his Father.
2. He gave this great commission to his apostles and to all of his people through them.
3. We are commanded to baptize those who have been taught in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. This is not 3 immersions.

B. I Cor. 12:4-6

1. Here we have the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.
2. They are all mentioned in connection with miraculous gifts which were in existence in the early church.

C. II Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

1. Paul invoked the blessings of the Godhead upon his readers.
2. He called forth these blessings from three persons within the Godhead.
3. These blessings come from all three members of the Godhead and not just one person.

D. The three members of the Godhead

1. GOD

- a. He is a Spirit or spiritual being.
- b. We are taught to address Him as "Our Father who art in heaven."
- c. He is almost always placed at the head of the list of the divine family
- d. He is the Creator, Jehovah, the Almighty, Lord God, and Father.
- e. He is always referred to in the masculine gender.
- f. God is revealed to us in the Bible as supreme in wisdom, power, love, mercy, and justice.
- g. He is the great Planner and Designer and creator of the universe.

2. CHRIST

- a. Christ is almost always placed as the second member of the Godhead.
- b. He has many names and titles in the Bible. Some of the names given to God are also applied to Christ
- c. In his relation to man he is said to be the "Son of Man". In his relation to God he is called "The Son of God."

- d. He is the only member of the Godhead who has been clothed in the flesh. He was born of the Virgin Mary and lived in this body to accomplish the will of God.
- e. He became obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross.
- f. He was buried, resurrected, and is now ascended back to heaven.
- g. He existed before he came to earth. - Phil. 2:6,7
- h. He is the Savior of man the Redeemer of our race.

3. HOLY SPIRIT

- a. The Holy Spirit is generally put third when spoken of in the Bible.
- b. This member of the Godhead has the same nature and essence as God and Christ.
- c. The Holy spirit is called the Comforter and other titles are also given in the BIBLE.

E. Other names for the godhead

1. The Divine Family - close relation between the members of the godhead
2. The Trinity - not used in Bible but expresses the idea of three in the godhead
3. Sacred three - Sacred = reverence and respect that should be given godhead
4. Divinity - also translated "divine Character" And "divine nature"

F. Summary

1. There are three in the Godhead who are coeternal and coequal persons.
2. They are the same in nature and essence, but are distinct personalities.

III. THERE IS ONE GOD

A. Old Testament

1. Deut. 6:4 "hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:"
2. Ex. 20:3-4
3. Isa. 44:6b "...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God."

B. New Testament

1. Mk. 12:29 is a quote of Deut. 6:4 "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord."
2. I Tim. 2:5a "For there is one God,..."

C. The Bible Clearly teaches that there is one God, but there is...

IV. PLURALITY IN THE GODHEAD

A. Gen.1:1 "God" in the original is plural

1. This means that there was a plurality of Divine beings at the beginning when the heaven and the earth were created.
2. The Godhead was present and participated in the creation
 - a. God the first member of the Godhead, was present and planning the creation
 - b. Christ the second member of the Godhead was present - Jn.1:1-3, and v. 14 -- Christ was the agent of Creation - Col. 1:15-16
 - c. The Holy Spirit the third member of the Godhead was present - Gen. 1:2 "The spirit of God"

B. Gen. 1:26 "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"

1. Us is plural
2. The Godhead was cooperating in the creation of man

3. Man, the masterpiece of God's creation, is a product of all the persons of the Godhead

C. How can the "one" God be a "Trinity"?

1. There is a unity in the Godhead - Deut. 6:4
2. But there is also a plurality in the Godhead

D. There is the problem of subordination

1. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Holy Spirit
2. They are all partake of the Divine Nature.
3. There is subordination - but the Bible does not explain how or what sense.
4. Jesus said, "...my Father is greater than I." Jn. 14:28 Jn.5:30
5. He also said that he who sends is greater than he who is sent. God sent Christ and Christ sent Spirit who came to glorify Christ and not himself - Jn. 13:16
12:44 49-50 14:26 16:7 13-15
6. All except God have been made subject to Christ. After the judgment Christ will deliver the kingdom to the Father.
7. The subordination is not in essence but in function or work.

V. TRINITY is the proper understanding of the GODHEAD

A. The word "Trinity"

1. Means three-fold
2. Three fold manifestation of God
3. Triune God

B. Baptism of Christ - Mt. 3:13-18

1. God our Father speaks from heaven
2. Jesus the Son is baptized
3. The Spirit descends in the form of a dove.

C. Great Commission - Mt. 28:19

1. Baptizing in the name (singular) of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
2. Not in the "names of"
3. One name, but three persons.

D. "The Father is not God as such, for God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Son is not God as such, for God is Father, Son and Holy spirit. The Holy Spirit is not God as such, for God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three are equal. There is one God and he is the one and only God (undivided and indivisible). God is not three and one, but three in one."

VI. ANY BEING WHO POSSESSES THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD IS GOD

- A. The Bible gives the characteristics of God. Any being that has these attributes is God.
- B. The, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are eternal.
 1. Father - Isa.44:6 "I am the first and the last"
 2. Son - Rev. 1:17 "I am the first and the last"
 3. Holy Spirit - Heb. 9:14 "...who through the eternal spirit offered himself..."

4. No one is self-existent but God; Therefore the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all God.

C. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are recognized as God:

1. Father - I Pet. 1:2 "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father."
2. Son - Heb. 1:8 "But of the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever."
3. Holy Spirit - Acts 5:3-4 "What hath Satan filled thy heart to lie to the Holy Spirit ---- Thou has not liked to men, but unto God.

Conclusion

1. In the Divine Plan, the:
 - a. Father is the Architect
 - b. The Son is the Executor
 - c. And the Holy Spirit is the Revealer.
2. A good illustration of the Godhead is man -
 - a. We are body, soul, and spirit
 - b. We are not three persons, but a three-in-one person.
3. We have no absolute comparison to the trinity of the Godhead.
 - a. We are limited in our understanding of God
 - b. It is almost like trying to explain what something looks like to a blind man.
 - c. But just because it is hard to understand does not mean it is not true.
 - d. There are over 20,000 references to God and the Godhead in the Bible.
 - e. A study of these will show that there are three in the Godhead.
4. A study of the Godhead is important - because we must believe that Jesus is God or we will be lost- Jn. 8:24

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday Evening - Nov. 9, 2008
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
evanscoc@bellsouth.net
www.evansgachurchofchrist.org