

The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1??? (part 1)

O'Malley Family Bible Study

2/12/12

Is the trinity 1 God shown in 3 Persons? or is the trinity 3 different Persons joined in one thought? Or is there another description of the trinity that the Bible speaks about?

As I was reading thru the bible back in 2002-2003, several bible verses swirled around my mind fastening themselves to each other to a single thought. The idea was firmly planted and with each bible verse that spoke of the Godhead the idea germinated and grew and has stayed with me since then. That idea was: Does the bible explain the nature of the trinity. Is the trinity a mystery which cannot be explained as most of the church world has concluded?

What stuck with me back then was that the bible, from what I see, does describe the origin and relationship of the trinity however instead of me seeing 3 persons in the Godhead, I saw 4 persons. 4 by 2 from 1 is how I see the Godhead which will be explained in this 2 bible study series.

The perfect verse is found in Proverbs 25:2 where God hides mysteries that He desires His people to seek them out (seek, and you will find - Mt7:7).

ASV Proverbs 25:2 **It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.**

As I was driving up to the post office box, I was mulling over the complexities of the descriptions of the Catholic and other theologians writings on the trinity and I concluded that they write like lawyers - complex so as to lull you asleep or to confuse you. Much to my surprise when I opened the PO Box was my January 2012 Toastmaster magazine whose lead front page article was "The language of Lawyers" - very appropriate. Thank you Jesus for confirming the unchanging nature of the scribes and Pharisees whose job is to stop the lost sheep from understanding salvation and knowing the nature of the Godhead :

RSV Matthew 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in.

The first paragraph of the Catholic Encyclopedia is fairly straight forward: The Godhead is made up of 3 Persons (The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit). They are distinct from one another yet all are eternal and equal to each other.

From the Catholic Encyclopedia:

I. [Dogma](#) of the Trinity;

The Trinity is the term employed to signify the central doctrine of the [Christian religion](#) -- the [truth](#) that in the [unity](#) of the Godhead there are Three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, these Three Persons being truly distinct one from another.

Thus, in the words of the Athanasian [Creed](#) : "the Father is God, the Son is God, and the [Holy Spirit](#) is God, and yet there are not three Gods but one God." In this Trinity of Persons the Son is begotten of the Father by an eternal generation, and the [Holy Spirit](#) proceeds by an eternal procession from the Father and the Son. Yet, notwithstanding this difference as to origin, the Persons are co-eternal and co-equal; all alike are uncreated and omnipotent. This, the Church teaches, is the [revelation](#) regarding God's

nature which Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came upon earth to deliver to the world: and which she proposes to man as the foundation of her whole dogmatic system.

<http://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=11699>

I disagree with the Catholic dogma since the Bible will show that there is a hierarchy of power in the Godhead that very clearly shows the difference of Powers of the Persons in the Godhead. From a simple human view on planet earth there is no difference since all three possess unimaginable power that a finite mind cannot grasp however the Bible does give direction of the relationship of the Godhead Persons.

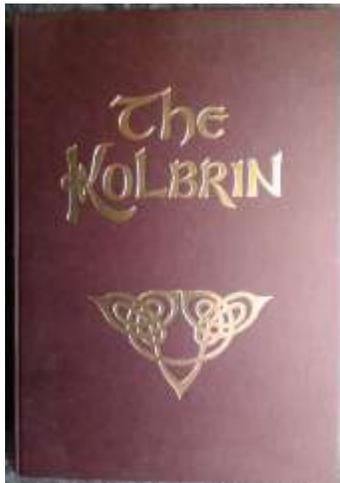
Tertullian in 213 AD speaks of the difference between the Father and the Son how the Father and the Son are different:

I testify that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are inseparable from each other... My assertion is that the Father is one, the Son is one, and the Spirit is one -- and that they are all distinct from each other... The Father is not the same as the Son, for they differ one from the other in the mode of their being. **For the Father is the entire substance, but the Son is a derivation and portion of the whole**, as He Himself acknowledges: "My Father is greater than I."

Tertullian (c. 213, W), 3.603, 604

An ancient book called the Kolbrin gives another angle into the trinity discussion. Even though it's not a biblical book, the thoughts and ideas the Kolbrin gives on the nature of the Godhead is succinct compared to the voluminous theologian's text on the subject. Below is the excerpt that made more sense when I read it in 2005 than the theological works in the various religious encyclopedia.

The Kolbrin, The Book of Creation, Chapter 1 Creation page 1-2



Mortal knowledge is circumscribed by mortal ignorance, and mortal comprehension is circumscribed by spiritual reality. It is unwise for mortal man to attempt the understanding of that which is beyond his conception, for there lies the road to disbelief and madness. Yet man is man and ever fated to reach out beyond himself, striving to attain things which always just elude his grasp. So in his frustration he replaces the dimly seen incomprehensible with things within his understanding. If these things but poorly reflect reality, then is not the reflection of reality, distorted though it may be, of greater value than no reflection at all?

...
Before the beginning there was only one consciousness, that of the Eternal One whose nature cannot be expressed in words, It was the One Sole Spirit, the Self Generator which cannot diminish, the Unknown, Unknowable One brooding solitary in profound pregnant silence.

The name which is uttered cannot be that of this Great Being who, remaining nameless, is the beginning and the end, beyond time, beyond the reach of mortals, and we in our simplicity call it God.

He who preceded all existed alone in His strange abode of uncreated light, which remains ever unextinguishable, and no understandable eye can ever behold it. The pulsating draughts of the eternal life light in His keeping were not yet loosed. He knew Himself alone, He was uncontrasted, unable to manifest in nothingness, for all within His Being was unexpressed potential.

The Great Circles of Eternity were yet to be spun out, to be thrown forth as the endless ages of existence in substance. They were to begin with God and return to Him completed in infinite variety and expression.

Earth was not yet in existence, there were no winds with the sky above them; high mountains were not raised, nor was the great river in its place. All was formless, without movement, calm, silent, void and dark. No name had been named and no destinies foreshadowed.

Eternal rest is intolerable, and unmanifested potential is frustration. Into the solitude of timelessness came Divine Loneliness and from this arose the desire to create, that He might know and express Himself, and this generated the Love of God. He took thought and brought into being within Himself the Universal Womb of Creation containing the everlasting essence of slumbering spirit.

The essence was quickened by a ripple from the mind of God and a creative thought projected. This generated power which produced light, and this formed a substance like unto a mist of invisible dust. It divided into two forms of energy through being impregnated with the Spirit of God and, quickening the chaos of the void within the Universal Womb, became spun out into whirlpools of substance. From this activity, as sparks from fire, came an infinite variety of spirit minds, each having creative powers within itself.

The activating word was spoken, it echos vibrate still, and there was a stirring movement which caused instability. A command was given and this became the Everlasting Law. Henceforth, activity was controlled in harmonious rhythm and the initial inertia was overcome. The Law divided the materializing chaos from God and then established the boundaries of the Eternal Spheres.

Time no longer slept on the bosom of God, for now there was change where before all had been unchanging, and change is time. Now within the Universal Womb was heat, substance and life, and encompassing it was the Word which is the Law.

The command was given, "Let the smallest of things form the greatest and that which lives but a flash form everlastingness." **Thus the universe came into being as a condensation of God's thought, and as it did so it obscured Him from all enclosed within His solidifying creation. Henceforth, God was hidden, for He has always remained dimly reflected in His creation. He became veiled from all that came forth from Him. Creation does not explain itself, under the Law it cannot do so, its secrets have to be unraveled by the created.**

We'll see in these bible studies how closely the bible verifies the Kolbrin (in the description of the Godhead).

First off the Bible states that there is only 1 God period.

KJV Mark 12:29-30

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord:**

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

ASV Galatians 3:20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one; but **God is one.**

RSV 1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us **there is one God**, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

The bible references 3 Persons throughout the New Testament. Jesus' baptism clearly shows 3 distinct Persons. Jesus was baptized by John and the Holy Spirit descended and the Father spoke in Heaven.



RSV Mark 1:9-12

9 In those days **Jesus** came from Nazareth of Galilee and **was baptized by John** in the Jordan.

10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens opened and **the Spirit descending upon him** like a dove;

11 and **a voice came from heaven, "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased."**

12 The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness.

Jesus said baptism should be in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit showing 3 Persons:

RSV Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father** and of **the Son** and of **the Holy Spirit**,

Jesus mentions to the disciples that He would pray to the Father and the Father would send the Holy Spirit

RSV John 14:16 & 26

16 And **I will pray the Father**, and **he will give you another Counselor**, to be with you for ever,

26 But **the Counselor, the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Luke, who wrote the Acts of the Apostles, retells the Baptism of Jesus by John showing Jesus, The Father and the Holy Spirit present at one time.

ASV Acts 10:38 even **Jesus of Nazareth**, how **God anointed him** with **the Holy Spirit** and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

What are the relationship between the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit and where does the 4th person of the Godhead appear? Does the Bible give the names of the Godhead? If so what are they?

That is in the next week's Bible study. (hint: The 4th Person is not Satan or any other demonic entity but another Holy Person of the Godhead).

Regards,
David O'Malley

Completed Bible studies

1/20/12 - Fukushima Daiichi (end times part 1)

2/12/12 - The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1??? (part 1)

Future O'Malley Family Bible studies (not in order)

2/18/12 - The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1??? (part 2)

- Christian Soldiers equipping

- Christian Soldiers warfare maneuvers

- Path to the end (end times part 2)

- Heaven's anguish, Hell's 3 day party

- PEP: Persecution, Endurance & Preservation

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Understanding, knowledge and wisdom & Fear connection- Fall of Jerusalem: departure of the King of Kings- 5 stones for 5 giants: tearing the Baals down- Marks of the nations of Israel (end times part 3)- Escape from Babylon (end times part 4)- The Law - intro/controversy/importance- The Law - distant, past, now, future- Passover - pain and suffering of Jesus- the message for the mixed multitude- War scrolls fighting insights |
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Acknowledgments: thanks for Scriptures for America for preaching/teaching on the name of the Father in many sermons and insights over the years.