

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

O'Malley Family Bible Study

2/25/12

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For a mortal man to compare the Godhead to what he knows is like trying to differentiate the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean by looking out into the horizon while standing on the beach. Both Oceans are vast and eyes cannot see/grasp the ends of the Oceans but just a sliver - such as with trying to describe the Godhead. Only a Person of the Godhead knows the characteristics of each other and when a testament is made that calls out the difference, it's logical to assume that it's put there for our learning and understanding (2Tim3:16). This is what this bible study attempts to cover.

RSV 2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

From the last study the Catholic encyclopedia made a statement, stating that all three Persons of the Trinity were co-equal:

...the Persons are co-eternal and co-equal: all alike are uncreated and omnipotent.

Does the bible support this statement?

No. There are differences between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit from Jesus' own statements. Jesus, who has a first person perspective on the relationship between all the members of the Godhead, testifies that:

- The Father and the Son are not co-equal
- The Son and the Holy Spirit are not co-equal

Difference between the Father and Jesus



Jesus distinguishes Himself from the Father by stating about the Father "... No one is good but God alone." (Mk10:18)

Jesus states that He doesn't know all things, some things only the Father knows such as the day and hour of the end (Mk13:32):

ASV Mark 13:32 But of that day or that hour knoweth no one, not even the angels in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

Jesus states that only the Father "...hath life in himself..." (Jn5:26) or "...immortality..." (1Tim6:16) and the Father gave Jesus life (immortality) (Jn5:26).

An obvious question: Had the Father not given Jesus immortality then would Jesus have had immortality? Was there a point in time that Jesus didn't have immortality? I suspect while Jesus was on the earth His immortality was at stake had He failed in His mission.

Jesus states that with the Father "...all things are possible..." (Mk14:36) and "For with God nothing shall be impossible." (Lk1:37) however in Jn5:19 Jesus spoke about Himself "...can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do". Jesus backs His statement up a few sentences later by saying "I can do nothing on my own authority..." (Jn5:30) and "...I came not of my own accord, but he sent me." (Jn8:42)

All three statements show a restriction on the independent actions of Jesus but no restrictions is placed on the Father.

The Holy Spirit



Jesus makes note in Mt12:31-32 that speaking evil of Himself would be forgiven but speaking evil of the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

RSV Matthew 12:31-32

31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

32 And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

The Holy Spirit is the power of the Father. In Lk1:35 it's stated that the Holy Spirit would overshadow Mary, Mary would conceive and have Jesus. If the Holy Spirit was a independent God then how could Jesus call the Father His Father? The Holy Spirit would be Jesus' Father. In Jn15:26 it's stated that the Counselor proceeded from the Father and earlier in Jn14:26 Jesus defines the Counselor to be the Holy Spirit.

RSV Luke 1:35 And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

RSV John 15:26 But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me;

RSV John 14:26 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.

The Godhead interconnectedness



I believe that the bible gives ample clues to this relationship



clue 1: Gen1:26 ... "Let us make man into our image, after our likeness"

I don't believe that this means that the Godhead Persons were standing around in human form up in heaven when this statement was made but were describing the different parts of the Godhead. I believe that this passage in Genesis is saying just as the Godhead has a Mind, Body and Spirit, so shall a man have a mind, body and spirit.

SPIRIT RSV John 4:24 **God is spirit**, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

MIND RSV 1 Corinthians 2:16

16 "For who has known the **mind of the Lord** so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

BODY RSV John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

A human being has a mind, body and spirit as testified from 1Cor2:11 (added [] text below)

RSV 1 Corinthians 2:11

11 For what **person [BODY]** knows a **man's thoughts [MIND]** except the **spirit of the man [SPIRIT]** which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

The next 3 clues are found in the Gospel of John. Jesus is referenced as the Word in Jn1:1. The Word was made flesh in Jn1:14 and the Son was in the bosom of the Father (Jn1:18).



RSV John 1:1 IN THE beginning was **the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

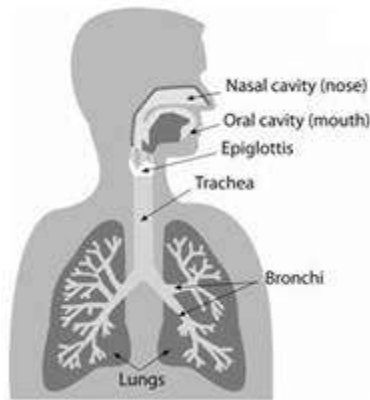


RSV John 1:14 And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.



RSV John 1:18 **No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father,** he has made him known.

What is a Word?



A Word requires air from the lungs. The lungs are located in the bosom (chest) of the body. The Mind commands the lungs to constrict, pushing air from the lungs upwards and passing over the voice box (located in the Epiglottis area). The Mind manipulates the voice box to create a certain frequency/vibration that will be transmitted from the mouth as audible sound that can be understood.

The sound coming from the mouth transmits information. From that sound, one can sense emotions (rage, love, and compassion), authority, stability, assurance, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. It causes Fear on those hearing it being spoken.

RSV 1 Corinthians 14:9 So with yourselves; if you in a tongue utter speech that is not intelligible, how will any one know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

A spoken word cannot act on itself but is sent in the direction which the mouth is pointed to and can only say what the Mind has instructed the voice box to utter (Jn5:30 "the will of the Father which hath sent me").

Jesus said the Son can do nothing by itself, He can only do what He sees the Father doing (Jn5:19, Jn5:30).

The Word coming out of the mouth knows what the Mind has given to the voice box but doesn't know all the things that are in the Mind. Jesus, as the Word, said He didn't know the day and the hour, only the Father (Mk13:32) knew that information.

The final key if from the Resurrected Jesus when Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said Receive the Holy Spirit.



RSV John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Question: Where did the Holy Spirit come from in Jn20:22?

Answer: From Jesus' breath, or from within Jesus.

This is a perfect illustration of the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Out of Jesus' mouth came life enabling words (if one cares to listen) and the Holy Spirit (to the Apostles).

Jesus states that He and the Holy Spirit came (proceeded) from the Father (Jn8:42 & Jn15:26)

Jesus: RSV John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.

Holy Spirit: RSV John 15:26 But when the Counselor comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness to me;

I believe this illustrates clearly the Godhead. The Father is the sole-eternal-immortal God and when the Father's spoke a Word came forth from the Father's being.

This Word was/is Jesus as stated in Jn1:1 & 1:18. What was this Word that was uttered? What was the Word's purpose?

My biblically based hunch was the command told Jesus to create everything seen and unseen (Col1:16), to be born, to die and to be resurrected (Jn12:27), to reign in all creation and finally to present all creation to the Father as it is stated in 1Cor15:24-28. The purpose was the accomplish the Father's task (Is55:11) or simply to serve (Mt20:28) the Father.

ASV Colossians 1:16 for in him were all things created, in the heavens and upon the earth, things visible and things invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things have been created through him, and unto him;

RSV John 12:27 "Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, for this purpose I have come to this hour.

RSV 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

27 "For God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "All things are put in subjection under him," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things under him.

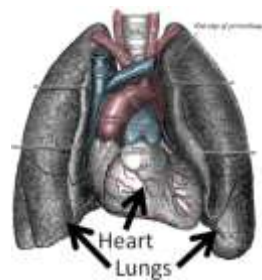
28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things under him, that God may be everything to every one.

RSV Isaiah 55:11 so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

RSV Matthew 20:28 even as the Son of man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The Holy Spirit likewise came out of the Father and is guided on what He should do (Jn16:13)

RSV John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.



Breath coming from the lungs also points out why one needs a clean and repentant heart. The heart is flanked by the lungs. Having a wicked & cold heart (Mk3:5) will quench any Godly Spirit. When you have the Holy Spirit within you, your heart will burn (Lk24:32). If your heart doesn't burn when you hear/read/study the scriptures then you may have a cold, harden heart.

RSV Mark 3:5 And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

RSV Luke 24:32 They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the scriptures?"

The 4th Person of the Godhead

Who is the 4th Person of the Godhead? Jesus' Holy Spirit as seen in Jn20:28. This is different from the Holy Spirit from the Father. Had the Post-Resurrection-Pre-Pentecost Jesus' Holy Spirit been the Father's Promised Holy Spirit then the Apostles wouldn't have had to wait in Jerusalem until Pentecost to receive the Promise (Acts2:32-33, Lk24:49) from the Father since Jesus already gave it to them.

RSV Acts 2:32-33

32 This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.

33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.

RSV Luke 24:49 And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

This is not saying Jesus' Holy Spirit is not desirable because thru Jesus' Spirit power we have authority over demons and diseases (Lk9:1)

RSV Luke 9:1 AND HE called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases,

Thru the spoken words of Jesus all creation, seen and unseen were made (Ps33:6-9) this power was Jesus' Holy Spirit (Jer51:15-16)

RSV Psalms 33:6-9

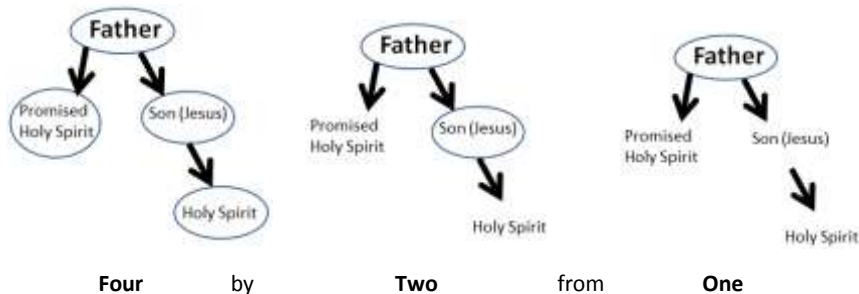
- 6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth.
- 7 He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.
- 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!
- 9 For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood forth.

RSV Jeremiah 51:15-16

- 15 "It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens.
- 16 When he utters his voice there is a tumult of waters in the heavens, and he makes the mist rise from the ends of the earth. He makes lightnings for the rain, and he brings forth the wind from his storehouses.

The Apostles received an incredible, tremendous Holy Spirit however Jesus' Holy Spirit wasn't the Promised Holy Spirit. The Promised Holy Spirit was from the Father which was even more powerful.

A trinity description describes three Persons of the Godhead that are main Persons post Pentecost. Jesus' Holy Spirit, I believe, was that Spirit that interacted with creation up until Pentecost outpouring of the Promised Holy Spirit from the Father (I have no doubts that Jesus' Holy Spirit is still at work in creation until all is under Jesus' subjection). Jesus' birth/death/resurrection gave us a new and better covenant (Heb8:8-13) which includes receiving the Promised Holy Spirit – from the Father. A person may receive this gift of the Holy Spirit if one choses to obey the commandments which Jesus laid out to receive the Promise.



The names of the God head Persons

** The Son is named Jesus by the Angel Gabriel when he spoke to Mary and Joseph in Mt1:20-21 and Lk1:30-31

ASV Matthew 1:20-21

- 20 But when he thought on these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.
- 21 And she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call his name JESUS; for it is he that shall save his people from their sins.

ASV Luke 1:30-31

- 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God.
- 31 And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

** The Father's name is Jesus as per Jesus' statement in Jn17:11. The Father gave Jesus His own name.

RSV John 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to thee. Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one.

** The Holy Spirit's name is Jesus per Jesus' statement in Jn14:26 where Jesus states that the Holy Spirit would be sent by the Father in His (Jesus') name.

RSV John 14:26 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.

The name reference from Strong's is #3686 defined as: a "name"; title; reputation; named; name's; names; called; surnamed.

I see the name in two difference viewpoints:

First: the Father will only send the Promised Holy Spirit from Himself only after Jesus asks the Father to do so (Jn15:26 after the adult repentant believer submits to a total immersion water Baptism – Acts2:28). This is the authority part of the definition

Second: Jesus is the literal name of the Holy Spirit

The Promised Holy Spirit comes from the Father (Jn15:26) however the name by which the Holy Spirit is called by is named from Jesus.

RSV John 15:26 But when the Counselor comes, whom **I shall send to you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father**, he will bear witness to me;

Can this be verified in another way? Yes, In Acts2:38 the act of baptism is in the name of Jesus Christ however in Mt28:19 the act of baptism is in the name of "the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

RSV Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent, and **be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

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**,

If the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were 3 different names then there would be confusion over which name(s) one should be baptized in. With the Father, Son and Holy Spirit each having their names as Jesus then the discrepancy is resolved and either way is acceptable since both are equal to each other:

Jesus Christ = the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

Conclusion

why does this matter? what is the point of this study?

First off, I you don't get a joy in finding hidden truths of the bible then you may need to rethink your priorities.

Secondly, The source of all life originates from the Father and to have everlasting life you must access the Father. The only way to gain access to the Father is thru the Son – Jesus (Jn14:6).

RSV John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father, but by me.**

Jesus describes himself as the door (Jn10:9)

RSV John 10:9 **I am the door**; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

Just drawing near to the door (Jm4:8) is not enough, you have to walk thru the door to be saved as stated in Jn10:9

RSV James 4:8 **Draw near to God and he will draw near to you**. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you men of double mind.

One doesn't walk thru the door by simply saying a sinner's prayer or by accepting Jesus (nowhere in the bible tells you to do that). You walk thru the door the manner how Jesus has given instructions on how to walk thru. You go thru the door when you have died of your sins, have been buried in like manner as when Jesus died and was buried. It's at this point where you share in Jesus' resurrection (Rm6:4-8) and in His life and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts2:38). This simulative death the bible is speaking about is Adult total immersion water baptism for the remission of your sins in the name of Jesus Christ.

RSV Romans 6:4-8

4 **We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death**, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 **For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.**

- 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the sinful body might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin.
- 7 For he who has died is freed from sin.
- 8 **But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him.**

2012 is sizing up to be the year of destruction with another war in Iran (potentially with China and Russia) about to explode, with radiation levels worldwide rising up, drought conditions wiping out food and water storage of cities and nations. The only safe place to be in this world is to be counted as a remnant which at that point Jesus will save you (but even if you are not saved physically you will be saved from the second death (Rev2:11)).

RSV Revelation 2:11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. **He who conquers shall not be hurt by the second death.'**

Regards,
David O'Malley

<p>Completed Bible studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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) - 2/25/12 - The Trinity: 1 in 3, 3 in 1 or ... 4 by 2 from 1? (part 2) 	<p>Future O'Malley Family Bible studies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A time for war and a time for peace (3/3) - Christian Soldiers individual equipment (3/10) - Christian Soldiers group maneuvers (3/17) - Heaven's anguish, Hell's 3 day party (3/24) - Passover - pain and suffering of Jesus (3/31) - PEP: Persecution, Endurance & Preservation - Understanding, knowledge and wisdom & Fear connection - Fall of Jerusalem: departure of the King of Kings - 5 stones for 5 giants: tearing the Baals down - The Law - intro/controversy/importance - The Law - distant, past, now, future - Path to the end (end times part 2) - Marks of the nations of Israel (end times part 3) - Escape from Babylon (end times part 4) - the message for the mixed multitude - War scrolls fighting insights
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RSV Mark 10:18 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? **No one is good but God alone.**

KJV Mark 14:36 And he said, Abba, Father, **all things are possible unto thee**; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.

KJV Luke 1:37 **For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

KJV John 5:26 For as **the Father hath life in himself**; so hath **he given to the Son to have life in himself**;

ASV 1 Timothy 6:14-16

14 that thou keep the commandment, without spot, without reproach, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 which in its own times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the Kings of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 **who only hath immortality, dwelling in light unapproachable; whom no man hath seen, nor can see**: to whom be honor and power eternal. Amen.

RSV John 5:19 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever he does, that the Son does likewise.**

RSV John 5:30 **"I can do nothing on my own authority**; as I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

RSV John 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I proceeded and came forth from God; **I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.**

RSV Genesis 1:26 Then God said, **"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness**; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

Acknowledgments: thanks for Scriptures for America for preaching/teaching on the name of the Father in many sermons and insights over the years.