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The Godhead

The word Trinity is not found in the Bible, but the doctrine of the Trinity is plainly taught in God's word. When we speak of the Trinity, we mean there are three distinct persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – yet there is only one God. When we say these three are one, we do not mean that they are numerically one, but that they are one in mind, purpose, will, and unity. Not three gods but a GOD who manifests Himself as Father, as Son and as Holy Spirit.

The concept of the Trinity is often difficult for us to grasp because when we think of a person, we think of will, feeling and behavior peculiar to that person alone. This cannot be thought of in connection with the Trinity. Each person of the Godhead has individual characteristics, responsibilities and operation, yet never acts independently or in opposition. There is always total unity and harmony.

Within the Trinity there is also a certain order. Not an order of importance, but an order of operation and revelation. All plans of revelations come from the Father, through the Son, by the Holy Spirit. The Father initiates, the Son proclaims, and the Holy Spirit executes. Each has a vital part and works together.

The concept and revelation of the threefold activity of the Godhead begins at creation when God said, "*Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness.....*" (*Genesis 1:26*). Certainly God was not talking to Himself. Had He been addressing Himself, He would have said, "I will make man in My image." Instead, He said, "*Let US make man in OUR image.*" He was therefore addressing the Son and the Holy Spirit by saying "US" and "OUR." One of the ways we are made in the image of God is in our own triune makeup of body, soul and spirit. Each is different in characteristic

and function, yet together they make up man.

Another example of the Trinity in operation is found at the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River. God the Father spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon Jesus the Son (Luke 3:21-22). This is a threefold revelation of God given to man on the level of his physical senses. Throughout His entire ministry Jesus consistently spoke of His Father and Himself as being two distinct Persons, and yet being declared equal. It was one of the things He taught that infuriated the "religious" people He encountered and caused them to want to kill Him because they refused to accept its truth (Mark 2:7; John 5:8).

Just to give you a few examples of what Jesus said:

1. Jesus said; *"I and the Father are one."* (John 10:30)
2. Jesus said; *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father."* (John 14:9)
3. Jesus said; *"He who sees Me sees Him who sent Me."* (John 12:45)

In Christ's last heart-to-heart talk with His disciples, He spoke these words of encouragement: *"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever (John 14:16)."* The Trinity is also expressed in verse 26 of this same chapter: *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you (believers) all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."* We learn from these Scriptures that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equal in power, glory, and all the attributes of Deity, yet each of them has a separate work to perform.

Another verse that you can literally base the entire doctrine of the Trinity on is: 1 John 5:7 that states, *"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."* The activity of the Trinity is evident throughout the Bible, but sometimes you have to be aware

and look closely.

Perhaps a good example from nature to help us understand the concept of the Trinity is water. The chemical makeup is H₂O – two parts hydrogen to one part oxygen. It is also the same chemical makeup of ice and steam. They are identically the same, yet distinctively different. You can swim in water, but not in ice or steam. Each has different characteristics and functions, yet they are the same – H₂O.

As with many revelations from the Word of God, understanding the Trinity is not something we can do totally with our limited minds; it has to be received by faith also. Something, that has to be understood with the heart and not necessarily with the head. As you study the Bible, you will see evidence of the Trinity being revealed individually as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; yet operating in total love and harmony; one God in three Persons. Not three gods, but a God who manifests Himself as Father, as Son and as Holy Spirit.

Because of our limited minds we will find certain things in Scripture hard to comprehend but we should not let that dissuade us because the more we read and grow in God's word, the better and clearer things become and we are able to comprehend more and more. It's nothing to get hung up on because as we grow in Christ we will see things clearer. In dealing with spiritual things sometimes the answer is: we don't know! But what we do have to focus on is what we do know. That God ultimately revealed Himself to us in the Person of Jesus Christ; coming to this earth and taking upon Himself our humanity. Jesus walked on this earth for some 33 years and taught us who God is and that's who He said God is: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.