**Edward Christian Church- “*God: Who is He?”* -pt4b November 29, 2016**

People of All **Ages**, **Lifestyles**, **Arenas** of Life ask the same **questions**, *"Does God* ***know*** *me?" "Does God* ***love*** *me?" "Can God ever* ***forgive*** *me?"* Underneath these questions lies an even more **basic issue**. **What** is God really **like**... **Who is He?**

**Questions About God**

It seems there are **many** different **views** / **opinions** about **God**. *"****How*** *can God be* ***three*** *in* ***one****?" "****Why*** *is it* ***necessary*** *to* ***believe*** *in* ***Jesus****, wasn't He* ***just*** *a* ***man****?" "****Why*** *does it* ***matter*** *if there is a* ***Trinity****?"* These **questions** are most **often sincere**. Yet at times they are raised **only** as a **smoke** screen to **shun** any personal **accountability** to **God** for **change**.

 *"The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'"* **-Psalm 14:1**

* **Question: *"What Does the Word*** *Trinity* ***Mean?"***

The word *Trinity* refers to the **state** of being **threefold**. It is a term **applied** to the **unity** of the **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit** as three **distinct** persons in **one** God. **All** attempts by the **human** mind to **describe** the **concept** of the **"Trinity"** falls **short** of a **full** explanation, but still we **try**.

* **Example: Imagine** a **triangle**. Each **side** is **necessary** for a **triangle** to **exist**.
* **God** the **Father** is **Above Us**. And **yet**, so is the **Son** **Above** Us.
*"He [God the* ***Father****] raised him [****Christ****] from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority." -***Ephesians 1:20-21**
* **God** the **Son** is **With Us.**
*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel-which means, 'God with us.'" -***Matthew 1:23**

**Those** on **earth** at the **time** of Jesus **saw** the very **character** of God **visibly** demonstrated **through** the **life** of **Jesus Christ**. Jesus, **who is God**, **took** on **human form** that we might **know** how He **acted** and **interacted** in a **Godly way** and **how** he **loved** the **unlovely**. He **gave love** to **those** who were **persecuting** and **mistreating** Him, **even** though He **didn't have to do so**.

And **yet**, so is the **Spirit** with us.

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" -***Psalm 139:7**

* **God** the **Holy Spirit** is **Within us.**
*"[God] set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." -***2 Corinthians 1:22**

The **Holy Spirit** is **sent** to **dwell** in our **hearts** once we have **trusted** in **Jesus Christ** and **believed** that He is **Savior** and **Lord**. The very **Spirit** of God then **Dwells Within Us**.

* **Question: *"Is the*** *God* ***of the*** *Old* ***Testament*** *'just'* ***God the Father?"***

**No**. In the **first** verse of the **Bible**, the Hebrew word translated "God" is ***Elohim***. "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth"* -**Genesis 1:1**

The **noun** ***Elohim*** is **plural,** but it takes a **singular verb**. The **idea** of both **plurality** and **unity** is in the **Hebrew** word for **God**. Even in the **first** verse of **Scripture**, we have the **Trinity**!

* ***El*** means *"****strong*** *and* ***mighty*** *God."*
* ***-im*** is the **plural** ending.
* ***Elohim***, the word, conveys both **unity** and **plurality**.

*"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, in our likeness.'" -***Genesis 1:26**

*"The Lord God said, 'The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.'" -***Genesis 3:22**

*"Come, let us go down/ confuse their language so they will not understand each other"* **Gen 11:7**

* **Question: *"Did Jesus Ever*** *Teach* ***the*** *Concept* ***of the Trinity?"***

**Yes**. - *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (***Matthew 28:19**—The **Great Commission**)

**Notice:** He did **not** say in the ***"names"*** of the **Father**, the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**—but used "name" (**singular**) of the **Father, Son** and **Holy Spirit**.

* **Question: *"Did Jesus*** *Claim* ***to be God?"***

**Yes**, with **absolute clarity** to the **Jews**. The words ***"I am"*** in **John 8:58** imply that **Jesus** is the **Holy Name** of God, **YHWH**, for **Himself**, **equating** Himself **with** God. In the **minds** of the **observers**, this was **blasphemy**; therefore, they **attempted** to **stone** Him, for **stoning** was the rightful **penalty** for **blasphemy**!

*"Jesus replied, 'If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.' 'You are not yet fifty years old,' the Jews said to him, 'and you have seen Abraham!' 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!' At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds." -***John 8:54-59**

* **Question: *"Is*** *One* ***Person of the Trinity More*** *Important* ***Than Another?"***

**No**, but there is a **differentiation** of **roles** and a **subordination** in their **function**.

*"Jesus gave them this answer: 'I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.'" -***John 5:19**

**Here** we see the **Son** **Submitting** to the **Father**.

**Each** person **performs** roles **different** from the other **two**, but **no one** is **inferior** to the **others**.

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Is One more important than the other?

Let ME ask -is one of us More Import that the Rest of Us? -NO

* Difference in calling – Same Salvation
* Because we call Peter the Gate Keeper- Wed always associate him as meeting us at Heavens Gates -Actually it could also be the Widow with the two Mite