

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**.

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

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

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**.

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!

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

"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

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

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