

GOD IS THREE AND GOD IS ONE

January 28, 2017 Gen. 1:1-2; John 1:1-2 by Bob Branch
Experiencing Trinity and the Oneness They Share, part 3

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” – **A.W. Tozer**

To give us an overall idea of how the we came to understand Trinity and invite us to know God as Trinity.

Old Testament

“In the beginning *God* created the heavens and the earth... and the *Spirit* of God was hovering over the waters.” **Genesis 1:1-2**

God—*Elohim* Spirit—*Ruach* (80x, fem. gender)

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in *our* image, in *our* likeness...” **Genesis 1:26**

New Testament: The Gospels

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *was* God... the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” **John 1:1, 14**

“I and the Father are one.” **John 10:30**

“I am in the Father and the Father is in me” **John 14:11**

“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.” **John 14:9**

“My Lord and *my God!*” **John 20:28** (Matt. 28:17; Lk. 24:52)

“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 New Testament letters

“The Son is the image of the invisible God” **Colossians 1:15**

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” **2 Corinthians 13:14**

“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being” **Hebrews 1:3**

The Early Christians

Unity: There is one and only one God (Mk. 12:29)

Distinction: God is three persons (Matt. 3:13-17)

Deity: Each of those persons is fully God (Phil. 2:6-11; Acts 5:3-4)

What is Jesus?

Modalism

Father, Son and Spirit are all the same person taking on different forms in different eras.

(Matt. 3:13-17) Analogies: Water, and Husband/Father/Son

Arianism

Jesus is the first created being, then through him everything else.

Tri-Theism

Father, Son and Spirit are actually three Gods.

Analogies: Egg, 3-Leaf Clover

“Trinity” pulls it all together

Tertullian— “Trinity” (“Tri”—3, and Unity)

“we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence.” –from the Athanasian Creed

Relationship: The Uniting Paradigm

Three real persons in relationship with each other.

“the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does.” **John 5:20**

“the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son” **John 5:22**

“All I have is yours (Father), and all you have is mine.” **John 17:10**