

“BLESSED TRINITY”: The Christian God 2 Corinthians 13:14

Int: “Trinity” is not a biblical word but it is a good theological doctrine based on facts God revealed about himself (in the Bible).

EVIDENCE

There is only one God! From all nations God picked one and spent centuries hammering into their heads the truth that there was only one of him! The nation was the Jews. The OT tells the hammering.

The main thing they learned is in the Shema (Dt 6:4). To say God is “one” means there is only one of him. It also means there are no others. He is the only God. No others exist.

Consider what Moses said (Dt 4:34-35, 39). “There is no other.”

Hear Isaiah (46:9). “There is no other.”

Turn to Paul (1 Cor 8:4-6). “There is no other.”

Jesus of Nazareth is fully God! Then came Jesus! He said mind-boggling things. The Father sent him (Jn 20:21) into this world from a life in heaven where he shared God’s glory through eternity past (Jn 17:5). God’s personal name, “I AM,” belonged to him (Jn 8:58). He and the Father were one thing (Jn 10:30). Anyone who saw him saw the Father (Jn 14:9). He could forgive sins (Mk 2:5-12). He was the final judge of mankind (Jn 5:22) and he would judge men by whether they obeyed his words (Mt 7:24-27). He deserved equal honor with the Father (Jn 5:23). And so on!

So the first Christians had to make room for an understanding of God bigger than they previously imagined. They came to see that he was fully God!

Let John speak. “The Word (Jesus) was God” (Jn 1:1).

Now Paul. “All [God’s] fullness dwells (i.e. makes its home) in him” (Col 1:19). Jesus of Nazareth is fully God in human form.

God’s Spirit is personal and fully God! When Jesus ascended he said the Father would “give...another Helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit” (Jn 14:16-17). “Another” (*allos*) means another of the same kind (not *heteros*, another of a different kind). If Jesus was fully God, so also is the Spirit. The first Christians were very clear that the Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4).

Often Jesus used the masculine pronoun, “he,” of the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:26, 15:26, 16:13). And the first Christians credited the Spirit with personal activities. He teaches (Jn 14:26), bears witness (Rom 8:16), intercedes in prayer (Rom 8:26-27), distributes spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:11), leads believers (Rom 8:14) and churches (Acts 15:28) and is grieved by sin (Eph 4:30).

The only way to put these three facts together is with a trinity!

EXPLANATION

Most understanding comes by analogy. *This* is like *that*. But when it comes to God, all analogies fail. There is nothing else like him.