

Thinking Biblically About God

Introduction: We will present the teaching of Scripture; you will have to seek the understanding that only the Holy Spirit can give to be able to rightly divide the Truth.

- I. God revealed Himself as _____ to the Israelites: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!" (Deut. 6:4). This was a significant religious truth because the surrounding nations worshiped many gods and had fallen into idolatry, worshipping the creation rather than the true Creator (Rom. 1:18-25).
- II. TRINITY—the coexistence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the _____ of the Godhead (divine nature or essence).
 - A. The doctrine of the trinity means that within the being and activity of the one God there are _____ distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - B. Although the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible, the Trinity is taught in the NT
 1. Great Commission (Matt. 28:19)
 2. The benediction of the apostle Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians (2 Cor. 13:14)
- III. In the New Testament, God revealed that He is not only one but a _____ of persons—an eternal, inexhaustible, and dynamic triune family of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are _____ in will and purpose, love and righteousness.
 - A. The relationship of Father and Son is prominent in the gospels
 1. Jesus, the eternal Son who takes on human flesh, vividly reveals the Father-Son _____.
 2. All the while the Holy Spirit is in the background, serving as our eyes of _____.
 - B. The _____ of Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is portrayed by Jesus' teaching found in John 14-16
 1. This truth is expressed in the _____ ministry of Jesus as recorded in all four gospels as well as in the rest of the New Testament.
 2. The triune family cooperates as _____ in bringing the lost person home again into a redeemed family of believers. Cf. Gal 4:4-7
 - C. One of the distinctive characteristic of the persons of the triune family is their _____ love for one another. Each esteems and defers to the other in a way that makes the original family of the trinity a model for the Christian family of believers in the church.
 1. The Father gives all _____ to the Son and bears witness to Him, as does Jesus to Himself (John 8:18).
 2. The Son claims _____ for Himself; He gives all glory to the Father who has sent Him (John 12:49-50).
 3. The key to unlocking the mystery of the trinity is to observe how the persons of the triune family give themselves to one another in selfless love. They are always at one another's _____.
 - a. The Father _____ the Son John 15:1-9
 - b. The Son _____ the Father John 17:1-23
 - c. Father and Son _____ to the Holy Spirit John 14:15-16, 26
 - D. Another of the distinctive characteristics of the Triune Family is their unselfish _____ in the life of the other.

Jesus:

1. The Trinity was at work in the _____ of Jesus, the Son of the Most High, as He was conceived in the womb of Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:30-35).

2. At His baptism Jesus the Son received _____ from the Father in the presence of the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21-22)
(Two Old Testament prophetic passages were fulfilled Ps. 2:7 and Is. 42:1)
3. The Trinity was also present in the temptation, as Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, was led by the Spirit for 40 days in the wilderness.
(The devil recognized Jesus as the Son of God (Luke 4:3), and tried to _____ the faithful relationship of the divine family)
4. In His preaching in the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 61:1-2, claiming that "the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me" (Luke 4:18) and indicating that the triune family was at work in Him as the _____ Son.
5. At the transfiguration, the _____ of the Father spoke again in approval of Jesus the Son to the innermost circle of disciples (Luke 9:35).
6. Jesus _____ in the Holy Spirit and in the Father who had delivered all things to the Son (Luke 10:21-22).
7. Jesus _____ to be acting in the place of God and through the Holy Spirit's power, which is the "finger" of God (Matt. 12:28; Luke 11:20).
8. Jesus' cleansing of the Temple was a _____ of identification with the house of God His Father (Luke 19:45-46)
9. Jesus witnessed further to His authority in His interaction with the _____
 - a. As He sent forth the disciples, following His resurrection, with the words, "Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you" (Luke 24:49).
 - b. He also told them to wait until they were _____ by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 8).
 - c. Jesus claimed His Sonship not only from David but from David's Lord (Matt. 22:42-45), indicating His _____.
 - d. Following His resurrection, Jesus _____ the disciples to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).

The Holy Spirit:

1. The fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy as spokesman for the Father and the Holy Spirit occurred at _____. Acts 1:4-8
 2. The Holy Spirit _____ Peter and the apostles to preach a Trinitarian gospel of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33; 5:29-32; 10:38).
- E. Other places in the NT depict the Trinity in a family setting
1. _____ wrote from a sense of the triune family in Galatians, speaking often of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:13-14; 4:6; 5:5-6, 22-24).
 2. In Romans he used a threefold, Trinitarian pattern to describe the plan of _____ (Rom. 1:18; 3:20-22; 8:1-2, 10-11).
 3. All the remaining New Testament books contain Trinity teaching except _____ and 3 John.
- IV. The monotheism taught in the OT reveals only a few hints of _____ within the "One God" theme. Yet with the evidence presented in the NT, the Godhead as a Trinity made up of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, [_____ co-equal, yet all _____ personalities], a better understanding of certain OT passages can be had. For example:
- A. The _____ found in God's own speech:
 1. Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:1-8
 2. Isaiah 6:8
 - B. Two separate figures appear to be addressed as 'God' or 'the Lord' Ps. 45:6-7; 110:1

Conclusion: Although the doctrine of the Trinity cannot be fully comprehended by the _____ human mind, as believers we hold to what the Scripture teaches whether we _____ understand it or not. After all is said and done, for the believer, the Scripture is always _____!