

Unity and Oneness

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I. The unity of the Trinity

A. The Bible declares that God is one God

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

B. The Bible declares that the One God is three

1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

1. It takes three distinct persons to *bear record*—The Bible speaks of them as distinct

Mat 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Mat 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth...

2. The persons are distinct—Yet God does what He does—Together with Himself

a. The unity of the Trinity in creation—*The Three are One*

—Father: **Gen 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*

—Son: **Joh 1:1-3** *In the beginning was the Word...All things were made by him...*

—Spirit: **Job 33:4** *The Spirit of God hath made me...*

b. The unity of the Trinity in raising Christ—*The Three are One*

- Father: *Act 3:26 ...God, having raised up his Son Jesus...*
- Son: *Joh 10:17 ...I (Jesus) lay down my life that I might take it again...*
- Spirit: *Rom 8:11 ...the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead...*

C. The unity of the Trinity in salvation—The three are united in saving God’s people

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

1. Note the unity in God’s plan of salvation

- All that the Father predestinated—The Spirit called
- All that the Spirit called—The Son justified
- All that the Son justified—End up glorified.

2. Note that God is working together with God to save God’s people

- All the *whoms* end up the *thems*—None is lost along the way

3. Note that —The Three are One

- The all-wise, all-powerful, all-knowing God must have always known the plan
- Jesus knew the plan at the cross—The Spirit knows the plan in ‘born-again’

4. Man’s so-called plans of salvation always introduce disunity in the Trinity

- There is no unity in the Trinity with the idea of universal redemption
- No unity in Jesus redeeming all—Father electing some—Spirit calling only some
- There is no unity in the Trinity with the idea of God universally loving all
- The cross proves the Father’s and Son’s unquestionable, unasked-for love
- The Spirit’s love is questionable, if He refuses to come unless He is asked

D. Regarding any purpose or action of God —Trinity without unity is uncertainty

- What would be the result of three equal Gods going in three different directions?

E. Regarding God’s attributes—Trinity without unity is absurdity, even impossibility

- If all are equally God in all attributes—Then all must be together in all will and action

II. The unity of you in Christ—Your eternal life is based on you being ‘IN Christ’

1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so **IN Christ** shall all be made alive.

Rom 8:1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are **IN Christ Jesus...**

2Co 5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God **IN him**.

1Co 1:30 But of him are ye **IN Christ Jesus...**

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us **IN him** before the foundation of the world...

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted **IN the beloved**.

Eph 1:7 **IN whom** we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins...

Eph 1:11 **IN whom** also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

III. The unity of Christ in you—Your spiritual life now is based on ‘Christ in you’

Col 1:27 ...**Christ in you**, the hope of glory:

1Jn 4:4 ...greater is **he that is in you**, than he that is in the world.

Gal 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth **the Spirit of his Son into your hearts**, crying, Abba, Father.

1Co 3:16 ...ye are the temple of God, and *that* **the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?**

2Co 6:16 ...God hath said, **I will dwell in them**, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Joh 17:21 ...as thou, **Father, art in me**, and **I in thee**, that **they** also may **be one in us**...

Joh 17:23 **I in them**, and **thou in me**, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

IV. The unity and oneness of husband and wife in marriage

Mat 19:5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

Mat 19:6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Eph 5:28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

V. The unity and oneness of separate members coming together in church

Act 4:32 And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any *of them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Rom 12:5 ...we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.

1Co 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but *that* the members should have the same care one for another.

1Co 12:26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it...

Eph 4:3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Col 3:11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but **Christ is all, and in all.**

VI. What about unity and oneness in truth?

A. **In essentials unity** *Truth matters: It honors God—It makes you free*

B. **In non-essentials liberty** *“They even shake with the left hand”*

C. **In all things charity** *Be careful about praying for fire*

VII. What about unity and oneness in societal relationships?

A. **In some ways—The Bible teaches not to be one with—But separate from society**

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

1Co 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

Jas 4:4 ... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

1Th 5:22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.

Rom 14:16 Let not then your good be evil spoken of:

B. **The Bible does not teach total isolation from—But good influence upon society**

1Co 5:9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

1Co 5:10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

Mat 5:15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

1Pe 2:12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by *your* good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

C. **The Bible teaches to live in peace in society**

Rom 12:17 Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men.

Rom 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

Rom 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

Rom 12:20 Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.

Rom 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

D. The Bible teaches to live in a manner as to love all men

Mat 5:44 ...Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Mat 5:45 That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Mat 5:46 For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

1Co 13:4-7 Charity suffereth long ... is kind ... seeketh not her own ... is not easily provoked ... thinketh no evil ... beareth all things ... endureth all things.

1Co 13:8 Charity never faileth ...