

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH
Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 8
The Non-Essential Doctrine of The Trinity
Scripture Text: Galatians 1:6–9
03/10/2019

Anyone can catch your eye, but it takes someone special to catch your heart. Author Unknown

Galatians 1:6–9 (NKJV) 6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

We have now come to one of the most controversial doctrines in Christianity, the trinity doctrine. I will begin by saying that it is a NON-ESSENTIAL doctrine. Meaning that it is not essential to our salvation, nor is it essential to our basic faith.

This thought is very contrary to the teaching of some very well-known theologians and bible scholars. First let me define what the trinity doctrine is as defined by Trinitarians.

Trinity Doctrine

The Christian doctrine of the **Trinity** (Latin: *Trinitas*, lit. 'triad', from Latin: *trinus* "threefold") holds that God is one God, but three coeternal consubstantial persons (Common Properties) or hypostases —the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit—as "one God in three Divine Persons". The three Persons are distinct, yet are one "substance, essence or nature" (homoousios). In this context, a "nature" is *what* one is, whereas a "person" is *who* one is. Sometimes differing views are referred to as nontrinitarian.

I think it is important for me to voice my belief before I continue further in order to not be misunderstood.

I believe that God is the one and only almighty sovereign God. I believe that Jesus is His only begotten Son possessing all the deity of His Father but subject to the Father in all things. I believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate personality gifted to and residing in all believers as a helper, comforter and teacher and a guarantee of salvation.

I was raised in a church that believed and preached the Trinitarian doctrine. I remember while living in Miami and in the church choir, every time we were to sing, we marched in singing the song "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God all mighty, God in three persons blessed trinity.

It has not been easy for me to now say openly that I do not believe in the Trinitarian doctrine as it is taught.

I can't go further without supporting my belief with some scripture.

1. God is the one and only almighty sovereign God

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NRSV) ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.

Deuteronomy 4:39 (NKJV) ³⁹ Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the LORD Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.

1 Corinthians 8:6 (NKJV) ⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

This belief is called Monotheism. Ironically it is one of the essential beliefs of Trinitarians it just that they modify it by saying that the one and only God is made up of three persons. Confusing to understand?

2. Jesus is His only begotten Son processing all the deity of His Father but subject to the Father in all things.

How many times does Jesus use the term “My Father”? over 170 times

How many times does God use the term “My Son”? over 40 times

I found only one place where there is even a valid hint that God or Jesus said that they were one within the other. (*John 14:10-11*). I will address this later in the series.

*Colossians 1:15 (NKJV) 15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (*2 Corinthians 4:4, Heb 1:3*)*

Image is not the real article

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV) ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

Equality with something is not the same as being that something.

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV) ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

Matthew 9:6 (NKJV) ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

The above two verses attest to Christ deity. Having authority and power given to Him does not make Him God. If He were God, He would have already had all that.

1 Timothy 2:5 (NKJV) 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

If Jesus is also God as the Trinitarian doctrine states, then why would there be a mediator between God and Himself?

3. **The Holy Spirit is a separate personality gifted to and residing in all believers as a helper, comforter and teacher and a guarantee of salvation**

John 14:26 (NKJV) 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NKJV) 13 ... having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

To some, not believing in the Trinity is a heretical thought worthy of excommunication in the early Catholic church or even death.

I have deemed this doctrine to be non-essential but there are plenty others that believe it to be essential. The purpose of this series is to address what may be a false doctrine and keep us from being under a doctrine of a NON-essential. Here are just a few examples.

1). Do You have to Believe in the TRINITY to Be a Christian?

June 10th Article

Recently, I had a woman tell me the following: “To be a Christian is to be a Trinitarian. To deny the Trinity is to deny Christianity.” I question the validity of this statement when nowhere in my Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, does it state this.

<http://lhim.org/blog/2010/06/18/do-you-have-to-believe-in-the-trinity-to-be-a-christian/>

Do you have to believe in the Trinity to be a Christian?

by [Matt Slick](#)

In one sense you do not have to believe in the [Trinity](#) to be a Christian, but in another sense you do. Let me explain. The [Bible](#) does not tell us that we must believe in the Trinity in order to become saved; that is, to become a Christian. On the other hand, true Christians will end up believing in the Trinity because it is the proper teaching concerning God's nature that has been revealed to us in Scripture. So, though someone may not understand the Trinity when he or she becomes a Christian, eventually he will end up believing in it because he's a Christian.

DON'T LET THIS DOCTRINE MAKE YOU DOUBT YOUR CONVERSION.

<https://carm.org/do-you-have-to-believe-the-trinity-to-be-christian>

2.) MUST WE BELIEVE IN A TRIUNE GOD?

Here's this week's question: I've been told that the Doctrine of the Trinity is not all that important for Christians for a number of reason: 1) The word cannot be found in the

Bible; 2) The Old Testament doesn't teach it and certainly the Jews don't believe it; 3) It is so mysterious a concept that no one can fathom it anyway. What do you think?

His answer: In ref to the OT: You have Elohim, in fact Genesis:1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..." Well the word there is Elohim. That literally means "Gods" but the created is in the singular. So, all through the Old Testament you have a plurality yet a singularity. "Let us make man in our image." Who is this "us" and this "our"? And at the burning bush it's Elohim-Gods-who appear to Moses. But Elohim doesn't say "we are that we are," but "I am that I am. So, you cannot escape it. There is a plurality and yet a singularity all throughout the Old Testament.

I could find no translation that translated "Elohim" into "God's"
The "us" does not prove the trinity of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Us only implies that He, God was not alone at the time.

3) It is so mysterious a concept that no one can fathom it anyway. What do you think?

Matthew 13:10–11 (NKJV) 10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

I do not believe that something as important as the "Trinity" was to remain a mystery for 270 years.

John 14:26 (NKJV) 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The trinity doctrine was never taught in the Gospels.

2 Peter 1:20 (NKJV) 20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation,

Acts 20:27 (NKJV) 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

Acts 20:26–27 (NLT) 26 I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it's not my fault, 27 for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.

Beware when anyone says they have been given a "new" or "private" revelation apart from what the Apostles preached.

<https://www.thebereancall.org/content/must-we-believe-triune-god>

John Macarthur in answer to the question, "can you become a Christian if you deny the Trinity"?

His Answer: I would answer, "No." If you don't believe in the Trinity, then you don't understand who God is. You may say the word "God" but you don't understand His nature. Second, you couldn't possibly understand who Christ is—that He is God in

human flesh. The Incarnation of Christ is an essential component of the biblical gospel, as [John 1:1-14](#) and many other biblical passages make clear. **To deny the Trinity is to deny the Incarnation.** And to deny the Incarnation is to wrongly understand the true gospel.

Now all of you know how highly esteemed I hold John MacArthur, but I do disagree with him here. Early or new Christians were never taught anything about the Trinity. They were taught that there was God the Father and that Jesus was His only Begotten Son who took on a fleshly body to die for our sins. Jesus was the Son of God; God as His Father and He was the Son of man with Mary as His mother. They were never taught that Jesus was also Almighty God. Jesus always referred to God as His Father (170 x's) and God always referred to Jesus as His Son. (40 x's). I can deny the Trinity without denying he incarnation.

It is not a sin to disagree but we must be able to support our beliefs with scripture.

*Hebrews 13:8–9 (NKJV) **8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.** 9 Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. ...*

Message Scriptures: **Galatians 1:6–9**, Deuteronomy 6:4, Deuteronomy 4:39, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 1:15, Philippians 2:6, Matthew 28:18, Matthew 9:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:26, Ephesians 1:13–14, Matthew 13:10–11, John 14:26, 2 Peter 1:20, Acts 20:27 Hebrews 13:8–9.

END

TRINITY DOCTRINE HISTORY

The Christian doctrine of the **Trinity** holds that God is one God, but three coeternal persons in same substance—the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit—as "one God in three Divine Persons". The three Persons are distinct, yet are one "substance, essence or nature" In this context, a "nature" is *what* one is, whereas a "person" is *who* one is. Sometimes differing views are referred to as nontrinitarian.

The first of the early church fathers to be recorded using the word "Trinity" was Theophilus of Antioch writing in the late 2nd century. He defines the Trinity as God, His Word (*Logos/Jesus*) and His Wisdom /Spirit. The first defense of the doctrine of the Trinity was in the early 3rd century by the early church father Tertullian. He explicitly defined the Trinity as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and defended his theology though he noted that the majority of the believers in his day found issue with his doctrine.

In 325, the Council of Nicaea adopted the Nicene Creed which described Christ as "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father", and the "Holy Ghost" as the one by which was incarnate... of the Virgin Mary". ("the Word was made flesh and dwelled among us"). About the Father and the Son, the creed used the term *homoousios* (of one substance) to define the relationship between the Father and the Son. After more than fifty years of debate, *homoousios* was recognized as the hallmark of orthodoxy, and was further developed into the formula of "three persons, one being".
(This is nearly 292 years after the death of Christ)

Later, at the First Council of Constantinople (381), the Nicene Creed would be expanded, known as Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed, by saying that the Holy Spirit is worshiped and glorified together with the Father and the Son suggesting that he was also consubstantial with them:
(The Holy Spirit was added to the Trinity 56 years later. This puts the whole credibility of the Trinity into question)

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity>