

NORTHEAST HOUSTON COMMUNITY CHURCH

Sermon: No Other Gospel Part 9

Bad Example of The Trinity

Scripture Text: 1 Corinthians 14:29–33

03/24/2019

God grades on the cross, not on the curve

~Author Unknown

1 Corinthians 14:29–33 (NKJV) 29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge. 30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged. 32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace,

The trinity doctrine is a NON-ESSENTIAL and perhaps a FALSE doctrine. Meaning that it is not essential to our salvation, nor is it essential to our basic faith.

Our focus passage was initially directed at the proper procedure for prophesying in the church. Now let me remind you that there is only one correct interpretation of a passage of scripture and that is the intended meaning of the author. But as with all scripture there is more than one application.

The key application in this passage is that **God is not the author of confusion.**

Confusion - lack of understanding; uncertainty.

the state of being bewildered or unclear in one's mind about something

Syn. indecision, doubt, ignorance

I am only going to refer to 4 verses that support the application that God is not the author of confusion. Confusion creates mysteries.

The bible speaks of “Mysteries.” “Mystery of Christ” = 8 times, Mysteries = 24

1. *Luke 8:10 (NKJV) 10 And He said, “To you it has been given to know **the mysteries of the kingdom of God,** but to the rest it is given in parables, ...*
2. *1 Corinthians 2:6–7 (NLT) 6 Yet when I am among mature believers, I do speak with words of wisdom, but not the kind of wisdom that belongs to this world or to the rulers of this world, who are soon forgotten. 7 **No, the wisdom we speak of is the mystery of God—his plan that was previously hidden,** even though he made it for our ultimate glory before the world began.*
3. *Acts 20:27 (NKJV) 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you **the whole counsel of God.***

Acts 20:27 (NLT) 27 for I didn't shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know. If it was important Paul preached and taught it. Paul's whole council did not include the mention of a Triune God.

4. *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.*

There is no record of the Holy Spirit teaching anything about a Triune God. His Job was to teach us ALL things.

These four verses assure me that if the Trinity is as important as some say it is then Jesus would have taught it, the Apostles would have taught it and Paul. declaring the whole council of God would have at least mentioned it.

God does not want us walking in confusion.

Paul was on a mission to remove ignorance (*for I do not want you to be ignorant[5x's]*). He never preached Dualism or the trinity.

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** holds that God is one God, but three coeternal consubstantial persons (Common Properties) —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". Sometimes differing views are referred to as nontrinitarian.

CHALLENGES TO THE TRINITY DOCTRINE

Around 250 AD there were other "similar doctrine that surfaced on the scene. I listed some key ones in your program.

Question: "What is Arianism?"

Arian teachings were first attributed to Arius (c. AD 250–336), a Christian presbyter in Alexandria, Egypt.

Arianism is a **nontrinitarian Christological doctrine** which asserts the belief that **Jesus Christ** is the **Son of God** who was begotten by **God the Father** at a point in time, **a creature distinct from the Father** and is therefore subordinate to him, but the Son is also God (i.e. God the Son).

The Ecumenical First Council of Nicaea of 325, convened by Emperor Constantine to ensure Church unity, deemed Arianism to be a heresy."

<https://www.gotquestions.org/arianism.html>

I do not see the problem here except this doctrine does not make Jesus and God one. (a creature distinct from the Father). This is easier to explain than the trinity.

What is Homoousion?

Homoousion (/ˌhɒmoʊˈuːsiən/; Greek: 'same in being, same in essence', "being" or "essence")^{[1][2]} is a Christian theological term, most notably used in the Nicene Creed for describing Jesus (God the Son) as "same in being" or "same in essence" with God the Father (325 AD) (Dualism). **The same term was later also applied** in 381 AD to the Holy Spirit in order to designate it as being "same in essence" with the Father and the Son. (Trinity)

I can understand this applying to God and Jesus but question the inclusion of the Holy Spirit.

Question: "What is Sabellianism and Modalism / Modalistic Monarchianism?"

Answer: A modalist views God as one Person instead of three Persons and believes that the Father, Son, and Spirit are simply different modes or forms of the same divine Person. According to modalism, God can switch among three different manifestations. Sabellius went so far as to say that there are no distinctions between the "persons" of the Godhead—the one God manifests Himself at different times and for different purposes in three different "modes" or "aspects." (why only three?)

For this view Sabellius, a third-century presbyter, was excommunicated for heresy in Rome c. 220. In 262 a Bishop in Rome condemned Sabellianism as heresy.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Modalistic-Monarchianism.html>

Question: "What is Patripassianism?" (3rd Century)

Answer: One of the false views concerning the Trinity was Patripassianism, the belief that God the Father suffered and died on the cross along with God the Son, or, more properly, the Father suffered as the Son. The word Patripassianism literally means "Father's suffering." <https://www.gotquestions.org/Patripassianism.html>

Tritheism

Few if any have every tried to teach the heresy of Tritheism, but it needs to be mentioned anyway. Tritheism denies the unity of the God-head by saying there are just three different gods. Tritheism denies that there is only one God

Obviously, there is confusion in the Nicaean council. This confusion was not cause by God but by man and politics.

Bad Examples Trying to explain the trinity:

<https://mattfradd.wordpress.com/2013/11/11/3-ways-not-to-share-the-trinity/>

<https://credohouse.org/blog/the-trinity-is-like-3-in-1-shampoo-and-other-stupid-statements>

Often these analogies explicitly teach heresy.

1. The Trinity is Like a Three-Leaf Clover (Shamrock)

How the analogy goes:

The shamrock is a symbol both for the Holy Trinity and St. Patrick (389-461). The shamrock is a clover plant with a yellow flower and leaflets made up of a stem with three small green leaves.

St. Patrick was a zealous missionary to the Irish, a people who upon his arrival in 432 had heard little or nothing of Jesus and his gospel. St. Patrick was an energetic traveler, a determined evangelizer, and a courageous preacher he made hundreds and thousands of converts.

One popular legend says that St. Patrick used a shamrock to visualize the mystery of the Trinity, how a single plant with three leaves is analogous to the one Triune God with three separate and distinct Persons (Thurston, H. J., ed., *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, Vol. 1, 615).

<http://catholichotdish.com/the-pastors-page/saint-patrick-the-shamrock-and-the-trinity/>

The problem with this analogy is it denies the unity of the God-head. The analogy breaks down because the three cloves are the same so which is God, the Son or the Holy Spirit? As a result, **this analogy can easily lead to tritheism** in which there are three different gods which might share some like substance.

2. The Trinity is Like an Egg

How the analogy goes:

The Trinity is like an egg. In one egg you have the white, the yoke, and the shell composing one full egg.

This analogy denies the unity of the God-head. **The problem with this analogy is that an egg yoke is of a very different substance than a shell. Also, the egg is made up of three distinct and unlike parts.** This analogy actually teaches the heresy of tritheism.

2. The Trinity is like Water

How the analogy goes:

The trinity is like water. Water has three states: solid, liquid, and gas. Although the water changes form it is still H₂O. Just as water changes forms so too is the trinity.

This analogy denies the distinction of the God-head. **The problem with this analogy is that no one molecule of H₂O can actually exist as solid, liquid, and gas at the same time.** As a result, the water molecule must change forms. A single molecule cannot simultaneously exist in three different states. This analogy actually teaches the heresy of modalism.

The same water cannot be liquid, ice and steam at the same time, all the time.

2.) Liquid, ice and steam cannot mutually indwell one another.

This analogy teaches not “three in one” but “one (H₂O) in three.

<http://www.justindeeter.com/archives/1753>

Playdough Example

Another problem I have is that the trinity claims that God is three in one. Three distinct personalities forming one triune God. If I take three different colors of playdough and mix one into

the other, I go from having three different colors to creating a fourth color. Putting three into one will equal a fourth. So, we began with (1) the Father, (2) the Son and (3) the Holy Spirit, putting them together you create a fourth made up of three, what do you call that?

The Glorious Triune God

The trinity is a mystery that cannot be fully comprehended. The trinity is not a contradiction, but a **paradox**. God is much bigger and much greater than we can understand, and to be honest, I'm ok with that. The teaching of the trinity is clearly taught in Scripture and must be preserved as such. Here many of the creeds help us in clearly articulating the trinity.

The problem:

Paradox - a statement or proposition that, despite sound (or apparently sound) reasoning from acceptable premises, leads to a conclusion that seems senseless, logically unacceptable, or self-contradictory.

Message Scriptures: **1 Corinthians 14:29–33**, *Luke 8:10*, *Acts 20:27*, *John 14:26*. *1 Corinthians 2:6–7*

END