

6. The Sovereignty of God, and Time.

The Trinity.

One of the most important teachings of Christianity is that God, the Supreme One, consists of Three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They are, all three, infinite. All of them are equal and consistent in their infinity.

One of the main concepts behind the Trinity is that they can remain perfectly UNSELFISH and perfectly HUMBLE without infringing or violating their natures.

What do I mean? A single person who is God can only be selfish. He would be the greatest of all, wielding immeasurable power, but requiring worship to himself. It can only be that way in a single being. We see this kind of self-exaltation reflected in human dictators.

But the fact that the real God is Three, enables each one to praise, worship and exalt the other two, and each individually never have one atom of selfishness or self-praise in them. You can see this reflected in the words of Jesus, who always exalted His Father. He said that to Philip. Here's the story, *"Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

¹⁰*Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work."* (John 14:9-10). You can see the level of humility in Jesus, the level of faith, and the greatness of God the Father in that statement.

In the OT, God said that He was "One". Of course, everybody interpreted that as meaning "One Person". If you think about it, it could never mean that. What nonsense it would be for us to say, and especially for God to say, "I am One", meaning One Person. Aren't we all simply one person? But when Jesus came and taught as He did, it became obvious that what He was saying was that the Three of them were One in everything they said, did and were. Of course, the three of them are different personalities, and I know far too little about that to tell you more. They are One in agreement, one in desires, one in power and one in unity. That means they cannot ever be selfish. So, never split the Trinity. They are ONE.

On the other hand, Lucifer, the devil, is a single being. So when he demands and desires people to worship him, he can only do so selfishly.

Those religions that still teach that God – or Allah – is only one being, like Christadelphians and Unitarians, follow far more the way of satan than the way of the God of the Bible.

Sovereignty.

It is very difficult to describe our God's immensity. Our minds cannot conceive of it, and my words would be inadequate. For instance, Heb 1:3 says, *"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."* How is it possible for Jesus to be "sustaining ALL things", much less with His powerful word? Jesus is personally holding the whole cosmos together – all those trillions of atoms, by His words alone (Col 1:17).

I have already mentioned that He selected one sperm from our fathers to be the catalyst for our human conception. He is doing that all the time in every woman's womb on earth. In addition, He

is healing diseases. Doctors diagnose and prescribe the medication, but God heals. Jesus by-passed the medics when He was on earth, and instantly healed many hundreds of people miraculously.

So, God is OMNISCIENT. He knows all things, and never forgets anything. Let me express how that might affect us. Because He lives outside of time, He knows the long-distance future as well as the immediate future. So when He asks us to do something, that would fit perfectly into His plan for the future of the universe. Even when we reject His will, the result only delays His plan. It never hinders or prevents it. He is able to weave everything that satan does and that mankind does into the pattern of His plan. OMNISCIENT.

In addition, God is OMNIPRESENT. He is everywhere all at the same time. That is why I can pray in the UK for someone in New Zealand, and have that prayer answered immediately. He is in the farthest galaxy too. Indeed, Isaiah 40 tells us that He holds all things in the hollow of His hand.

As a result, God could be domineering. But He never is and never can be, because of His nature. He is LOVE. His control, even over wicked people, is kind-hearted and filled with eternally wise control. He is perfectly tender, and the consequences of every action of man, whether good or bad, is totally under His Sovereign, loving, just and wise control. That is why life is so “ordinary” most of the time.

You might ask why Christianity has been so successful since Jesus died? It is simply because God has been able to release the Holy Spirit onto the earth. Therefore the presence of God has been renewed in every generation of human beings who have lived on earth, bringing the Living Jesus to the attention of the world throughout history.

God is perfectly humble, perfectly, wise, perfectly loving, perfectly powerful, perfectly kind, perfectly encouraging, perfectly filled with joy and peace, perfectly just, and is perfectly loveable. There is no end to Their perfection, or to the perfect way They handle every individual and every moment in time. God is GOOD.

Time.

So let me give you some thoughts on Time.

Eternity is NO TIME. I picture God, one day in heaven, having decided what to do, digging a hole in Eternity, prising it apart, and inserting a new, physical creation into it. Inside that new creation God manufactured Time. Time was a creation, along with earth and the universe.

Eternity is the ever-present Now. It is not a long, long time – it is No Time. God, who is outside of Time, calls Himself “I AM”. That was the name He gave to Moses to tell the people of Israel in bondage in Egypt. Time is as we know it, and is governed, as God said, by the Sun and the Moon. Let me illustrate.

I have here a ruler. Say we are in the middle. This is what we call Now – or the Present. Here and now, I say “I Am.” As I march through Time, in every moment, I say “I Am.”

Today, as I say that I Am, I see yesterday as time past, and say “I was”. As I look ahead into the future, I say “I will be”. But when I was there, or when I get there, I will always be able to say, “I Am”. The fact that I say “I Am” at every moment of my life, tells me that I am an eternal being. I am spiritual. My soul will never die.

So right now, saying "I Am", I can say "I was" and "I will be." But God lives in eternity. So, today when I say, "I Am", God always says, "I AM". But, because God lives in eternity, He says "I AM" all the time, just like we do. But, today, when we say, "I was", we say that God is "I AM". And He is also "I AM" in my future. He says "I AM" in both my Present, my Past, and my Future.

So? It means three things:

1. By creating Time, God has stretched eternity.
2. Although I live in time, I am an eternal being. I can only live in Now, and say "I am", which means that I am an eternal being. I live in the same Spirit realm that God does.
3. It means that the ONLY Time I can access God is NOW. It does not matter which Now, but it can only be Now. So, putting off till tomorrow is silly, because I still have to face the issue in a Now moment. That is why the Bible says, in 2 Cor 6:2, *"I tell you, now is the time of God's favour, now is the day of salvation."* Remember, Today is the Tomorrow you worried about yesterday!

Summary.

1. So, God is a Trinity. NEVER SPLIT THE TRINITY.
2. God is Sovereign over absolutely everything – but in Goodness and Love.
3. The Trinity are absolute, perfect, universal and kind. They are ONE.
4. NOW is the only Time that any human being can talk with God.

(Dick Bell).