The Trinity Paper

Assignment 4-1 for ST5534 Systematic Theology 1

Jarret Hutchison

Dear Friend,

The reason I am writing to you is in regards to your concerns with the holy trinity and it’s significance in ones life. I have personally found this to be a point of confusion in my own walk and would love the opportunity to go over things I have learned along the way. The trinity is important for us as Christians to take into account because it deals with who God is and what he is like. In your search for deeper spiritual understanding you will have many questions but being able to discern who God is within all of those questions is crucial.

The trinity is vital for any Christian looking to further his walk with God and as Erickson states in his book on theology “the doctrine of the Trinity is crucial for Christianity. It is concerned with who God is, what he is like, how he works, and how he is to be approached.”[[1]](#footnote-1) This is sometimes a bit hard to comprehend and to be honest I shy away from giving an analogy for explanation because it is such a unique concept. I can however try to answer any questions you may have by explaining some of the essential elements to the trinity. Erickson explains that there are 6 key components that must be included when discussing the trinity. Component number one is the unity of God is basic which means God is one being. Component two as Erickson says is “the deity of each of the three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, must be affirmed.”[[2]](#footnote-2) What Erickson means in that previous statement is that each person of the trinity is equal and we should treat them as such instead of focusing all our time on one of them. Third the threeness and oneness of God are not in the same respect. You maybe thinking that the third point contradicts itself but as Erickson puts it “A contradiction exists if something is A and not A at the same time and in the same respect. Unlike modalism, orthodoxy insists that God is three persons at every moment of time.”[[3]](#footnote-3) The fourth point is that the trinity is eternal which means that one did not randomly come into being before another but on the contrary they have always been/will always be. Fifth Erickson says that the function of one of the members of the trinity may be subordinate for a time but this is in no way saying that this member is inferior. For instance each of the members has had a time within the Bible that they play a unique role for a specific purpose. Lastly Erickson says the trinity is incomprehensible and something we will never fully grasp while we are here on earth.

I hope my above statements have not confused you more and that they can offer some insight on the topic of the trinity for you. I have many resources available to me that deal with this topic and I would be glad to share them with you anytime. A discussion that is as complex as the trinity is hard to summarize in a brief letter so if you have any other concerns or questions please feel free to reach out anytime.

In Christ,

Jarret Hutchison

1. Christian Theology 3rd Edition, Millard J. Erickson (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Christian Theology 3rd Edition, Millard J. Erickson (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Christian Theology 3rd Edition, Millard J. Erickson (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Publishing Group, 2013) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)