

IS GOD THREE DIFFERENT PEOPLE?

John 14:8-9 / 16-18

Phillip said, "Show us the Father." And Jesus said, "Have I been with you so long and you don't know me? He who sees me sees the Father. / I will ask the Father to send you another Companion- the Spirit. / I will not leave you like orphans, I will come to you."

2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord **Jesus** Christ; the love of **God**; and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**; be with you."

Thirty two thousand membranes connect a stretched out piece of skin in my ear to my brain and nobody knows how that connects to my mind. Think of the awesome Being who simply willed things like this into being out of nothing. This is the mystery of God. God is too big for us. Tozer said we ask what God is like and the answer is that He is not like anything. All we can describe Him with are things that came from Him but are not Him.

I suppose that is why the Trinity has never bothered me. It is part of the mystery of God. The word means, "Three in One" and is not found in the Bible. It was the church's chosen term to describe the following truths that are in Scripture.

(1) Jesus, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are presented as three distinct persons (2 Corinthians 13:8). Each does and says things.

(2) Jesus is a distinct person, yet He is equated with the Father (John 14:8-9) and with the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18; Galatians 4:6). He said the Companion, the Holy Spirit (John 14:16), would come and that would be Him coming (John 14:18).

(3) The Holy Spirit is a distinct person. In the early church there was a long, process concerning how to include Gentiles into the church. When the decision was made the leaders wrote of it, "It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit" (Acts 15:28). He was like a person sitting there with them and working in them. This distinct person is equated with Christ. He is the "Spirit of Christ" (Galatians 4:6)) and the Spirit of God (Romans 6:14. He is equated with God. Lying to God (Acts 5:5) is lying to the Spirit (Acts 5:9).

We must go beyond logic to experience, for this is the way we experience the mysterious God. We know He is above and beyond all we can imagine (The Father). We know He lived on earth and lives now visibly in heaven (The Son). And we know we can talk to Him here and now (The Spirit). We don't understand it and thank God we don't have to. Someone asked a little

girl, “How big is God?” She said, “He is so big the whole universe cannot contain Him and He is so small that I can hide Him in my heart.”

Pastor Ralph Murray told of a young man in his church whose father offered to pay his way to college if he if he memorized some Bible verses the father gave him. The boy was not into “churchy things” but did it to get a car. When he graduated he forgot all the verses. Later, called into World War II, he was taken prisoner and forced by the Japanese to walk the Bataan Death March where tens of thousands died. After he survived and returned home he said, “Those Scriptures kept me alive. The Holy Spirit carved them into my soul.”

I cannot explain the Trinity but this is how I relate with the God who created me and died to save me. My heavenly Father is for us eternally; Jesus was with us historically; and the Spirit is in us experientially.