

### ***The Magnificence of Jesus in the Trinity***

#### **THE TRINITY: ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS**

The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important doctrines in the Bible. Over seventy passages in the New Testament present the Father, Son, and Spirit together. Today, this doctrine is under attack as many are seeking to blend all the religions of the world into one faith. It is impossible to blend other religions with the Trinity. Monotheistic religions (Islam and Judaism) are especially opposed to it. We must be equipped to defend this doctrine when sharing our faith.

The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that God exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Spirit. Each distinct person is fully and eternally God, yet there is only one God. The mystery of the Trinity is that three divine persons dwell together forever in deep relationship as one God.

Trinity is not in the Bible, but its truth is confirmed. Trinity means “tri-unity” or “three-in-one.”

The two outstanding men who helped to establish the doctrine of the Trinity were Athanasius (293-373 AD), Bishop of Alexandria, who suffered great resistance and persecution in defending the doctrines of the Trinity against Arian attacks, and Augustine (354-430 AD), Bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria, whose teaching on the Trinity is the most influential in history.

The Athanasian Creed (about 500 AD) is the clearest statement of faith about the Trinity. (Three main creeds of the Church are the Nicene, Apostles', and Athanasian creeds). The Athanasian Creed teaches that each person of the Godhead is uncreated, limitless, eternal, and almighty (omnipotent); all three persons are coeternal and equal: “We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity; neither confounding the persons; nor dividing the essence. For there is one person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Spirit; but the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Spirit, is all one; the glory equal; the majesty coeternal.”

The Arian heresy: Arius, Presbyter of Alexandria, taught that Jesus was created by the Father and was therefore not God. The Council of Nicea (325 AD) declared this a heresy. Today, many speak of Jesus as a great prophet, who is empowered by God, but who is not the eternal God.

Tozer wrote: “Our sincerest effort to grasp the incomprehensible mystery of the Trinity must remain forever futile...Some persons who reject all they cannot explain have denied that God is a Trinity. Subjecting the Most High to their cold, level-eyed scrutiny, they conclude that it is impossible that He could be both One and Three.

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These forget that their whole life is enshrouded in mystery. They fail to consider that any real explanation of the simplest phenomenon in nature lies hidden in obscurity and can no more be explained than can the mystery of the God head. Every man lives by faith, the nonbeliever as well as the saint; the one by faith in natural laws and the other by faith in God. Every man throughout his entire life constantly accepts without understanding...the trees, the mountains, rivers, many-sounding seas, what is it?" Anselm...said, "Let me seek Thee in longing...let me find Thee in love, and love Thee in finding."

*Prayer:*

*Father, help us to understand the Trinity, not for scrutiny but for believing.*

*For worship and for adoration.*

*For faith to arise...for your glory.*