



## Serving the Truth in a Love Sandwich

# Trinity

Father, Son and Holy Spirit

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:15 "But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence."

This series of courses is about answering difficult questions about Christianity. As disciples of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to be prepared to defend our faith. We are *not* going to study what Moslems, Hindus, Buddhists etc. believe. We are going to study the truth, not lies, except for a few of their questions, which often have lies as their basis. I hope as we go through these lessons you will create your own personal statement of faith, so you will have a clear idea of what you are defending.

However, as we study, remember God's truth is spread more heart to heart than mind to mind. Since we have minds they must also be included in the communication, but never forget to serve the truth in a love sandwich.

### **There is one God, eternally existent in three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

In this course we will establish that each of the Persons of the Trinity are distinct, each having all the divine attributes and that God is one. We have established the divine attributes of God in the course "The Nature of God" and we established the divinity of Jesus Christ in the course in this series, "Jesus Christ," so we will only briefly re-visit the Father and the Son in the first three lessons, and simply add the divine attributes of the Holy Spirit. Once each Person has been shown to be divine, we will then talk about the Trinity as a whole in lessons 4 and 5.

*Lesson 1 – Omnipotence, Omniscience & Omnipresence*

*Lesson 2 – Immutable, Eternal & Holy*

*Lesson 3 – Omnibenevolent, Luminance & Creator*

*Lesson 4 – Three Distinct Persons*

*Lesson 5 – Three in One*

### **Suggested methodology for each lesson:**

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's text aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer if it is based on Scripture.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. The final "Think & Pray" question should always be covered, because that is when everyone takes a quiet moment to listen to the Teacher, the Holy Spirit. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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## Additional Reading

These lessons are designed for small groups or individuals to use without reference to other materials besides the Bible. However, a lot more could be gained if those involved would do some additional reading between class meetings. (See <http://lovebiblestudy.com/CC/Library.htm>)

We plan to provide specific recommendations with each course at <http://lovebiblestudy.com/TLS/Adjunct/> We also hope to be making specific chapter recommendations from various Christian books that have helped us in our understanding of apologetics, but are not entirely about the topic of the course. Such as these books which would make good companions for this entire series of courses.

*Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis

*I Don't Have Enough Faith to Be an Atheist* by Norman L. Geisler and Frank Turek

*The Case for ...* series of books by Lee Strobel

*Cold Case Christianity, God's Crime Scene, and Forensic Faith* – 3 books by J. Warner Wallace

**Lesson 1 – Omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnipresent**

In this lesson we will see that all three persons of the Trinity have the attributes of limitless power, total knowledge, and simultaneous existence in all places.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(1A) Genesis 17:1 What does God call Himself? \_\_\_\_\_

(1B) Mark 4:35-41 What is the answer to the question they ask in Mk 4:41? \_\_\_\_\_

(1C) Romans 15:13-19 Whose power gives hope and works wonders? \_\_\_\_\_

(1D) 1 Thessalonians 1:5 Besides by the word how was the gospel spread? \_\_\_\_\_

(1E) Psalm 147:4-5 What are the limits of the Lord's understanding? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(1F) John 21:17 Who knows all things? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(1G) 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 Who searches all things? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(1H) John 14:26 Who will teach all things? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(1I) Jeremiah 23:24 What does the Lord fill? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(1J) Matthew 18:20 Who will always be where people gather in His name? \_\_\_\_\_

(1K) Psalm 139:7-12 Where can you go to flee from the Spirit's presence? \_\_\_\_\_

(1L) What does John 14:7-14 tell us about the Father and the Son?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**The Back Pew** - Jeff Larson



He counts the stars and knows each one. **Ps 147:4**  
God was the original 'Astronomer'

**For further thought:**

[1m] *Unbeliever Attack:* "Exodus and Genesis Contradict: Ex. 33:20, which says no man can see God's face and live, contradicts Gen. 32:30, which says a man saw God's face and lived." How would you answer this attack? (Hint Exodus 33:11)

[1n] A problem with the doctrine of the Trinity is that the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible.

[1o] *Unbeliever Attack:* How can you believe the doctrine of the trinity? Such nonsense has only two possible solutions: either God is afflicted with multiple personality disorder or believers are afflicted with terrible disturbances to their logical processes.

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 1 – Omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnipresent**

- (1A) Genesis 17:1 What does God call Himself? God Almighty  
(1B) Mark 4:35-41 What is the answer to the question they ask in Mk 4:41? The Lord God Almighty  
(1C) Romans 15:13-19 Whose power gives hope and works wonders? The Holy Spirit Rm 15:13 & 19  
(1D) 1 Thessalonians 1:5 Besides by the word how was the gospel spread? Power and the Holy Spirit  
(1E) Psalm 147:4-5 What are the limits of the Lord's understanding? There are no limits  
(1F) John 21:17 Who knows all things? The Lord Jesus  
(1G) 1 Corinthians 2:10-13 Who searches all things? The Spirit 1Cor 2:10  
(1H) John 14:26 Who will teach all things? The Helper, the Holy Spirit  
(1I) Jeremiah 23:24 What does the Lord fill? The heavens and the earth  
(1J) Matthew 18:20 Who will always be where people gather in His name? Jesus Mt 18:1-2  
(1K) Psalm 139:7-12 Where can you go to flee from the Spirit's presence? No place  
(1L) What does John 14:7-14 tell us about the Father and the Son?  
To see Jesus is to see the Father Jn 14:9  
Jesus is in the Father, and the Father is in Him Jn 14:10, Jn 14:11  
Jesus only speaks the words of the Father Jn 14:10  
The father abiding in Jesus does His works Jn 14:10  
We will have power for doing works because Jesus goes to the Father Jn 14:12  
Answers to prayer glorify the Father in the Son Jn 14:13



**My further thoughts:**

[1m] One was referring to God the Father and the other to the pre-incarnate Christ. ("The pre-incarnate Christ" is a label for all the places in the Old Testament where God appeared in human form.) However, since the Bible never explicitly calls these appearances Jesus Christ, so you might not be convinced. But it is not necessary for you to believe that Jesus Christ appears in the Old Testament to come up with sensible ways to harmonize these two passages. There are other possible explanations that make sense if you look at it in context. The Genesis context suggests it was a hyperbolic metaphor on the part of Jacob to emphasize the dramatic change that took place in his own heart as a result of the miraculous encounter. There is another way to make sense of it. It doesn't have to be poetry to contain an idiom. The Exodus context makes it clear that "face to face" and "seeing God's face" mean two different things. Exodus 33:11 affirms that "the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend." Only nine verses later God told Moses, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live" (33:20). Are we to believe that the author of Exodus was so misguided that he wrote contradictory statements within only nine verses of each other? Clearly the terms have two different meanings.

[1n] No, it does not. It is a term people invented to refer to a very complex truth we find in the Bible.

[1o] This is a false dichotomy. Another possibility is that the doctrine of the Trinity is true. God is not insane and there is nothing wrong with my logical faculties. Simply asserting two insulting descriptions of the doctrine of the Trinity does not disprove it.

**Lesson 2 – Immutable, Eternal & Holy**

In this lesson we will see that all three persons of the Trinity have the attributes of eternal existence without change and complete righteousness and holiness.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(2A) James 1:17 With whom is there no variation or shifting shadow? \_\_\_\_\_

(2B) Malachi 3:6 Who does not change? \_\_\_\_\_

(2C) Hebrews 13:8 Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever? \_\_\_\_\_

(2D) Isaiah 44:6 Who is first and last? \_\_\_\_\_

(2E) Psalm 90:2 Who is from everlasting to everlasting? \_\_\_\_\_

(2F) John 8:58 Who said, "Before Abraham was born, I am?" \_\_\_\_\_

(2G) Hebrews 9:14 Who is eternal? \_\_\_\_\_

(2H) Exodus 15:11 Who is majestic in holiness? \_\_\_\_\_

(2I) Leviticus 19:2 Why are we to be holy? \_\_\_\_\_

(2J) 1 Peter 2:21-24 Who committed no sins? \_\_\_\_\_

(2K) Ephesians 4:30 Which spirit are we not to grieve? \_\_\_\_\_

(2L) What does John 16:5-15 tell us about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For further thought:**

[2m] In Isaiah 6:3 and Revelation 4:8 it says the word "holy" three times, once for each Person of the Trinity. Is there any connection?



[2n] *Unbeliever Attack*: "Jesus was insane. Jesus said, 'Forgive them Father they know not what they do.' from the cross. If he was God he must have been talking to himself. Isn't that evidence of an unbalanced mind? Or is it evidence of two Gods?" How would you answer this attack? (Hint: Matthew 22:44)

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 2 – Immutable, Eternal & Holy**

(2A) James 1:17 With whom is there no variation or shifting shadow? The Father of lights

(2B) Malachi 3:6 Who does not change? The Lord

(2C) Hebrews 13:8 Who is the same yesterday, today, and forever? Jesus Christ

(2D) Isaiah 44:6 Who is first and last? The Lord

(2E) Psalm 90:2 Who is from everlasting to everlasting? God

(2F) John 8:58 Who said, "Before Abraham was born, I am?" Jesus

(2G) Hebrews 9:14 Who is eternal? The Spirit

(2H) Exodus 15:11 Who is majestic in holiness? The Lord

(2I) Leviticus 19:2 Why are we to be holy? Because the Lord our God is holy

(2J) 1 Peter 2:21-24 Who committed no sins? Christ

(2K) Ephesians 4:30 Which spirit are we not to grieve? The Holy Spirit of God

(2L) What does John 16:5-15 tell us about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

The Father sent Jesus ("Him" in verse 5 refers back to "the Father" in verse 3)

It was necessary for Jesus to depart (die on the cross) for the Spirit to come to us Jn 16:7

The Helper (the Holy Spirit) will convict men of sin and judgment Jn 16:8-11

The Spirit of Truth (the Holy Spirit) will guide us into all truth Jn 16:13

The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own initiative Jn 16:13

The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus Christ Jn 16:14

Everything that belongs to the Father, belongs to the Son Jn 16:15



**My further thoughts:**

[2m] I think they are connected, but the Bible doesn't say for sure. I like to think so mostly because it is a pretty idea. If you don't agree, you may be right.

[2n] I can see where someone might take it that way at first - that God was talking to himself. The relationship between the Persons of the Trinity is difficult to understand, but what is easy to understand is that one of the purposes of Jesus' life was to show us how humans are supposed to have a relationship with God. He was showing us how to pray to God and forgive people even in difficult circumstances. Besides, I frequently talk to myself and I'm not even two persons in one, let alone three. I do not fully understand the Trinity. I'm not sure I could worship God if I could completely comprehend Him. I prefer God as He is, bigger, better, and more complicated than I am.

**Lesson 3 – Omnibenevolent, Luminance & Creator**

In this lesson we will see that all three persons of the Trinity participated in the creation of the universe and have the attributes of Light and Love.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

(3A) 1 John 4:7-16 What is God called twice in this passage? \_\_\_\_\_

(3B) John 15:9-10 What will we do if we abide in Jesus' love? \_\_\_\_\_

(3C) Colossians 1:8 What was "in the Spirit?" \_\_\_\_\_

(3D) 1 John 1:5 What is God called in this verse? \_\_\_\_\_

(3E) Revelation 22:5 How will be able to see in heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

(3F) Ephesians 5:14 Who will shine on the awakened sleeper? \_\_\_\_\_

(3G) Genesis 1:1 When did God create the heavens and the earth? \_\_\_\_\_

(3H) Genesis 1:2 When all was formless Who was moving? \_\_\_\_\_

(3I) Colossians 1:16 By Who were all things created? \_\_\_\_\_

(3J) **Trinitarian Passage:** Scriptures where all three persons are present or spoken of at same place and time. In Matthew 3:13-17 all three persons of the Trinity appear at the baptism of Jesus - Jesus Christ the Son, the Spirit of God appearing like a dove and God the Father speaking from heaven. Clearly they are three different persons here and yet as we have seen previously in this course, they all have the attributes of God. Read Matthew 28:19 - How many persons of the Trinity are mentioned here? \_\_\_\_\_

(3K) Trinitarian Passage? Read Matthew 17:1-9 Some say this is a Trinitarian passage, the cloud is the Holy Spirit and the voice is the Father. Others say, no.. What do you think and why?

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**For further thought:** Complete this chart with the name of each Person used in the passage:

Verse or Passage	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Ephesians 1:17	<i>Father of glory</i>	<i>Lord Jesus Christ</i>	<i>spirit of wisdom</i>
Romans 8:11			
2 Corinthians 4:13-14			
1 Corinthians 6:11			
1 Corinthians 12:4-6			
Galatians 3:11-14			
1 Peter 1:2			
Matthew 28:19			
2 Corinthians 13:14			
Psalms 33:6			
Isaiah 61:1			

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 3 – Omnibenevolent, Luminance & Creator**

- (3A) 1 John 4:7-16 What is God called twice in this passage? Love 1Jn 4:8, 1Jn 4:16
  - (3B) John 15:9-10 What will we do if we abide in Jesus' love? Keep His commandments.
  - (3C) Colossians 1:8 What was "in the Spirit?" Love
  - (3D) 1 John 1:5 What is God called in this verse? Light
  - (3E) Revelation 22:5 How will be able to see in heaven? God's light
  - (3F) Ephesians 5:14 Who will shine on the awakened sleeper? Christ
  - (3G) Genesis 1:1 When did God create the heavens and the earth? In the beginning
  - (3H) Genesis 1:2 When all was formless Who was moving? The Spirit of God
- Compare Genesis 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3. Clearly the Father, Word, and Spirit are all there at creation.
- (3I) Colossians 1:16 By Who were all things created? His beloved Son Col 1:13
  - (3J) Read Matthew 28:19 - How many persons of the Trinity are mentioned here? Three

(3K) Many theologians recognize that the Holy Spirit appears as clouds, smoke or fire. Fire and light are the same word in the Greek. I believe Matthew 17:1-9 is a Trinitarian passage, the cloud is the Holy Spirit, the voice is the Father and Jesus is there as well. Consider Numbers 11:25. Which person is it talking about if not the Holy Ghost? Look at Exodus 40:34-38. What is that cloud? I think it is the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2:1-4 what is that fire? Deuteronomy 4:24 says God is a consuming fire. Is that Father, Son or Holy Ghost? In 1 Corinthians 3:13, who is doing the revealing and testing? I guess what I am trying to say is that I do not understand the Holy Spirit being smoke, fire and cloud, but it seems clear to me the Bible describes Him that way. However, your opinion is as good as mine. The Bible is not explicit one way or the other.



**My further thoughts:**

Verse or Passage	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Ephesians 1:17	Father of glory	Lord Jesus Christ	spirit of wisdom
Romans 8:11	"of Him who raised Jesus from the dead"	Christ Jesus	Spirit
2 Corinthians 4:13-14	"He Who raised ..."	Lord Jesus	same spirit of faith
1 Corinthians 6:11	"of God"	Lord Jesus Christ	Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:4-6	the same God	the same Lord	the same Spirit
Galatians 3:11-14	God	Christ, Christ Jesus	Spirit
1 Peter 1:2	God the Father	Jesus Christ	Spirit
Matthew 28:19	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
2 Corinthians 13:14	God	Lord Jesus Christ	Holy Spirit
Psalms 33:6	Lord	word	breath
Isaiah 61:1	Lord God	LORD	Spirit



**Lesson 4 – Three Distinct Persons**

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

- (4A) 1 Corinthians 2:11 Who knows the thoughts of God? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4B) Colossians 2:8-9 In Who does the fullness of Deity dwell in bodily form? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4C) John 5:22 Who has given all judgment to the Son? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4D) Genesis 1:26-27 To Whom to the pronouns Us and Our refer? \_\_\_\_\_

The point of this course so far is that each Person of the Trinity has the same Godly attributes. These attributes apply to all the Persons of the Trinity. The way these attributes are expressed or shown, on the other hand, is what distinguishes one Person of the Trinity from Another. For instance, all of the persons of the Godhead love us, but only the Son suffered and died on the cross for us.

Let's look at another example of an attribute expressed differently by the three persons. Omniscience, the capability to know all things, is expressed differently in each Person because omniscience contains as part of its nature the ability to choose not to know some things. Each Person has sovereignly chosen to know different things.

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

- (4E) Mark 13:31-33 Which person of the Trinity knows when the end will come? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4F) Psalm 103:11-12 How far has God moved our sins from us? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4G) Ephesians 4:30-32 How does it make the Holy Spirit feel when we sin? \_\_\_\_\_
- (4H) So what do 4E, 4F and 4G tell us about the omniscience of the persons of the Trinity?

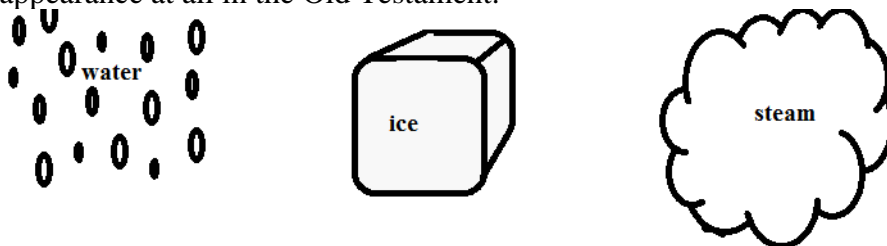
*Think & Pray* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**For further thought:**

[4i] In Genesis 18:1-33 there is an interaction between Abraham and three men. Abraham addresses them in the singular calling them, "My Lord" in verse 3. Later in verse 13 it is the LORD who is speaking to Abraham. When the three men leave in verse 16, Abraham is still in the presence of the LORD. Some see this as a manifestation of the Trinity, others say it is two angels, who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, and the pre-incarnate Christ, and still others see it in various other ways. How do you see it and why?

[4j] In John 15:26 and 16:7 it says that Jesus is sending the Holy Spirit but in John 14:16 it says the Father sends the Holy Spirit. Which is it?

[4k] *Unbeliever Attack:* Jewish authors did not even have the concept of the trinity to work with. The Trinity makes no appearance at all in the Old Testament.



**Trinity illustration: Water, ice, steam are all different forms of the same thing.**

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 4 – Three Distinct Persons**

(4A) 1 Corinthians 2:11 Who knows the thoughts of God? The Spirit of God

(4B) Colossians 2:8-9 In Who does the fullness of Deity dwell in bodily form? Christ

(4C) John 5:22 Who has given all judgment to the Son? The Father

(4D) Genesis 1:26-27 To Whom to the pronouns Us and Our refer? God

(4E) Mark 13:31-33 Which person of the Trinity knows when the end will come? the Father This does not mean that other persons of the Trinity can not know. They are omniscient. They could know. It means that they have chosen not to know. It is one of the differences in the way the attributes are applied that distinguishes the persons from one another. (See also Matthew 24:36)

(4F) Psalm 103:11-12 How far has God moved our sins from us? As far as east is from west. The farthest North is only about 12,000 miles from the farthest South (North Pole to South Pole) but East and West are an infinite distance apart. No matter how many times you circle the globe you never get all the way East or West. He has chosen to put our sins an infinite distance from Him. Using His omniscience the Father has chosen not to know about our sin. The means He uses to do this is the blood of His own Son, Jesus. (See Heb 12:24, 13:12, 13:20, Prov 10:12, Is 43:24-25, John 6:53, Heb 8:11-12, Heb 10:16-17, 10:19, Eph 2:13, 1 Pet 1:2, 1 John 1:7, 1 John 5:6, Rev 1:5) It is not that the Father could not know, it is that He chooses not to know.

(4G) Ephesians 4:30-32 How does it make the Holy Spirit feel when we sin? It gives Him sorrow or grief. We are talking about a Spirit that is more tender, kind hearted, and loving than even our mothers ever could be. Look at the kind of things that grieve Him in verse 31 and 32. These are not the stuff of the Ten Commandments. We do not have to go to the local brothel or bar to do these things. These are all things we could do sitting in church or in the hall between Sunday School and Worship service. Most of them could be done in your mind, anytime, anywhere. God the Father does not see our sins, but The Holy Spirit does. We take Him to every filthy place our minds and mouths go and it grieves His tender heart. Our sins are not hidden from the Holy Spirit. It is not clear if He chooses to remember the ones from the past but He sure knows about the ones we are into right now.

(4H) Each Person has sovereignly chosen to know different things. The attribute of omniscience is the same for all three Persons, it is applied to our sin differently for each of the persons of the Godhead. God the Father perfectly forgets our sin, God the Son covers our sin, and God the Holy Spirit is disappointed and grieved by our sin.

**My further thoughts:**

[4i] I see it as two angels and God in human form, which I understand to be the second person of the Trinity. However, the Bible is not explicit, so your opinion is as good as mine.

[4j] Both. The Godhead always acts in complete concert.

[4k] I can only answer for how I understand it, not how others do. How do you explain the "us" and "our" in Genesis 1:26-27?

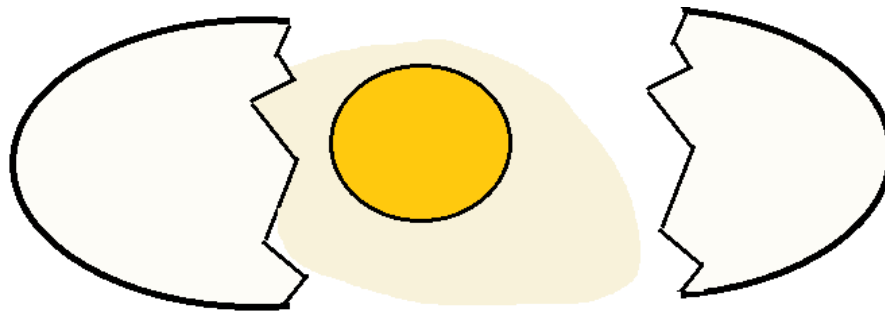
Lesson 5 – Three in One

1<sup>st</sup> John 5:7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." KJV

Read these scriptures and answer the associated question:

- (5A) Deuteronomy 6:4 How many Gods are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5B) James 2:19 How many Gods are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5C) Mark 12:29 How many Gods are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5D) Exodus 20:1-3 How many gods are we allowed to have? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5E) Isaiah 44:6 Besides the Lord how many other Gods are there? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5F) Matthew 11:27 Who gave all things to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5G) Acts 5:3-4 Who did Ananias lie to? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5H) 1 Corinthians 3:16 Who dwells in us? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5I) 1 Corinthians 3:16 Whose temple are we? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5J) Colossians 1:16 All things were created by Him, through Him, & for Him. Who is "Him"? \_\_\_\_\_
- (5K) What does John 14:16-31 tell us about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

Think & Pray \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Trinity illustration?**

It is like an egg having a shell, egg yolk egg white - three in one. But this egg illustration might be taken to mean there would be "parts" to God, which isn't the case.

**For further thought:**

[5L] *Unbeliever Attack:* "Jesus is not Lord. Jesus clearly stated he was not God: John 14:28 '...for my Father is greater than I', John 20:17 'I ascend unto my Father, and your Father, and to my God, and your God', and John 7:16 'My doctrine is not mine but his that sent me.' Clearly God is someone different. How would you answer this attack? (Hints: John 10:30, Philippians 2:5-9)

[5m] *Unbeliever Attack:* In a discussion of the Trinity I offered this quote from CS Lewis; "If Christianity was something we were making up, of course we could make it easier. But it is not. We cannot compete, in simplicity, with people who are inventing religions. How could we? We are dealing with fact. Of course, anyone can be simple, if he has no facts to bother about." (Mere Christianity, p. 165)." He responded with, "It is irrational to worship a god you do not understand. You don't even know who you are worshipping. Lewis is being foolish."

----- ANSWERS -----

**Lesson 5 – Three in One**

- (5A) Deuteronomy 6:4 How many Gods are there? One
- (5B) James 2:19 How many Gods are there? One
- (5C) Mark 12:29 How many Gods are there? One (See also 1 Tim 2:5 and John 17:3)
- (5D) Exodus 20:1-3 How many gods are we allowed to have? Just God, no others
- (5E) Isaiah 44:6 Besides the Lord how many other Gods are there? None
- (5F) Matthew 11:27 Who gave all things to Jesus? His father
- (5G) Acts 5:3-4 Who did Ananias lie to? God the Holy Spirit
- (5H) 1 Corinthians 3:16 Who dwells in us? Spirit of God
- (5I) 1 Corinthians 3:16 Whose temple are we? God's
- (5J) Colossians 1:16 All things were created by Him, through Him, & for Him. Who is "Him?" the Son

(5K) What does John 14:16-31 tell us about the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

- We have the Holy Spirit because Jesus asks the Father to send Him Jn 14:16
- The Holy Spirit is also called the Helper and the Spirit of Truth Jn 14:16, Jn 14:26
- We know the Spirit because He abides with us Jn 14:17
- The Spirit is evidence of Jesus with us Jn 14:17-19
- If we love Jesus, the Father will love us Jn 14:21
- If we keep Jesus' word, the Father will love us Jn 14:23
- Jesus speaks the words of the Father Jn 14:24
- The Father sent Jesus to us Jn 14:24
- The Father sends the Spirit in Jesus' name Jn 14:26
- The Father is greater than the Son Jn 14:28
- Jesus obeys the Father to demonstrate His love for the Father to all Jn 14:31

**My further thoughts:**

[5L] You have a lot of company here. I don't think anyone fully understands how the persons of the Trinity interact with each other. What is easy to understand is that one of the purposes of Jesus' life was to show us how humans are supposed to have a relationship with God. In John 14 He was showing us how to be humble before God. In John 20 He is including His disciples in the family of God. He is the firstborn of us all. In John 7 He is not talking about just God the Father but the entire Godhead. He was pointing out that it was not just Him, but all the Persons of the Trinity who decided He would come to us and what He would teach while He was among us. I hope this helps you understand those three passages better, or at least see that none of them in any way conflicts with the doctrine of the Trinity.

[5m] I can see why you might think so, but only if you don't quite understand what I mean. I do know Who I am worshipping. I've been married to my wife for over four decades. I'm still learning things about her, but that does not mean I am ignorant of who she is. I can assure you I prefer rationality, sense and logic. None of those a priori preclude the mystical. (This means that it is perfectly rational to believe in spiritual things if they are real.) I know God well enough to worship Him. What there is additional to know about Him is infinite.

$$1 = 1 \times 1 \times 1$$

One God          Father          Son          Holy Spirit

**Critics make a point of computing the mathematical impossibility of believing there is a Father, Son, Holy Spirit in the Godhead, without holding that there are three gods. They ask something like, "Doesn't 1 + 1 + 1 = 3?" It certainly does if you add them, but multiply them instead, it becomes 1 X 1 X 1 = 1. Problem solved!**