

# Making Sense of The Trinity

## The Family of God

By Norman E. Jones

Here are some thoughts on the nature of the Holy Trinity. Don't we know that the Godhead is made up of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? Here are some representative scriptures: Holy Spirit is God, John 4:24; Jesus is God, John 10:33; Father is God, John 10:29. And don't we also see scriptures suggesting God is one. See Duet. 6:4. Since we have scriptures suggesting multiple entities and scriptures suggesting one entity, how can we rationally explain the situation?

There seems to be only two possibilities. The first suggests all three manifestations of the Trinity are really just one entity (one God); meaning the word pictures produced in our minds, which appear as three different entities, are really just one entity. The second suggests all three manifestations are really three entities but one God.

### Father, Son and Holy Spirit One Entity

I cannot believe the this possibility because it puts us in the position of seeing God as unreal and mystical. God as unreal and mystical flies in the face of a straight-forward picture of the Father (Ancient of Days) with Jesus (Son of Man) together in the same scene with you and I (Dan. 7:13-14; Rev. 4:1- 5:7). In fact, everything about God makes common sense once we have the "mind of Christ". See I Cor. 2:4-16.

I cannot believe that all three manifestations are one entity because, that concept is not consistent with scripture which depicts Jesus praying to the Father (John 17:1-12). Under this assumption, either Jesus is praying to Himself or to a separate entity; the Father. The latter makes more sense to me.

I cannot believe this concept because it is not consistent with Hebrew grammar implying three entities in one. I will discuss that briefly

later.

Someone has suggested several references which seem to imply the Trinity is really one entity. I would like to comment on those.

John 8:24 - Is Jesus calling Himself God? I believe He is, but my NAS Bible says, "...I am He," and maybe yours does too. If you think the "He" suggests one God and that Jesus is saying that He is the one God, I don't agree. Here is why. The word "He" is not in the original text. Jesus is saying "I am". "I am" is the English word for the Hebrew word YHWH. See Exodus 3:14. Therefore, Jesus is saying He is God but this passage is not evidence of Him saying that He is the *only* entity. Let's look at some other passages.

Col.1:13 - "He", speaking of the Father, delivered us ... to the kingdom of His beloved Son. This verse suggests two entities.

Phil. 2:6 - "...He existed in the form of God, ..." To me, this verse does not suggest the nature of God. Therefore, it is not evidence for either theory.

John 1:1, 14 - We commonly believe the "Word" is a reference to Jesus. If the "Word" was with God, it seems to me the "Word" and "God" are two different entities.

Rev. 1:17,18 - The "First and Last" is in reference to the existence of the creation and not necessarily the eternal realm. This passage is not evidence for or against the question.

### Father, Son and Holy Spirit Three Entities

The second theory suggests three real entities are in *some* sense one. To review, I suggested that men, in the past, have thought of the word "God" as a singular word. Why, because it is singular in English, and because the scriptures, such as Duet. 6:4, declare that God is "one". The Jews

have made a mountain out of that idea. And, their concept has carried over to us.

Many others, myself included, say: No; there is a better explanation. I suggest that the word "God" could be conceived of like the word "family". "Family" is a singular word which implies more than one person in unity that explains a common bond..

The word "God", Eloheim in Hebrew, is a plural word but many times is used with other language written in the singular. Most of the time, it is used as a singular word. Since the word "God" is used in the singular, we naturally see God as referencing one entity. But maybe that is not quite right, maybe the word God, in English, should be a plural word.

One time when it is used with other plural words is in Gen. 1:26 when the context is in reference to itself. We see there, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; ...'." Is this not evidence of the word God, in English, being more than one entity? So, maybe in English, we should translate it as a plural. Here is an illustration.

Let's say a family consists of three brothers, Aaron Smith, Bill Smith and myself, Charles Smith. We are multiple people but one family. We are three in one. Couldn't I correctly say, I am family? Couldn't Aaron correctly say, I am family? Couldn't Bill correctly say, I am family? In the same way, doesn't the Holy Spirit say, I am God (family), and Jesus say, I am God (family), and the Father say, I am God (family)? If we translated the word "God" as a plural word, the concept of the trinity would certainly be much clearer.

The problem and solution to this dilemma can be explained in the inadequacy of the English language.

The truth of the matter is straight forward. God is three persons who are one in unity with each other. Their thinking is of one mind. They agree on everything. In that sense they are one God. Therefore, they are three in one.