

God Is

Number one in a nine-part series on what we believe
September 12 & 13, 2009

Intro:

This season is one of transitions. Many things are new: kids have started back at school; I'm starting a new series of messages, and we're also starting a new ministry. You've been hearing about [Rooted](#), it's a service aimed at the *young adult community* with simple worship and straightforward teaching of the Word. It kicks off tonight in the Gym at 7:00. I'll be launching into a study of the Book of Romans. I appreciate your prayers concerning this new effort.

But let me orient you to my new series for *this* service. We're calling it [Foundations](#). One day when I was visiting our Dayspring website I got the idea of teaching this series on the foundations of the Christian faith. I say *our* website because the church is a group of people. That's what the word *church* means. Dayspring is you. You are Dayspring. And on *our* site, under *Get to Know Us*, you can click on a list called, *What We Believe*. Just by featuring such a list we're saying to the on-looking world that *we are a group of people connected by, among other things, some common beliefs*. This thought stirs up questions: *Does what we believe really matter? Are we equipped to articulate it?* I received a note yesterday in response to our weekly emailing: *"I just read your teaser for this weekend's new series and I'm very excited! Why do I believe what I believe? It can be easy to get sucked into doubt of your own beliefs when you can't even answer why you have the foundations you have."* (To request it, give us your email address on the white card and write: *fascinating mailing!*)

We'll start with the section under the heading, *God: "We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the*

universe and all the things therein, thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power He continues to sustain His creation. By His providence He is operating throughout history to fulfill His redemptive purposes."

That's quite a mouthful. I'm going to explain the two most significant and controversial things mentioned here. First, let's reconsider *the reason we believe in God*. In a nutshell, we believe *because the evidence is so good!*

1. What we observe around us points to the existence of God, the Creator.

When I talk about observations, I mean things that are perfectly obvious. [Rom 1:20](#) Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. That means *the Creator's fingerprints are all over creation and we're responsible to recognize that fact*. The things he made call our attention to his existence. What things? Let's start with *anything!* How do you account for the fact that *anything* exists? Like the universe--how did it all come to be? There's a lot to explain up in the sky: hundreds of billions of galaxies with hundreds of billions of stars. It is a rule of science is that *every effect must have a cause*. Everything came from something except the *One being* who started it all: *the eternal, self-existent Creator*. In [Ps. 19:1](#), the Bible says, The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

As we continue to discern the evidence in creation that points to a Creator, we notice not just stuff, but [organized stuff](#). We observe beautiful designs in flowers, snowflakes, cellular structure and so on. Patterns allow us to predict eclipses, tides and where planets will be years from now. The intricate complexity of design points to a purposeful designer, a master architect.

If that *sounds too hard to believe*, consider how hard it is to believe in *the alternative*. When I last spoke of this, I illustrated chance with these numbers: the probability of getting just 17 items to line up in a chosen order is not one in a hundred or one in a thousand or one in a million or even one in a billion, but one in 355 trillion. Now picture the tiny likelihood to get 400 amino acids to line up right! Okay, consider how unlikely it would be to have the DNA molecule occur by chance. There are 186,000 links in order!

What else do we observe? Not just stuff, or even organized stuff, but *living stuff*. Scientists used to believe that life came from non-life but the theory of spontaneous generation fell into disrepute. Frogs don't arise magically from mud; in fact, no living things come about that way. It takes a living thing to produce a living thing and it takes a conscious, rational, and volitional being to create human beings. Only the existence of a personal Creator can explain our capacities. **Ps. 94:9** - Does he who implanted the ear not hear? Does he who formed the eye not see?

We can go beyond mere observation of humans. Being human, we have **inside information!** Looking in, we make a curious observation: there is *evidence of an inborn morality*. **Rom 2:14,15** People show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness. You see this when people say "*not fair*." They're demonstrating a belief in *a universal, objective, external standard*. We *revolt* against these standards, but they're undeniable. It's amazing how little they vary in different cultures. *Where did they come from? They're built in*. But, by whom? *Someone left a mark of his identity on our hearts*. The presence of these universal inner objective moral values points to the existence of a transcendent God. Wherever we look, up, down, out, or in, we see evidence of creation.

T - Now, you've heard me cover these ideas in the past, but let's now shift our attention to that statement in our list

of foundational beliefs that says this God who made all things *eternally exists in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit*.... What would make us think such a thing?

2. What we read in the Bible points to the existence of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let's take this one step at a time.

- **The Bible teaches that God is one** (**Mark 12:29** - *Here Jesus affirms the OT teaching that God is one. Very central idea*).

- But **It also teaches that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God**. Let me show you:

The Father is God: Col. 3:17 - just mentions God the Father: this is very common throughout.

The Son is God: Jn. 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The eternally pre-existent divine Word became flesh and dwelt among us. He added human nature to his divine nature. If Jesus was only God and did not come as a man, he could not have died for the sins of humans. But as a man, he represents us and relates to us. Now, if he was *only human* and *not also divine*, then he would not have been perfect *and* his death wouldn't have had infinite value to pay for the sins of humanity!

20:28 - My Lord and my God! Jesus received worship and claimed attributes that only God possesses. He did things that only God can do (**Mt. 9:4; 28:18-20; Mk. 2:1-12; Jn. 12:9**). He is also called the Creator, sustainer, and final judge (**Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:17; Jn. 5:27**).

What did Paul say? **Phil 2:6** in very nature God; Col 2:9 in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form; Tit 2:13 - ...our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Rom. 9:5 ...Christ... is God over all! The deity of Jesus Christ is very clearly taught. You have to come to the Bible with very strong prejudices to miss this. And many people do.

The Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3,4 Peter is talking to Ananias and says, you have lied to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to men but to God. The Holy Spirit is said to possess attributes that belong only to God, like omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10), and omnipresence (6:19). He also regenerates people (Jn. 3:5-8), something that only God can do.

If we believe that God is all-powerful, then it takes no additional faith to believe that he has chosen to reveal himself in a way so that *unity* and *diversity* co-exist. Those are both positive qualities, it makes sense he has both!

• **So the concept of the trinity should not be seen as a problem, but as a solution.** It shouldn't create tension; it resolves it. God is one and has revealed himself in three persons. This is foundational. In fact, Jesus instructed the church to baptize new believers in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

To set things up this way is just like him:

• **God perfectly meets our needs. God is above, God is with us, and God is in us.** He's set it up exactly right!

T - Larry, this is theology. Yes, it is. Take that word apart to understand it before you discard it with a scoff. Theology is the *study of God*. What could be better? We get to know about God to get to *know God himself*. Biblical theology is not a dry academic pursuit, but the study of a living love letter that reveals the heart of the Author, our Creator!

What's so cool about theology? Duet 4:29 - If... you seek the LORD your God, you will find him if you look for him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Knowledge of God is the ultimate. Jer 9:23,24 - *Don't get so excited about being smart or strong or rich, here's what a man should celebrate: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord...*

Someone will ask, *Can we really learn to know God? After all, isn't he beyond our comprehension?* Is. 55:9 - As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. This verse is not intended to discourage us from pursuing knowledge of God. To say he is *incomprehensible* doesn't mean that that God cannot be known *at all*, but that God cannot be known *completely*. We'll never run out of things to learn about God; *it is a lifelong passion.*

Many people remain agnostic about God's existence saying that he is unknowable. Reaching for him may seem futile, but *he reached us*. That's what the cross is all about. Our Maker wants a relationship with those he created bad enough that he did what was necessary to reach us.

Conclusion:

I want to tell you about a very special bike ride I took. I've taken long rides, once from OR to So.CA, but this one ride was not long, nor was it pretty - along the ocean or in the mountain. No, it was only a couple miles on a busy street. The ride I'm referring to was from my first graduate school class on theology home to my apartment.

The strange thing about the ride is that I nearly crashed because I couldn't see where I was going. I was so overcome by the glory of God that my eyes were full of tears. I had just studied the wonder of God at such a depth that I was overwhelmed by his majesty and mercy.

Think of today's simple title: *God Is*. If that is true, then we are accountable to him. But if we believe we came about through chance random processes then we are responsible to no one. But if *God is*, then we don't have a right to set the rules or call the shots. Since he made us, he owns us! Col. 1:16 ...all things have been created by him and for him. On my bike that day I was overwhelmed with the reality of

God and my responsibility to live for his glory. He has total claim on our lives. [1 Cor 6:19 You are not your own...](#)

All I want to say as a challenge today is simply this: *God is and you are his. God is and you are his.* Let's give ourselves to him as we worship in prayer and song.

Prayer: [1 Chron 29:11 - Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, O Lord is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all.](#)

[Rev. 4:11 You are worthy, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for you created all things, and because of your will they existed, and were created.](#)

More Meat (unused ideas)

The Bible says God was behind it all. [Is. 45:12 - It is I who made the earth, and created man upon it. I stretched out the heavens with my hands...](#)

Why do you believe what you believe? Because of the evidence, or in spite of it? We generally believe what we believe because of what we've been exposed to. I was taught in school that we came to be through a long, unguided process. There was no room for God in this scheme. I bought what I was taught. Years later I began to question the logic of any process leading to progress with no one guiding it along. I lost faith in the power of chance.

[Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created...](#) This is the foundational fact influencing everything else I believe. If this is your starting place, your presupposition, then you're open to explanations that are not merely naturalistic. Those

who approach the question of our origin with the belief already in place that there is no God cannot be open to the evidence for intelligent design.

Whether you affirm or deny this idea, you'll interpret the evidence to fit your presuppositions.

Information about God is classified into two groups: special revelation, and general revelation. The term special revelation refers to how God reveals himself directly. For instance, he has intervened in history, he has communicated in his Word, and, as we read in [Heb 1:2, God has spoken to us in His Son...](#)

The term general revelation refers to how God reveals himself indirectly through what has been made.

Today's scientists understand a lot about how the world works. They can explain and even duplicate things that baffled their forefathers. Should their understanding lead them to conclude that there is no God? I know how a house is made, I could do it, therefore there is no maker! No, the more I understand about what's involved, the more sure I am that the house didn't build itself. [Heb. 3:4 Every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God.](#)

The Bible says we were created for the highest purpose. Speaking about people, God says, [Is. 43:7 whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."](#)

Does this submission to God sound unhealthy and unpleasant? There are folks who see religion as a crutch. If you are mature you will need no such psychological prop. This thought is dependent on the assumption that there is no God. But if God is real then belief in him would not be silly, but be necessary for holistic, healthy living. You want

security and significance in life? Here's my prescription:
Ps. 100:3 - Know that the Lord Himself is God; it is he who has made us and not we ourselves; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

We must let go of our desire to compete with him for the role he alone can successfully play: that is the Lord of life.

When men make things, it involves time and materials. God needed neither. He created with his word. Gen 1:3 – God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. He spoke things into being. When we speak nothing much happens. Anything good takes a lot of time and effort to accomplish. Much of what we attempt stalls or fails. When we do accomplish things, like getting in shape or cleaning house, they quickly come undone. But God's almighty power is shown in creation: Ps 33:9 – He spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.

General revelation includes all that God has revealed about himself in the world around us. Also called natural theology. Utilizing his observations of creation, the theologian attempts to prove that the existence of God is a logical necessity by using the laws of logic and philosophical reasoning. Paul did this in Athens (Acts 17). The Bible views GR as an inadequate basis for salvation. Repentance, pardon and reconciliation are needed.

Every effect must have a cause. Newsweek: “In the greatest leap of imagination, most cosmologists now believe that the universe arose from nothing.” A leap higher than faith can jump! Right over reason into absurdity! The idea of self-creation is a logical contradiction. Some say matter itself is eternal and that evolution is the answer to all we see. Certainly it isn't capable of self-development - where is the power, the

source - how can the material move from simple to complex to intelligent?

This line of reasoning dates back to Aristotle but was popularized by Thomas Aquinas in 13th C. It had its critics, notably the Scottish philosopher Hume and Bertrand Russell who wrote in his work “Why I am not a Christian” that he lost faith as a child when no one could explain the origin of God. But that's just the point! An infinite regress of causes is inconceivable! There must be, as Aristotle wrote, a first cause, an unmoved mover. The rule isn't, “everything must have a cause,” but every effect must have a cause. God needs no cause: He is eternal and self-existent.

Unguided evolution would take a miracle. Which would mean it is not unguided at all.

Teleological Argument. "Telos" = end or goal. Similar to Cosmological argument. Also not new - goes back to Plato.

The universe is running down, it is not self-sustaining. It had to have a beginning.

Sum- observable order necessitates a designer. But this could be merely a force (Star wars) and not a personal God. Must be careful to define terms. “God” can mean different things. Dewey- more influence on education in US than any other man in this C. Word God “denotes the unity of all ideal ends arousing us to desires and actions.” Tillich- outstanding theologian of U S in this C. “God is the fundamental symbol for what concerns us ultimately.” Is God only an abstraction? No, God is a personal perfect spirit who is infinite, eternal and unchangeable in His being and attributes.

What if no design was evident -Without the assumption of design in nature there can be no science. Uniformity in laws is nec for sci. invest.

Even a promise has no meaning if there are no absolutes; no one to hold us accountable, if all rules based on opinion. Judges theme: "Everyone did what was right..."

•C.S. Lewis "The reason your ideas of NYC can be either truer or less true than mine is that NYC is a real place. It exists quite apart from what either of us think." There is an absolute code, a true morality built in. But by whom?? The "inner ought" indicates an external lawgiver.

The presence of objective moral values points to a transcendent God.

Not explained by what sociologists call the "herd instinct." (Desire to help a drowning person and self-preservation: 3rd voice tells you which is the right thing.)

Also not explained by the fact that ethics can be taught. Parents teach $2+2=4$, but they did not invent it. God is the origin of all truth.

Another area of controversy concerns just what method God used to create. Should we take the 6 days literally? We could carefully examine how the Genesis account harmonizes with the fossil record.

What difference does it make that God created...? If there is a Creator, then He owns us! He sets the rules and they are absolutes.

For practical application, if God can create the world, then He can do anything He wants to do. By that wording I mean two things: He can do anything - He has the power,

and He can do anything - he has the authority. He has the ability so it is perfectly reasonable to rely on Him and He has the right so we ought to obey Him!

Can organization come from disorganization? Can purpose come by accident?

Has modern science explained away the need for a Creator?

Can't have purpose on accident, order from disorder, or life from non-life.

Man's intuitive awareness of God is broadly confirmed by social anthropology. A universal conviction exists that there is a being on whom they are dependent and to whom they are responsible. A high God concept can be found even in cultures that are polytheistic.

Albert Einstein looked at the world very closely. He studied systems underlying reality as we know it. He came to have... "a humble admiration of [the] superior spirit who reveals himself in the details..." Study of the incomprehensible universe led him to believe in a Supreme (uncaused) Being (intelligent, think, plan).

Jer. 51:15 It is He who made the earth by His power, Who established the world by His wisdom, And by His understanding He stretched out the heavens.

Ex. 15:6 "Thy right hand, O Lord, is majestic in power..."

Jer. 32:17 'Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You

Jer. 10:16 the Maker of all is He.

Is. 45:12 It is I who made the earth and created mankind upon it.

Is. 45:18 For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens...

"I am the Lord, and there is none else."

Jer. 10:12 It is He who made the earth by His power.

Jer. 27:5 "I have made the earth, the men and the beasts which are on the face of the earth by My great power and by My outstretched arm.

We know how chance works - 2nd law of thermodynamics - entropy

Chance has no power; it is merely a description of mathematical possibilities.

Did we get here by some chance collision? Evolutionists use words like order and selection - but these imply intentionality!

Picture comparing value systems, like Nazis vs. Greeks. There is a standard by which we compare saying that one conforms to a greater extent than the other. Conform to what? Not just relativism, but something that is right entirely apart from what people think.

Purpose in life? If you take God out of the equation, the alternatives are bleak.

The hedonist: pleasure - have fun, party-hardy.

The materialist: acquisition. He who dies with the most toys, still dies.

The mystic: look within. You'll find your gall bladder.

The fatalist: We are all going to die. The ship is sinking.

The existentialist: There is no meaning, so you'd better manufacture some.

The moralist: purpose is found by jumping through hoops.

The humanist: we pull ourselves up by our bootstraps.

The modernist: we can figure this out with sheer logic.

The postmodernist: I was like, whoa! What do you mean by, like, meaning, dude?

The presence of these inner objective moral values points to the existence of a transcendent lawgiver.

The intelligence and sophisticated capacities of humans could only have come from a personal Creator.

The lie is that you can be your own god.

Paul counted whatever he had going for him as loss ([Phil 3:7f](#)). Renounce all rights. Alexander Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago* "Only the man who has renounced everything can win the victory."

[Rom 11:36](#).

Even if God could be proven through philosophical argumentation, it wouldn't do much good. No one gets argued into the kingdom ([Heb 11:3](#) - [By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, 6](#) - if we come to him, it will be by faith).

Our liberation from God our Maker has led to slavery of the worst type! Where is our source of dignity if not in our relationship to God?

If you can't believe what he's said in one part of the Bible how can we trust in any of it? Time to look into this to reestablish our confidence in the authority of God's Word.

Problem: mutations don't lead to advancement. They won't be selected unless they provide a functional advantage. Half able to do something is not helpful. How does a system build gradually if it has no function until it is completely together? Every change has to advantageous to be selected. Two heads are better than one unless you are trying to get a date so you can mate. Species appear in the fossil fully formed. Not half one thing and half something else.

Charles Darwin said, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ exists which could not possibly have been formed by numerous successive slight modifications my theory would absolutely break down."

Evolution of flight: half-able wouldn't help the organism.

Scientists also rejected embryonic recapitulation.

Natural selection becomes a substitute for the existence of a creator.

Bacterial flagellum motor - very complex. Like Outboard motor. Half of one would not be of value.

Very intricate patterns and structure of amino acids create proteins.

Sequence of amino acids in a chain are a lot like the letters that make up words that form into sentences and paragraphs and pages, chapters of books. Pick up a 500

page book and think if you have enough faith to believe that it came together by having letters arbitrarily tossed together in a bag and shaken then poured out onto a big table. I don't care how many times you did. Much easier to believe that someone planned it and carried out the plan. It has a meaning.

DNA gives assembly instructions.

Without DNA there is no self-replication. Without self-replication, there is no natural selection. So you can't use natural selection to explain the origin of DNA.

You can see rocks in many shapes as you travel in the west. But when you come to Mt. Rushmore in So Dakota, you see something very different.

I can explain some things by natural processes. Does that explain away the existence of God?

Those who try to explain our origin without God notice the phenomenal intricacy and balance, but presuppose that this all came about by means of an explosion. Explosions don't create order, but a mess. If an auto parts store exploded you wouldn't have a few cars come together in the blast. I don't care how long you waited. And if you put the parts of a watch in a bag and shook it up, even for billions of years, you wouldn't get a watch.

Luis Pasteur was the first one who really figured out that life comes from life.

DNA is infinitely more complex than the mechanism of a watch.

Ps 19:1-6

1 - The cosmos is a marvelous display of God's craftsmanship. These verbs are participles - the stars continually declare, they keep on proclaiming. The expanse of creation points to the existence of God our maker. [Isa 40:25,26](#).

All we see continually points to God. 2-4 We notice the alternation of day and night, the regularity of the successive seasons. 3 Anyone in any culture can get the point. The appeal of God's voice is not restricted by linguistic barriers. 4 The silent testimony of God's creation transcends all human communication. No geographical boundaries hinder the power of general revelation. The awareness is universal.

4b-6 Several metaphors are used to describe the power, majesty and apparent movement of the sun. Described from the perspective of earth.

The more we study, the more we grasp the immensity of creation. On a clear night 2,500 stars are visible to the naked eye. Sophisticated equipment opens the heavens. Light 186,282 miles per sec. x60, x60, x24, x365 = light year. 6 trillion miles. You think you can manipulate God? Explain Him away? Get away with ignoring Him?

Not only does the immensity of creation point to God, but the complexity does as well.

What do modern scientists think? Great book: [Show Me God](#) - "The consensus of modern science is that the universe--and time itself--had a beginning." Astrophysicist, George Smoot called the creation event, "Finely orchestrated." NASA astronomer John O'Keefe - "It is my view that these circumstances indicate that the universe was created for man to live in." Sir Fred Hoye, astrophysicist - "A common sense interpretation of the facts suggest that a superintellect has monkeyed with

physics, as well as with chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature." Robert Jastrow, astronomer - "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries."

When you seek to understand the meaning of life, you have only two options: speculation, or revelation!

Random agitation of dust brings about the earth? Perfect distance from the sun, seasons, ice caps, amount of water, tilt on its axis. Ozone in atmosphere to filter out the deadly ultraviolet light. Right amount of O₂, Photosynthesis, DNA.

Problems: mutations don't lead to advancement. They won't be selected unless they provide a functional advantage. Half-able to do something is not helpful. How does a system build gradually if it has no function until it is completely together? Every change has to advantageous to be selected.

Our concept of God forms the foundation for our values. Our view influences our choices.

We live out what we believe about God, even if it's in error. That's why we need a clear picture of God. An accurate portrayal.

1 Chronicles 16:10 Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

Amos 5:4 This is what the LORD says to the house of Israel: "Seek me and live..."

Hebrews 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Really, it comes down to competition between two belief systems. Both require faith - we weren't there to see it start.

God cannot be proven by scientific method, but neither can Napoleon. That kind of proof is outside of the realm of science, which deals with repeatable events. No one was there so faith is needed either way you believe: Heb 11:3 - By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command. And I think the evidence suggests that it takes more faith to believe the universe formed itself.

The battle is not between science and religion, but between one interpretation of the evidence and another.

It is difficult to grasp the nature of God, for he is infinite. We won't fully understand the intricacies of the trinity until we graduate into the eternal realm.

Jer 29:13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

DEFINITION "Within the unified essence of the Godhead there are three distinct persons who are coeternal, coequal, and co-substantial." - H. Holloman.

PROBLEM Some think of this doctrine as unbiblical because the word "trinity" is not in the Bible. While the word is not present, the concept is a thoroughly biblical teaching.

SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT These are examples of the substantiation; many others exist.

The Old Testament: here we find room for the later revelation of the doctrine.

Deut. 6:4 - affirms the unity of God.

Gen. 1:26; 11:7 - God speaks of Himself with plural pronouns and verbs.

Ps. 110:1 - suggests a distinction between the Persons of the Godhead.

Is. 48:16 - the best O.T. intimation of the trinity.

The New Testament: here the teaching, which is latent in the O.T., clearly surfaces.

Jn. 6:27 - **the Father is God.**

Jn. 1:1; 20:28 - **Jesus is God.** He claimed attributes that only God possesses, and did things that only God can do (Mt. 9:4; 28:18-20; Mk. 2:1-12; Jn. 12:9). He is also called the Creator, sustainer, and final judge (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:17; Jn. 5:27).

Acts 5:3,4 - **the Spirit is God.** He is said to possess attributes that belong only to God, like omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10), and omnipresence (6:19). He also regenerates people (Jn. 3:5-8), something that only God can do.

Matt. 28:19 - the best N.T. evidence of the three in one.

LOGICAL SUPPORT If we believe that God is all-powerful, then it takes no additional faith to believe that

He has chosen to reveal Himself in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some illustrations demonstrate that unity and diversity can co-exist.

ILLUSTRATIONS How can 1=3? Consider an egg, which has shell, yoke, and white. Or consider water as solid (ice), liquid, and gas (steam). Similarly, a person is made up of body, soul, and spirit. Another limited illustration is the sun. We know about the sun (the Father) by seeing its light (Jesus). The Spirit would be likened to the sun's power.

RELATED ISSUES OF INTEREST

- All three persons in the trinity are involved in redemption (Jn. 3:6,16; Rev. 13:8), and in revelation (Jn. 1:18; 16:13).
- Our fellowship with Christ is likened to the fellowship within the trinity (Jn. 14:17).
- Priority in rank without resulting inferiority is modeled in the trinity and to be applied in the home (1 Cor. 11:3).
- In prayer we generally address the Father in the name of Christ as the Spirit leads (Jn. 14:14; Eph. 1:6; 2:18; 6:18), though we can address any of the three.

CONCLUSION If we take the Bible at face value we recognize the evidence for the trinity. The scriptures teach that God is one. At the same time, Father, Son and Spirit are all God. Rather than seeing the doctrine as a problem, it is actually a solution to the problem of the Bible referring to three persons as the one God. It is difficult to grasp the nature of God, for he is infinite. We won't fully understand the intricacies of the trinity until we graduate into the eternal realm.