

## 1 John Series

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Trinity structure implicit in John's writings to clarify his use of "in me"

[It is important to understand that the Trinity doctrine underlies the entire Bible, even the Old Testament as studies like that of John Metzger, *Discovering the Mystery of the Unity of God* (Ariel Ministries, 2010), show by careful exegesis of key Old Testament passages. As I mentioned in the Series Overview, it is precisely the Trinity truth that safeguards the personality of God. Solitary monotheisms have trouble defending the personal nature of God and thus our personal relationship with Him. Personality has an inherently social relationship capacity with other personalities. A solitary "personal" God has no eternally functioning personal relationship. To have one, such a deity must create another personal being outside of himself and thus be dependent upon a creature, thus abandoning his aseity or self-sufficiency.]

7 Basic elements of the Trinity (Slide 2)

- Creature-analog to the Trinity in space, matter, and time (Slide 3)
- Creature-analogy to the Trinity in human nature, person, and personality (Slide 4)

Continued study of John's vocabulary:

"Loving" Christ vocabulary (analogy with OT "love Yahweh with all your heart and soul" understood with aid of Suzerainty Vassal Treaties "love Pharaoh"). "Love" in the Bible is not correctly understood in our customary romantic way. See, for example, how John uses "love" in 1 John 2:15. John clearly continues the notion of "love" displayed in the Old Testament—a meaning involving allegiance and loyalty.

"Truth" vocabulary. John 14:26; 16:7. Idea of "truth" is personal and more involved than how "truth" is thought of in our post-Christian, secular culture. In this view (Slide 5) . . .

- The laws of logic used in all reasoning are ubiquitous, unchanging, and immaterial because they are based upon the essence of God unlike the baseless and arbitrary view of our secular culture.
- Objective truth and ethical norms are based upon the essence of God unlike subjective, "Gallup Poll" statistic of subjective human opinions.
- So once again we observe the profound difference between the eternal self-sufficient Creator and the temporal dependent creature. (Slide 6)