

1 John Series

Lesson 3

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The Trinity

Element of the Triunity	Description of the Element
(1) Absolute threeness	No more; no less. None exist without the other two
(2) Absolute oneness	Each is the whole
(3) Three modes of being	Modes of being, not of revelation; God IS each mode
(4) A logical order	Father → Son → Holy Spirit; not degrees of deity
(5) A derivative order	Father "begats" Son; F & S "send" the Holy Spirit
(6) A revelational order	Father unseen but revealed in the Son; Son acts in history; Holy Spirit unseen but reveals the Son
(7) Three personal centers of consciousness in One Being	Interpersonal dialog occurs between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The Trinity (2)

Trinity	Space (length- width- breadth)	Matter (energy-motion-phenomena)	Time (past-present-future)
(1)	3 and <i>only</i> 3 dimensions	3 and <i>only</i> 3 forms	3 and <i>only</i> 3 modes of experience
(2)	<i>all</i> space (every point) can be included as length, width, or breadth (x, y, z)	Each form constitutes the <i>whole</i>	Each mode is the <i>whole</i>
(3)	3 dimensions are what space <i>is</i>	3 forms are what matter <i>is</i>	3 modes are what time <i>is</i>
(4)		Energy embodied in motion issuing in phenomena	Time flows from the future through the present into the past
(5) (6)		Energy begets motion and acts through it; motion is energy operative and phenomena proceed from motion and energy and reveal motion to our senses	The unseen future continually embodies itself and makes itself visible in the present; the present is what we see and know, revealing the future; the past proceeds from the present and the future and acts invisibly to reveal lessons for the present

The Trinity (3)

Trinity	Nature, Person, and Personality
(1)	There are no more nor less than 3: back of the person a nature, merging into the lives of others a personality. One is not a personal being unless all three elements are present. ... each one of the three factors in man is so distinct that no one of the three can be either one of the others.
(2)	Each of the three factors is inevitable to the others. Without the person there is no nature or personality. Without the nature there is no person, no personality. And there is no person, no nature, without personality as a consequence. ... They are so much one that each is the whole man.
(3)	The three factors in personal human life ... are manifestly three things which man <i>is</i> ... not three things that he does. ... They are three modes of being.
(4)	<i>Nature is first</i> , the source of all that you are. <i>Person is second</i> , embodying the nature. <i>Personality is third</i> , proceeding from the nature through the person.
(5)	The person is begotten continually from the nature. ... The person sends out his personality. He sends out his personality ... from his inner nature.
(6)	The unseen nature reveals itself in the person. He who has really seen and known the person has seen the nature. The person is the visible embodiment of the whole being. The personality reveals the person and his nature.
(7)	There is the point of view of my essential, true nature. There is the simple, personal point of view—of me, the <i>person</i> . There is the point of view of me as <i>related to others</i> .

Kinds of "Truth"

Biblical Truth	Pagan Humanist Truth
<p>THE TRIUNE CREATOR revealed by the LOGOS (2nd Person) and interpreter of created reality and the determiner of ethical norms</p>	<p>Reality is composed of physical part and non-physical, mental part (dualism)</p>
	<p>Reality is composed of infinite number of physical pieces</p>

Shall I Bow to My Creator?

- **YES!**

- ancient monotheism
- ancient Israel
- Bible
- fundamentalism

- **CREATOR/creature**

- God || man | nature
- everlasting distinctions

- **PERSONAL SOVEREIGN**

- ultimate responsibility

- **NO!**

- ancient myths
- eastern religions
- western philosophy
- modern theology

- **Continuity of Being**

- nature > gods > man
- transmutation / evolution

- **IMPERSONAL FATE & CHANCE**

- ultimate victimization