

No. 129 Is the Trinity a Bible Teaching?

PLEASE NOTE: Help the audience to understand why it is vital to know the truth about Jehovah, Jesus, and the holy spirit. If you wish, you may use the artwork provided to illustrate the points indicated

SHOULD YOU BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY? (3 min.)

The Trinity has been called “the central doctrine of the Christian religion” (w09 4/1 18 ¶1)

Is it true that the Father, Son, and holy spirit are all “equally God”? (g05 4/22 6 ¶5)

Our everlasting life depends on knowing the truth about “the only true God,” Jehovah, and his Son, Jesus Christ [Read John 17:3]

We can find the truth by examining God’s Word, the Bible (Joh 4:23, 24; 17:17)

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT JEHOVAH AND JESUS? (12 min.)

The Bible refers to Jehovah alone as Almighty God (Ex 6:3; Re 19:6)

Jehovah said that Jesus is his Son (Mt 17:5; Lu 3:21, 22; w88 6/1 11 ¶9-10)

In this way, God showed that Jesus is a separate, subordinate person (w14 5/15 9 ¶13)

Unlike Jehovah, Jesus had a beginning (Hab 1:12; Col 1:15, 16)

Jesus existed in heaven before being sent by God to the earth (Joh 1:14, 18)

Jesus said that he was in subjection to his Father [Read John 12:49] (Joh 5:19; 6:38)

Jesus never claimed to be God or to be equal to God (Joh 14:28)

Jesus prayed to his Father, Jehovah (Lu 22:41, 42; 23:46) [Image 1]

Jesus’ will can be different from his Father’s will (Lu 22:42)

Jesus indicated that his Father had knowledge that he did not have (Mr 13:32)

Those who believe in the Trinity may concede that Jesus was in a subordinate position while on earth; yet, even in heaven, Jesus’ position is lower than God’s (1Co 11:3; 15:28)

The glorified Jesus Christ repeatedly spoke of his Father as “my God” (Re 3:12)

WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT? (7 min.)

[See the “Bible Questions Answered” article “What Is the Holy Spirit?”]

Holy spirit is God’s power in action; God uses it to accomplish his will

For example, God used holy spirit to create the universe, to inspire Bible writers, and to accomplish the miracles recorded in the Bible (Ps 33:6; 2Pe 1:20, 21) [Image 2]

The holy spirit is not a person (w91 1/15 4)

Unlike Jehovah and Jesus, the holy spirit has no personal name

The Bible mentions holy spirit along with other impersonal things, such as faith and love (Ac 6:5; 2Co 6:4-6)

Some Bible verses personify the holy spirit, but the Bible also personifies other things, such as wisdom and death (Pr 1:20; Joh 14:26; Ro 5:17)

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THE TRINITY DOCTRINE? (4 min.)

The early Christians did not view God as a Trinity (1Co 8:5, 6; w02 7/15 18 ¶18)

The Bible foretold that Christian teachings would be corrupted (2Th 2:3, 7; 2Ti 4:3)

False Christians mixed pagan Greek philosophy with Christian teachings, and this led to confusion about God (w12 1/15 6 ¶9-12; w09 11/1 7 ¶1-2)

KNOWING THE TRUTH HELPS US DRAW CLOSE TO GOD (4 min.)

We need to know the truth about Jehovah’s identity if we are to have a good relationship with him

Our worship should be directed to Jehovah alone (Mt 4:10)

We also need to understand Jesus’ essential role and exercise faith in him (Joh 3:36; 14:6)

Ask God for holy spirit; he will use it to help you discern the truth (Lu 11:13)

When we know the truth about God, we can give him the praise and worship he deserves (Re 4:11)

[Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section.

Not all cited texts need to be read or commented on. See *Reminders for Those Assigned Public Talks* (S-141)]

TO BE COVERED IN 30 MINUTES

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