

How Can We Understand That The Three Persons of the Deity constitute one God?

We have already discussed that the oneness of God is partly in contrast with the multiplicity of heathen deities, each of whom was distinct from the other. The one living and true God, though subsisting as a trinity, is the One who made the universe and sustains it, and who will be Judge of all. We do not have to be concerned with other gods.

Various explanations of trinity in unity have been offered, such as the three colors constituting one American flag. We believe the best illustrations are those found in the Bible itself. For example man is said to be made in the image and likeness of God, and man is tripartite being— a trinity in unity.

We are aware that theologians contend that man is only a bipartite, consisting of soul and body, though often those accepting this view distinguish between animal soul and rational soul. In I Thessalonians 5:23 the Apostle Paul, writing to the Thessalonian Christians, referred to their “whole spirit and soul and body.”

Though the soul and spirit can be separated from the body, this fact does not constitute a man two persons. At the martyrdom of Stephen, recorded in Acts 7 and 8, devout men carried Stephen to his burial. Yet Stephen had prayed, “ Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Where was Stephen? In one sense, he was in heaven; in another, he was in the grave. Both statements are true, yet Stephen was not two persons. He was one person.

The three persons of the Holy Trinity share alike in the divine nature and attributes, have a common purpose, and always work in absolute harmony. We might illustrate this by calling attention to the way in which various members of the human body work harmoniously for the fulfillment of a common purpose. Another statement of Scripture is “God is light” (I John 1:5). We are told that each ray of light consists of a luminiferous element , a calorific element, and an actinic element. Each performs a distinctive purpose, yet all unitedly, constitute the ray of light. It does not make them three rays, yet there are three distinctive parts of the ray.

No created likeness can perfectly display God, but since these similes are given in Scripture, we may find in them a comprehensible idea of how God who made us consists of three distinct Persons who constitute one living and true God.

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