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THE EXISTENCE OF GOD



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BASIS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

1. Baptism of Jesus in *Matthew 3:13-17*, we see the Trinity at work: God the Father spoke from heaven, *"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* God the Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ, was being baptized. God the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on the Savior.
2. The baptismal formula in *Matthew 28:19*, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"*
3. The benediction in *2 Corinthians 13:14*, *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."*
4. The creation of man uses plural terms. *Genesis 1:26*, *"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion..."*

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

1. Shamrock - a three-leaved plant used by Saint Patrick to illustrate this doctrine. It is but one leaf but it has three distinct sections.

created him;" "Psalm 94:9, "He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?" God has given to man ears, eyes, knowledge, intelligence, and will power for these are the things that He possesses.

Conscience teaches man right and wrong, good and bad, for the Creator is a moral Being that is holy, and loves righteousness but abhors evil.

THE LIFE ARGUMENT

Life comes from life and the original life must have come from a Being possessing eternal life, that is, life that existed before physical life was created. Where can such a life be found? It can only be found in God who possesses eternal life. *Psalm 36:9, "For with You is the fountain of life;..."*

The apple tree gets its life from the parent tree, the lamb from the mother sheep. But where did they get life from? We go back to the original creation. *John 11:25, "I am... life," also in John 14:6, "I am... life," and John 10:28, "And I give them eternal life."* All life proceeds from God.

The theory of spontaneous generation has been proved false and completely unacceptable to authoritative science. Life must have a beginning. The only logical answer is that beginning was with God.

THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

Christians are constantly challenged by skeptics, mockers, and atheists to prove the existence of God. The natural man finds it difficult to believe in something that he cannot see, touch or feel. *1 Corinthians 2:14, "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

The problem for Christians is solved with the first verse of the Bible, *Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

The Bible is not a textbook that attempts to prove the existence of God, the Bible opens with the fact that God does exist.

It would not have occurred to the forty authors of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible to prove this fact.

The Bible states it plain and clear that it is a fool who denies the existence of God. *Psalms 14:1, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" Any person with any intelligence would acknowledge the evident fact of a Living God.*

THE ARGUMENT FROM CONGRUITY

The theory of atheism solves no problems but only multiplies unsolved mysteries. The acceptance of the existence of God as Creator of the world is like a magic key that fits all the facts of Scripture, revelation, knowledge and science. This irrefutable doctrine is held tenaciously by multitudes of souls who are willing both to live and die in the consolations of this assurance.

CONCLUSION

Atheism which is only giant doubt and unbelief can lead to darkness and despair for the one accepting it. Acceptance of *Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God..."* leads a sincere seeker into the path of a fuller revelation of God Himself. *Hebrews 11:6, "... for he who comes to God must believe that He is [exists]..."*

Let us come as children in simple faith, based on the revelation of God in Scripture and nature, believing and trusting Him completely.

5. Holiness - *Revelation 15:4; Acts 3:14; Luke 1:15*

6. Truth - *John 7:28; Revelation 3:7; 1 John 5:6*

7. Benevolent - *Romans 2:4; Ephesians 5:25; Nehemiah 9:20*

8. Communion - *1 John 1:3; 1 John 1:3; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

CONCLUSION

Do not be troubled if you cannot understand this perplexing doctrine.

"He who would try to understand the Trinity fully will lose his mind. But he who would deny the Trinity will lose his soul."- Lindsell and Woodbridge.

THE TRINITY

INTRODUCTION

So far we have learned that there is one God - the Creator of the world. *Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is One."* There is only one God.

A careful study of the Scriptures will show that God exists in three Persons, that is, a Godhead manifested in three Persons. *Colossians 2:9, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;"*

Objection: How can God be three Persons and one God at the same time? Would that not make three Gods, resembling pagan philosophy and contradicting *Deuteronomy 6:4*? Is the doctrine of the Trinity not incomprehensible and contrary to reason? *Isaiah 55:8-9* teaches us that human reason has no bearing in the study of God, *"⁸For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD. ⁹"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*

Neither the words "Trinity" nor "Triune God" can be found in the Scriptures.

7. In Glory:

God the Father is to eventually receive the millennial kingdom, *1 Corinthians 24*.

God the Son is the One who will change our vile body to one like His, *Philippians 2:5*

God the Spirit gives the invitation, *Revelation 22 :17*.

8. In Regeneration:

God the Father records the new name in glory, *Luke 10:20*.

God the Son cleanses the sin in His' precious blood, *Ephesians 1:7*.

God the Spirit performs the transforming miracle of the new birth, *John 3:3-6*.

THE TRINITY AND THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Attributes: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit

1. Eternal - *Psalm 90:2; Revelation 1:8,17; Hebrews 9:14*

2. Omnipotent - *1 Peter 1:5; 2; Corinthians 12:9; Romans 15:19*

3. Omniscient - *Jeremiah 17:10; Revelation 2:23; 1 Corinthians 2:11*

4. Omnipresent - *Jeremiah 23:24; Matthew 18:20; Psalm 139:7*

Compassionate - *1 Kings 8:23*.

Great - *2 Chronicles 2:5; Psalm 86:10*.

Unsearchable - *Job 11:7; Psalm 145:3*.

Invisible - *Job 23:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:17*.

Good - *Psalm 25:8; Psalm 119:68*.

Upright - *Psalm 25:8; Psalm 92:15*.

Immutable - *Psalm 102:26,27; James 1:17*.

Light - *Isaiah 60:19; 1 John 1:5*.

True - *Jeremiah 10 :10*.

Perfect - *Matthew 5 :48*.

Incorruptible - *Romans 1:23*.

Immortal - *1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16*.

Consuming Fire - *Hebrews 12 :29*.

None like Him - *Exodus 9 :14; Deuteronomy 33 :26*

CONCLUSION

Love Him. Worship Him. Serve Him. Obey Him. Fear Him.

The greatest proof for a Christian apart from Scripture of the existence of God is the daily fellowship we have with Him in prayer. Christians know that there is a God because we talked to Him today and He hears and answers the prayers of our heart though it is only whispered silently.

SCRIPTURE PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

The beauty and glory of the heaven and earth show and speak loudly saying, "God exists." *Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork."*

The Bible further suggests that creation even teaches about the eternal power of the Godhead. *Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,..."* The person who accepts Scripture will easily acknowledge the existence of God.

THE CONSCIENCE PROVES THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

Man is born with a universal belief in a Supreme Being; no tribe has yet been discovered that lacks this. They know that some Being creates and controls.

THE PERSON OF GOD

INTRODUCTION

The study of God has been the ambition of philosophers, etc., for millenniums. Some sit and meditate and try to think into the realm of the eternal Being. The only true knowledge about God can be gained from the Bible. *John 1:18, "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."*

1 John 4:12a, "No one has seen God at any time."

Exodus 33:20, God speaking to Moses, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."

Exodus 33:23, "Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."

Moses talked to God and saw a part of Him but did not see the Lord's face. Jesus who is God's Son came from heaven to reveal the Father God to us. Jesus speaking to Philip says that Jesus is the revelation of God. *John 14:7-11, "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."* ⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have

Romans 2:13-16, “¹³ for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; ¹⁴ for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them ¹⁶ in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” Acts 17:23-25, “²³ for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.” Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: ²⁴ God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. ²⁵ Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.”

Atheists may claim that their conscience does not tell about God. It is doubtful if a genuine atheist can be found for at best they are men who have stilled their conscience by blatant unbelief. Some men are so blind that they may deny the existence of the sun in the sky but that does not alter the fact that the sun exists, rises and sets each day.

I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”

Pagan wisdom says, “Man, know yourself,” but Jesus says, “Man, learn of the Father.” John 17:3, “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

GOD'S PERSONALITY

Personality is characterized by possessing knowledge, feeling and will power. An idol is devoid of personality for it neither knows, feels nor responds. Our God is an individual that is living and has definite characteristics. God is a Person. He is not an influence or unseen force or power like electricity.

Jeremiah 10:10, “But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.”

Acts 14:15, “. . . turn from these useless things to the living God, . . .”

God the Son offered Himself as our substitute, Hebrews 9 :14.

God the Spirit - Jesus offered Himself “through the eternal Spirit” Hebrews 9:14.

4. In Salvation:

God the Father received the prodigal from the far country, Luke 15:22. The Father welcomes the sinner, forgives him, supplies robes, rings and a feast. God the Son is the Shepherd that goes to seek the lost sheep, Luke 15:4.

God the Spirit seals the new convert, Ephesians 1 :13.

5. In Communion:

God the Father invites us to come to Him for fellowship, Ephesians 2:18.

God the Son is the reconciliation, 2 Corinthians 5 :19.

God the Spirit effects this union and communion, Ephesians 2 :18.

6. In Prayer:

God the Father is the One who receives the requests, John 16:23.

God the Son is the One in whose Name we pray, John 16:23.

God the Spirit directs us in our requests, Romans 8:26.

behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.” Daniel 2:20, “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His.” Job 42:22, “I know that You can do everything, and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.” Isaiah 40:28b, “There is no searching of His understanding.”

GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES

1. **God is Holy** - Exodus 15:11; 1 Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:16.

2. **God is Righteous** - Psalm 116:5; Ezra 9:15; Psalm 145:17; Jeremiah 12:1.

3. **God is Merciful** - Psalm 103 :81; Deuteronomy 4 :31; Psalm 86 :15; Romans 9 :18.

4. **God is Love** - 1 John 4:8-16; John 3:16; 1 John 3:16; John 16:27.

5. **God is Faithful** - 1 Corinthians 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:13; Deuteronomy 7:9; Deuteronomy 32:4.

Also God is

Glorious - Exodus 15:11; Psalm 145:5.

Gracious - Exodus 34:6; Psalm 116:5.

Longsuffering - Numbers 14:18; Micah 7:18.

Jealous - Josh. 24:19; Nahum 1:2.

difficult and complex problem. Because God is a Spirit and we are physical it is hard for us to comprehend God. God is infinite while we are finite. To attempt a philosophical explanation of the trinity of God is an attempt to put the facts of the infinite in finite terms.

We firmly believe that there is one God, eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE TRINITY ACTING IN UNITY

1. In Creation:

God the Father spoke. *Genesis 1:3, "And God said, Let there be light."* God the Son was the Word spoken, *John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word."* God the Holy Spirit moved upon the face of the waters, *Genesis 1:2; Job 26:12,13.*

2. In the Incarnation:

God the Father gave His only Son, *John 3:16.*

God the Son was born into the world, *Luke 2:11.*

God the Spirit came upon Mary to cause conception, *Luke 1:35.*

3. In Redemption:

God the Father accepted the sacrifice of Calvary, *Hebrews 9:14.*

None are so blind as those who refuse to see. The honest man will find that the inner still small voice says that God exists and is alive today. Men deny the existence of God not because they cannot find Him but because they are afraid to face the responsibility of being accountable to Him after death.

Atheism is one of the devil's tools to put men to sleep without accepting salvation. If there is no God then I am not responsible to anyone and I can live and die as I please. But in the quieter moments of reflection the conscience of every man whispers, "There is a God" and only fools deny it.

THE CAUSE ARGUMENT (COSMOLOGICAL)

The world is here. It must have come from somewhere. Somebody or something must have caused it to come into being at one time or another.

Here is a book. Someone must have written it. No printing press can of itself produce a book, be it ever so modern a press with the latest electrical gadgets. Someone built the building. Someone created the trees. Someone operates the universe. If all the pieces of a watch were placed in a can and the can shaken gently for a million years the watch would not be "accidentally" put

Jeremiah 32:27, "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?"

Certainly not, for He can do anything or everything.

4. He is present everywhere at one and the same time (omnipresent),

1 Kings 8:27, "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You..."

Psalms 139:7-9, "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,"

Jeremiah 23:23, "Am I a God near at hand," says the Lord, "And not a God afar off?"

Ephesians 1:23, "... which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

5. He has all knowledge (Omniscient).

Nothing is hidden from the Lord.

1 Chronicles 28:9, "... know the God of your father, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts."

2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on

1 Thessalonians 1:9, "... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God."

2 Chronicles 16:9, "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect. "The moving eyes denote life and personality unknown to idols or false gods." Psalm 94:11, "The Lord knows the thoughts of man, that they are futile."

GOD'S NATURE

God is a Spirit. A spirit is a ghost - it has neither flesh, bones nor blood.

Luke 24:39, "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

John 4:24, "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

1 Timothy 1:17, "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise,..."

1 Timothy 6:16, "who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see,..."

together and running.

The only sensitive answer to problem of the existence of the world is the existence of an intelligent Being whom we call God.

THE DESIGN ARGUMENT (TELEOLOGICAL)

A watch not only exists but it has a designer. It was planned for a specific purpose. A watch was not designed for mosquitoes to live in. It was designed by a keen mind for the purpose of accurately telling the time.

An examination of the world and the things large and small shows that each is designed by an intelligent mind for a specific purpose in life.

The colors of a bird and means of defense of the animals are not accidents. They are the result of a plan of a superior planning mind of the originator.

THE MORAL ARGUMENT (ANTHROPOLOGICAL)

Man has an intellectual and moral nature showing that the Creator must not be merely an inanimate force but a living, intelligent moral Being.

Genesis 1:26, "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;...'" Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He

2. Water - revealed in three forms - liquid, ice and steam, yet it is only H₂O.

3. Light - red heat rays that are invisible picturing the Father, yellow light rays that are seen picturing the Son, blue chemical rays that are seen by their effects, picturing the Spirit.

4. Business firm: (Smith & Co., three brothers, John, Henry and Peter) It is one firm with one name but each brother is head of a department. The three work together without friction as a single unit as does the Lord.

5. I am only one person but I can be revealed as three persons: My mother sees me as a son. She sees me differently from anyone else and I respond to her in a way that is different from my response to others. My children see me as a father and all that involves. The class sees me as a teacher which is a different relationship. I remain one person but I am revealed as a son, father and teacher at the same time. God is one indivisible God revealed in three separate Persons.

It must be emphasized that the Trinity remains a mystery and that no single illustration can possibly explain everything. However, I believe that we can use these various illustrations to throw some light on this

GOD'S UNITY

The Lord our God is one God in contrast to the plurality of pagan gods.

Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!"

Isaiah 44:6, "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last.' Besides Me there is no God."

Isaiah 45:21, "... and there is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me."

GOD'S NATURAL ATTRIBUTES

An attribute is a quality, property or unique characteristic of something. We reason that to be God, He must possess certain basic qualities. These include the following:

1. He is eternal.

To be the true God He must have neither beginning nor ending. An idol is disqualified for it was made by someone, thus it had a beginning.

Psalms 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

1 Timothy 1:17, "Now to the King eternal, immortal,

invisible,..." cf. Psalm 102:24,27; Isaiah 57:15.

Genesis 1:1 - "In the beginning God..." God has always existed.

2. He is unchangeable.

God is so constituted that He cannot change.

1 Samuel 15:29, "And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor relent. For He is not a man, that He should relent."

Malachi 3:6, "For I am the Lord, I do not change;..."

James. 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

3. He possesses all power (omnipotent).

To lack this He could not be God.

Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." - creative power.

Genesis. 1:3, "And God said, let there be light: and there was light." Power by speaking.

Man makes things out of existing materials. God creates out of non-existent materials, objects that are good and perfect.

Genesis 1:4, "It was good?"

Job 42:2, "I know that You can do everything,..."

Job speaking to God.

Psalms 33:9, "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast."