

This spiritual jingle made famous by the Gaither's in the early 70's, is a joyful expression of the deeper meaning of having become "born again", having been adopted as sons and daughters into "the Family of God." Among my goals as a teacher of God's Word is to reveal the greater significance of the concept of "the Family of God."

IF THERE IS A REALITY TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE FAMILY OF GOD ON EARTH, THEN THERE MUST ALSO BE A REALITY TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE FAMILY OF GOD IN HEAVEN ITSELF.

By that statement I am not merely referring to those believers who have died and since gone to Heaven, but rather that there has always existed "the <u>Divine</u> Family of God" long before anyone ever became "born again" and was adopted into the Family of God on earth. What I am saying is that the concept of God, of "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit", was always meant to be viewed as being a <u>pluralistic</u> Godhead consisting of three Divine persons comprising the members of the Family of God rather than a mystical "three-in-one" person image of God such as is being presented to God's people today. The real image of God is that of a pluralistic Divine family! It is important how you view God for it shapes how one is able to interact with Him. I want to convince you that the scriptures consistently present God in three Divine persons, as an eternal Godhead working in unison to seek to be "about Father's business" namely, to develop the growth of the Family of God on earth. Listen to the apostle

John: "BEHOLD WHAT MANNER OF LOVE THE FATHER HAS BESTOWED ON US,
THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD!

...BELOVED, NOW WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD;

AND IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REVEALED WHAT WE SHALL BE,
BUT WE KNOW THAT WHEN HE IS REVEALED,
WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM, FOR WE SHALL SEE HIM AS HE IS."



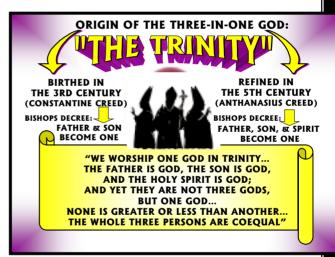
1 John 3:1-3

What is your theological view of God? Who is God to you? It is well supported that "one's doctrines dictate one's deeds." So does one's view of God impact our deeds as His followers! How you see God will greatly impact your ability to respond to proper spiritual aspirations that He has in mind for you. Since it is true that "no one can rise above the level of his vision", what is your vision of God, from what source did you get that revelation? Is it from the Word of God or from the handed-down cherished traditions of men?

I ask these questions in light of the fact that in the United States alone we have over 450 different sects and denominations of professing Christianity, most of which differ with each other based on how they view God. We have the "Jesus Only" sect stating that Jesus alone is everything there is to God. We have the "Jehovah Witnesses" sect stating that "Jehovah" alone is God. We even have the Jews with their narrow "one God" theology of Deuteronomy Chapter Six (the Shema) that they believe emphatically states, "There is only one God" and therefore "God has no Son!" We have the bizarre sect of Mormonism that believe all faithful Temple Mormons can achieve to eternal Godhead status, just like their founder Joseph Smith, by the performance of good works.

Then we also have widespread acceptance of a warped theological Christian view of the Trinity in which we have only "one God", but who can mystically appear in any of His three chosen forms, God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. We are supposed to trust that this form of God is really simple: like an egg-one egg but with 3 parts".

If you believe that this "3-in-1" mystical egg position of the Trinity is the real God of Christianity, then you may be surprised to learn that its origins are not "Christian" at all, but are from the progressive traditions of ancient Catholicism! Look up the "Constantine Creed" of the 3rd Century where the Bishops of Catholicism decreed that the Father and the Son are now "one God." Later, in the 5th Century, they modified that position in the Anthanasius Creed declaring that now it is the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit that are one and the same ("3-in-1") person.



However, the Apostle Paul did not believe such a mystical presentation of the Trinity, nor was it ever taught by Jesus or His apostles, or any of the early church fathers all the way up to the third century! This "3-in-1" formation of the Trinity is the product of Catholic tradition which was carried over into Protestantism under Martin Luther, an ex-Catholic Monk.

The point to be made is that most of the Christian scholars who have rejected the "Jesus only" sect, the "Jehovah only" sect, the Jewish "One God" sect, "GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME, CHERISHED TRADITIONS BECOME DOGMATIC BELIEFS" (the Coming Caesars by Amaury de Reincourt)

have all widely accepted Catholicism's view of the Trinity as a "3-in-1" God. Though widely endorsed by Christianity today, this is **NOT** the proper biblical view of God presented in the Scriptures. Embrace it if you like, but it will severely impact how you are able to interact with God and His Word.



French Historian, Amaury de Reincourt

WHICH DO YOU BELIEVE TO BE CORRECT?

This is **NOT** the biblical portrayal of Christianity!

Rather this is the handeddown tradition of men, not the image of God as pictured in the Word of God! A DIVINE
TRINITY

"WORSHIP ONE GOD IN TRINITY...

IN TRINITY...
THE FATHER IS GOD,
THE SON IS GOD,
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD;
AND YET THEY ARE
NOT THREE GODS,
BUT ONE GOD...
NONE IS GREATER
OR LESS THAN
ANOTHER...

THE

WHOLE

THREE PERSONS

COEQUAL"

TRADITION-BASED

A DIVINE

GODHEAD

WORSHIP "ELOHIM" AS A TRIUNE GODHEAD, A DIVINE ETERNAL FAMILY:
GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, GOD THE SPIRIT.

RATHER THAN A "THREE-INONE" GOD, SCRIPTURE
DEPICTS A DIVINE FAMILY
OF THREE COETERNAL
PERSONAGES FUNCTIONING
IN PERFECT ONENESS OF
AGREEMENT WITH EACH
ANOTHER. ALTHOUGH ALL
ARE DIVINE PERSONAGES,
THEY ARE NOT COEQUAL IN
POSITION AND AUTHORITY

SCRIPTURE-BASED

This **IS** how Christianity should be displayed.

This is the proper image of the Triune Godhead as found throughout God's Word!

Paul gives stern warning to the saints pertaining to the danger of embracing things like "the tradition of men" as being able to cheat (rob) the believer of the revelation of "the fullness of the Godhead":

"BEWARE LEST ANYONE CHEAT YOU
THROUGH PHILOSOPHY AND EMPTY DECEIT,
ACCORDING TO THE TRADITION OF MEN,
ACCORDING TO THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD,
AND NOT ACCORDING TO CHRIST.

FOR IN HIM DWELLS ALL <u>the fullness of the godhead</u> bodily..."

" FOR IT PLEASED THE FATHER THAT IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS SHOULD DWELL..."

The Jews with their cherished man-made traditions, emphatically preach that there is only "one God", but the weight of their own scriptures prove otherwise. There are 2,197 times in the Old Testament where "God" is singled out as being "Elohim", a plural noun in which God refers to Himself with terms such as "we", "us" and "our". Rabbinical Judaism dismisses this controversy with God's name "Elohim" by miss-applying it to the concept of God having "plurality in majesty" rather than literal plurality in existence. However, the fact that God applies it to Himself in many verses such as these below show that it is a forced analogy by Rabbinical Judaism to support their dogmatic "one God" position.

2,197 TIMES
IN THE TORAH

"THE WORD FOR GOD IN THE HEBREW THAT IS MOST OFTEN USED IS ELOHIM. IT IS A PLURAL NOUN. TODAY IT IS POPULAR TO SAY IT MEANS PLURAL OF MAJESTY. HOWEVER, THE FORM OF THE WORD, ELOH-IM, IS PLURAL."

http://www.letusreason.org/trin3.htm

"THEN GOD SAID, "THEN THE LORD GOD SAID, BEHOLD, THE MAN 'LET US HAS BECOME LIKE **MAKE MAN** IN OUR IMAGE, ONE OF US, **ACCORDING TO** KNOWING GOOD **OUR LIKENESS'"** AND EVIL...'" **ELOHIM**® Gen. 1:26 Gen. 3:22 PLURAL

NOUN

"AND THE LORD SAID,
'LET US
GO DOWN AND THERE
CONFUSE THEIR
LANGUAGE..."

Gen. 11:17

"AND I HEARD THE VOICE
OF THE LORD SAYING:
"WHOM SHALL I SEND,
AND WHO WILL GO
FOR US?""
Isa. 6:8

The dismissing

of the plurality of God as "Elohim" is pathetic rationalization in Judaism as it is in Protestantism with its equally lame 3-in-one egg analogy. God in the Old Testament, as well as in the New Testament, is a pluralistic concept! It is a Triune Godhead! A Divine Family!

WHO IS GOD TO YOU?

What do you expect to see sitting on the Throne of Heaven when you finally get there? Will it be "one God" on one throne? Your answer must be "yes" if you presently endorse the concept of a "3-in-1" Trinity God capable of appearing as three different personages but in reality is "one God."



If that is what you expect to see, would not any and all such visions recorded in God's Word support the "one God" image you expect to see? However, what if every depiction found in the Word of God that give us glimpses into Heaven itself showed God in plural form?

(Father and Son together)

One vivid way to prove that God exists as a plural Godhead is to examine the very examples of literal visions into Heaven that have been recorded in God's Word. You've heard the saying, "What you see is what you get." What image of God is revealed in the glimpses we have recorded in God's Word? Is it a "one God" vision or is it a plural revelation of God? Let us look:

THE VISION OF DANIEL THE PROPHET:

"I WATCHED TILL THRONES WERE PUT IN PLACE, AND <u>THE ANCIENT OF DAYS</u> WAS SEATED; HIS GARMENT WAS WHITE AS SNOW, AND THE HAIR OF HIS HEAD WAS LIKE PURE WOOL. HIS THRONE WAS A FIERY FLAME, ITS WHEELS A BURNING FIRE; A FIERY STREAM ISSUED AND CAME FORTH FROM BEFORE HIM. A THOUSAND THOUSANDS MINISTERED TO HIM; TEN THOUSAND TIMES TEN THOUSAND STOOD BEFORE HIM. THE COURT WAS SEATED, AND THE BOOKS WERE OPENED... "I WAS WATCHING IN THE NIGHT VISIONS AND BEHOLD, ONE LIKE <u>THE SON OF MAN</u>, COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN! HE CAME TO THE ANCIENT OF DAYS, AND THEY BROUGHT HIM NEAR BEFORE HIM. THEN TO HIM WAS GIVEN DOMINION AND GLORY AND A KINGDOM, THAT ALL PEOPLES, NATIONS, AND LANGUAGES SHOULD SERVE HIM. HIS DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, WHICH SHALL NOT PASS AWAY, AND HIS KINGDOM THE ONE WHICH SHALL NOT BE DESTROYED." Dan 7:9-14

("The Ancient of Days" obviously is God the Father sitting on His glorious throne. Brought to Him in this Heavenly vision is "the Son of Man", which is the Father's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is given "dominion, glory and a kingdom" of His own that will not pass away. Daniel makes a distinction revealing the visible plurality of the Godhead as "...He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him (the Son) near before Him (the Father. ")

THE VISION OF JOHN THE APOSTLE:

"...I WAS IN THE SPIRIT; AND BEHOLD, A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN, AND ONE SAT ON THE THRONE. AND HE WHO SAT THERE WAS LIKE A JASPER AND A SARDIUS STONE IN APPEARANCE; AND THERE WAS A RAINBOW AROUND THE THRONE ...SEVEN LAMPS OF FIRE WERE BURNING BEFORE THE THRONE, WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD...GIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND THANKS TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, WHO LIVES FOREVER ... BEHOLD, THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, THE ROOT OF DAVID, HAS PREVAILED TO OPEN THE SCROLL AND TO LOOSE ITS SEVEN SEALS." AND I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE... STOOD A LAMB AS THOUGH IT HAD BEEN SLAIN, HAVING SEVEN HORNS AND SEVEN EYES, WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD SENT OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH. THEN HE CAME AND TOOK THE SCROLL OUT OF THE RIGHT HAND OF HIM WHO SAT ON THE THRONE.

Rev. 4:2-5:6 excerpts

(Contained in these verses from Revelation 4 and 5 is not only a vision of a throne in heaven similar to Daniel's vision above, but this time we have all three persons of the Godhead in the same room at the same moment. He who "sits on the throne" is the same personage Daniel saw in his vision, the "Ancient of Days (God the Father). As in Daniel's vision one like "the Son of Man" is brought before Him. This time it is one whose appearance is " as a lamb as through it had been slain." This is obviously the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Notice the third person of the Godhead is also visible in the room as well. It is "the seven spirits of God...sent into all the earth." Obviously, this is the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead.)

THE VISION OF STEPHEN THE EVANGELIST:

"...BUT HE, BEING FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GAZED INTO HEAVEN AND SAW THE GLORY OF GOD, AND JESUS STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD, AND SAID,
"LOOK! I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED AND
THE SON OF MAN STANDING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD!"

Acts 7:55-56

(Stephen, while being martyred, is shown by His God, "the glory of God." What did he see? He was shown the plural Godhead consisting of Father God and the Son of Man standing at His right hand. No "single God" shown here, but rather Father and Son together in Heaven.)

Not only do all visions of Heaven contain pictures of The Father and His Son together, either standing or sitting side by side, but we also have "Word pictures" pertaining to dual thrones existing in Heaven. Jesus Himself describes the literal existence of both *His Throne* and *His Father's Throne* in saying:

"TO HIM WHO OVERCOMES I WILL GRANT TO SIT WITH ME ON MY THRONE,
AS I ALSO OVERCAME AND SAT DOWN WITH MY FATHER ON HIS THRONE."
HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES."

Rev 3:21-22

"Church", are you hearing what the Spirit has said?

There is not a "one throne" in heaven holding "one God" on it as the erroneous "3-in-1" Trinity concept depicts, but rather Jesus describes two thrones in Heaven, that of the Father's throne and that of the Son's throne. Jesus doesn't offer to overcoming believers to "sit on the Father's throne", but on a throne belonging specifically to the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Again, plurality in the God head and plurality of thrones in Heaven.

We can add to the above "Word picture" of thrones Paul's description of the Godhead in Heaven as stated in Hebrews:



...BUT <u>TO THE SON</u> HE SAYS:

'YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER;

A SCEPTER OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

IS THE SCEPTER OF YOUR KINGDOM.

YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS;

THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD,

HAS ANOINTED YOU...'"

Heb 1: 3-4, 8-10

Fathe'

In the opening statement above, Paul describes Jesus, the Son of God, having purged us of our sins, He "sits down on at the right hand of the Majesty on high." Obviously, the "Majesty on High" refers to God the Father sitting on His throne. Next to the Father we have the Son sitting at His right hand. Again, Father on one throne and the Son on another throne. This is supported by the verses that follow in which the Father says to the Son, "Your throne, o God, is forever and ever..." **WOW!** The Father calls His Son, "O God." Where is the Son sitting? Sitting on "Your throne" which is on the right hand of the "Father's throne".

The last statement is a real zinger: "THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU..."
How much more evidence do you need dear reader, for substantiating the existence of the plurality of the Godhead sitting on dual thrones? In these passages from Heb. 1:3-10, Father "God" not only twice calls His Son "God", but says His throne will remain forever.



The Godhead of scripture is not "co-equal" in position or in authority although as we have seen, all three are indeed God ("Elohim"-"we", "us", "our").

There is a hierarchy in the Divine Family of God according to scripture. God the Father "is greater than all" (Jn.10:28). Jesus, the Son of God clearly states, "The Father is greater than I" (Jn.14:28). Jesus said of the Holy Spirit, "He will not speak on His own authority...He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to **VOU...**" (Jn. 16:13-15)

erroneous "3-in-1" Trinity that declares all three persons of the Godhead are "co-equal." If they are co-equal, then the Holy Spirit must also have a throne. I have clearly stated that although they are all Divine, they are **NOT** equal in position or authority! Jesus Himself said of the Father. "the Father is greater than I " (Jn.14:28) and "He who is sent is not greater than he who sent him" (Jn.13:16). There is a hierarchy in the Godhead of the Father over the Son, and the Son over the Holy Spirit.





Read John 14 through John 16 and you will see Jesus revealing that the Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself, but He speaks of Jesus. Likewise, Jesus did not speak on His own authority, but He spoke the words the Father gave Him. This whole story is about submission within the Godhead as a pattern for us as His children to follow! Grasp this Divine pattern of absolute submission of the Godhead to one another for it is to become a pattern of submission for every believer to follow.

I can assure you that the concept birthed out of Catholicism of "the Trinity" as a "one God" image in Heaven does not convey one iota of the Triune Godhead described above in the scriptures we have considered. There is no pattern of Divine submission in a "3-in-1" Trinity that we on earth can follow or emulate. It is rather a mystical pattern of absolute confusion and conflict within. Only God as "Elohim", the true Divine Family of God, is a pluralistic Godhead in which each "God" is in a Divine order of submission to God the Father can be a clear pattern for every believer on earth.

There is a great prophetic type and shadow of this hierarchy of the Godhead found in the Old Testament story of "Father Abraham" who wanted a pure bride for his son Isaac. Therefore, he sent his "nameless servant" out among the people of God to search for a proper bride for his son. In the story, the servant offered gifts to Isaac's to-be wife. Upon acceptance of the servant's gifts, the bride-to-be was taken and presented to be wed to Isaac. Likewise, God the Father has sent out His "nameless servant" (the Holy Spirit) to find a pure bride for the Father's Son, Jesus Christ. Are you interested? This is an amazing love story of the Divine Family of God courting the Family of God on earth.

THE DIVINE FAMILY OF GOD

GOD

THE FATHER

This "love story" permeates the Word of God if your eyes are open to see the Divine Family of God wooing its members on earth to prepare for a wedding like no other. Listen to the invitation of the Triune Godhead:

"...THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IS LIKE A CERTAIN KING WHO ARRANGED A MARRIAGE FOR HIS SON, AND SENT OUT HIS SERVANTS TO CALL THOSE WHO WERE INVITED TO THE WEDDING..." Matt 22:1-3

"HE WHO OVERCOMES,
I WILL MAKE HIM A PILLAR IN THE TEMPLE OF MY GOD...
I WILL WRITE ON HIM THE NAME OF MY GOD
AND THE NAME OF THE CITY OF MY GOD, THE NEW JERUSALEM,
WHICH COMES DOWN OUT OF HEAVEN FROM MY GOD.
AND I WILL WRITE ON HIM MY NEW NAME.

"HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT
THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES." Rev 3:12-13

"...AND THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE
SAY, "COME!"
AND LET HIM WHO HEARS SAY, "COME!"

AND LET HIM WHO THIRSTS COME..." Rev. 22:17

"LET US BE GLAD AND REJOICE AND GIVE HIM GLORY,
FOR THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB HAS COME,
AND HIS WIFE HAS MADE HERSELF READY."

AND TO HER IT WAS GRANTED TO BE ARRAYED IN FINE LINEN,
CLEAN AND BRIGHT, FOR THE FINE LINEN IS
THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS OF THE SAINTS...
'BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE CALLED TO
THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB!'"

AND HE SAID TO ME,
"THESE ARE THE TRUE SAYINGS OF GOD." Rev. 19:7-9

THE RESPONSIVE BRIDE TAKEN FROM THE FAMILY OF GOD ON EARTH

There are many such "love stories" in God 's Word. The Godhead, when properly embraced as I have sought to present it to you, will become a prime focus for you to put inspiration and encouragement into your walk with God. Ultimately, God is your Father and He wants to be seen as such. When Jesus came to earth all He wanted to talk about was His Father. Don't believe that is true? Just take the Gospel of John and underline every time Jesus made reference to His Father. You will be shocked beyond measure.

Below is but a portion of Jesus' prayer to His Father in Heaven. I pray you can see this is not a prayer from a "3-in-1" God who in essence would be praying to Himself as the Father, but a heart-felt prayer of a dedicated Son on earth to His Heavenly Father:

"JESUS SPOKE THESE WORDS, LIFTED UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, AND SAID:
"FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME. GLORIFY YOUR SON, THAT YOUR SON ALSO MAY GLORIFY
YOU, AS YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY OVER ALL FLESH, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE
ETERNAL LIFE TO AS MANY AS YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM. AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE,
THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE
SENT. I HAVE GLORIFIED YOU ON THE EARTH. I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK WHICH YOU HAVE
GIVEN ME TO DO. AND NOW, O FATHER, GLORIFY ME TOGETHER WITH YOURSELF,
WITH THE GLORY WHICH I HAD WITH YOU BEFORE THE WORLD WAS." Jn. 17:3-5

"DO I BELIEVE IN A "3-IN-1" TRINITY

IN WHICH GOD THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE "ONE GOD"? DO I BELIEVE THAT THESE ARE NOT THREE INDIVIDUALS BUT RATHER ARE "ONE GOD"? DO I BELIEVE NONE OF THE THREE TO BE GREATER OR LESSER THAN ANOTHER? DO I BELIEVE THAT THE WHOLE THREE PERSONAGES

ARE COEOUAL IN POSITION AND AUTHORITY?"

This would be Paul's answer to the above

the Apostle Paul

"...THEN COMES THE END, WHEN HE (Jesus the Son) DELIVERS THE KINGDOM TO GOD THE FATHER. WHEN HE PUTS AN END TO ALL RULE AND ALL AUTHORITY AND POWER. FOR HE MUST REIGN TILL HE HAS PUT ALL ENEMIES UNDER HIS FEET. THE LAST ENEMY THAT WILL BE DESTROYED IS DEATH. FOR "HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIS FEET." BUT WHEN HE SAYS "ALL THINGS ARE PUT UNDER HIM,"

IT IS EVIDENT THAT HE WHO PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIM IS EXCEPTED. NOW WHEN ALL THINGS ARE MADE SUBJECT TO HIM (the Father), THEN THE SON HIMSELF WILL ALSO BE SUBJECT TO HIM (the Father) WHO PUT ALL THINGS UNDER HIM.

THAT GOD (the Father) MAY BE ALL IN ALL."

1 Cor 15:24-28

In addition to the above statement of Paul, consider also his dissertation on the Triune Godhead as stated in Ephesians Chapter Three, verses 14-20. Notice Paul identifies this heavenly version as well as the version on earth to best represent "the whole family of God." I also draw your attention to the fact that it is "Father God" which is given the preeminence by Paul as the head of both families! Study this diagram well and your understanding of God will be "well" also!

