

EM LIVING LIFE (3) TRINITY

(20.09.15)

(1) HOW IMPORTANT IS IT?

1. Doctrine that makes Christianity _____

A. Athanasian Creed (ca. AD 500)

"Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic faith; which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither blending their persons, nor dividing their essence."

B. Islam

"Say not "Trinity." Desist; it will be better for you: for God is one God. Glory be to Him (far exalted in He) above having a son." - Surah 4.171

"Say: "He, Allah, is One. Allah is He on Whom all depend. He begets not, nor is He begotten. And none is like Him." - Surah 112

(2) WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

1. Westminster Shorter Catechism

A. Q5) Are there more Gods than one?

A) There is but one only,¹ the living and true God

B. Q6) How many persons are there in the God-head?

A) There are three persons in the Godhead: the father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost ² and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory ³.

2. There is _____ true and living God

A. Central confession of _____

• (1Kgs 8:60; Ps 96:4-5)

• (Isa 43:10-11; 44:6-8; 45:5-6, 18)

• (Deut 6:4-5; Mk 12:29-31)

• (Jas 2:19; 1Cor 8:4-6; 1Tim 1:17)

3. There is _____ within the Godhead

A. Hebrew word most commonly used for "God:" _____

B. (Gen 1:26; 3:22; 11:6-7; Isa 6:8)

C. (Gen 1:26-27)

4. There are _____ distinct _____ within the Godhead

A. The Father

- Scripture
 - (Matt 6:9; 17:1-3)
 - (1Cor 8:5-6; Phil 1:2; 2:11)
 - (1Pet 1:2)
 - (1Jn 5:1; 2Jn 1:3)
- Attributes of deity
 - (Gen 1:1)
 - (1Jn 3:20)
 - (1Kgs 8:27)

B. The Son

- Scripture
 - (Isa 9:6-7)
 - (Phil 2:6-11; Isa 45:23)
- Attributes of deity
 - (Jn 1:3; Mk 2:1-12; 4:39; Ps 107:29)
 - (Jn 2:24; 16:30; 21:17)
 - (Matt 28:20)
 - (Jn 1:1)
- (Jn 1:1-4)
- (Rom 9:5; Titus 2:13)
- (Col 1:17; Heb 1:3)
- (Jn 20:28)
- (Mk 6:50; Jn 8:58)
- (Jn10:30,34)

C. The Spirit

- He is _____
 - (J 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7)
 - (1Cor 2:11)
- Attributes of deity
 - (Lk 1:35-37)
 - (1Cor 2:10-11)
- _____ with God
 - (Mk 3:28-29)
- (Eph 4:30)
- (1Cor 12:11)
- (Ps 139:7-10)
- (Heb 9:14)
- (Acts 5:3-4)

5. The three are _____, _____ in power and glory

A. (Mk 1:9-11)

C. (Matt 28:19)

B. (Eph 2:18)

D. (Num. 6:24-27; 2Cor 13:14)

6. Inescapable Conclusion

A. Key Formulation: one in _____, three in _____

"When speaking of the Trinity, we need to realize that we are talking about one *what* and three *who's*. The one *what* is the Being or essence of God; the three *who's* are the Father, Son, and Spirit. We dare not mix up the *what's* and *who's* regarding the Trinity." – James White

(3) WHY DOES IT MATTER?

1. Trinity matters for knowing _____

A. Two Obstacles: (1) We are _____ (2) We are _____ (Rom 1:21; Eph 4:17-18)

B. Only the Triune God can overcome these problems

- (Jn 1:18; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:3)
- (Jn 15:26; 16:13; 1Cor 2:11; 1Tim 3:16; 2Pet. 1:21; Eph 1:17-18)

2. Trinity matters for _____

A. Trinitarian shape of the gospel

- (Eph 1:5-6) The Father _____
 - (Eph 1:11-12) The Son _____
 - (Eph 1:13-14) The Spirit _____
- } (Eph 2:18)

3. Trinity matters for _____

- A. God is a triune community (Jn 17:20-26)
- B. We are made in the image of the triune community (Gen 1:26-27)
- C. Sin breaks this image of the triune community (Gen 3, 4)
- D. We are remade in the image of the triune community (1Cor 12:12-27; Eph 4:1-16)

4. Trinity matters for _____

- A. (Eph 4:16; 1:4-5)
- B. (1 Jn 4:8)

(4) TRINITARIAN ERRORS TO AVOID

1. Errors

- A. Tri-theism
- B. Modalism
 - One God who displays Himself in three different _____ at different times

2. Shield of the Trinity