

QUESTION 6

When it comes down to it, the Trinity is a mystery. We cannot fully understand it but accept it by faith.

We have to be careful what illustrations we use to explain the Trinity. None is adequate and can easily produce more confusion.

We do however make certain statements concerning this doctrine:

- There is only one God.
- That One God eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The Bible speaks of the Father as God (**Philippians 1:2**), Jesus as God (**Titus 2:13**), and the Holy Spirit as God (**Acts 5:3-4**).
- The Trinity does not divide God into three parts. The Bible is clear that all three Persons are each one hundred percent God (e.g. **Colossians 2:9**).

How is God one? He is one in essence. How is God three? He is three in Person.

Examples of the Godhead at work:

In Creation

The creation of the world involved all three persons of the Godhead. God the Father spoke the creative words (**Genesis 1:1**), God the Son carried out those words (e.g. **John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2**) and God the Spirit was active moving over the face of the earth (**Genesis 1:2**). And so we say that God created the heavens and the earth.

In Redemption

In redemption the Father planned it; the Son effected it; and the Spirit applied it.

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 7

QUESTION 1

There are two strong links with the previous verses.

Firstly; Jesus' statement that the disciples are to obey "*my commandments*".

This reinforces what He has already said; that He is God.

Secondly; we see that the relationship between love and obedience is so important that Jesus repeats it in verses 21 & 23, and then states the negative side of it in verse 24.

Love for Christ will result in a life of obedience to Him. A life of obedience enables us to pray properly for His work and His glory. That links in with verses 12-14 we looked at in the last study.

QUESTION 2

Firstly; He is 'another'.

This word in the Greek refers to one of the same kind. Jesus was the first 'Helper'; the Spirit will continue Jesus' work in, to, and through His disciples.

Secondly; the Holy Spirit is a person.

There is often a misunderstanding that the Holy Spirit is some sort of force. Jesus shows that like the Father and Son, the Spirit is a person. He is 'another'.

The Holy Spirit is able to be resisted (**Acts 7:51**), grieved (**Ephesians 4:30**), offended (**Hebrews 10:29**) and in the benediction in **2 Corinthians 13:14** we can know fellowship with Him.

Thirdly; the Holy Spirit would be with them forever.

The divine presence is permanent. If we sin we grieve the Spirit; but we don't lose the Spirit. He doesn't come and go.

QUESTION 3

- a) The Greek word 'paraklete' unfortunately does not have an equivalent English word. It is however generally translated as 'one called alongside to help'.
- b) 'Counsellor' here does not refer to someone who acts like a therapist. Rather it has legal connotations.
- c) The margin note in the ESV offers the word 'advocate'. The Holy Spirit acts on our behalf: presenting the truth; defending us.
- d) We can also include the terms helper, comforter, intercessor, encourager and advocate when naming the Holy Spirit.
- e) Here we begin to see the ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is enlarged throughout the next few chapters. The Holy Spirit sustains and strengthens the disciples (**14:16-17**); reveals Christ (**15:26**); convicts sinners (**16:7-11**); and guides the disciples into all truth and teaches (**16:13-15**).

QUESTION 4

- a) This emphasises His ministry in revealing spiritual truth. It also emphasises the 'Trinity' or 'Godhead'.
- b) Jesus described himself as 'the truth' in verse 6. Back in **Isaiah 65:16** the Father is the God of truth. Now here we have the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth.
- c) Jesus didn't give a complicated lecture on the Trinity; He simply spoke of how the Persons of the Trinity interact and work for the good of God's people and the furtherance of His plan.

QUESTION 5

- a) There are three explanations put forward to explain what Jesus was referring to: the Resurrection – Pentecost - The Second Coming.
- b) Arguments have been made for each of these; and also for a combinations of all of them.
- c) Bearing in mind the context of what Jesus is saying, we can continue to associate Jesus words with the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- d) Notice how closely Jesus relates His own presence with that of the Holy Spirit. Again the emphasis is on the Trinity. Jesus will come back to them in the Spirit (see **verse 20** in particular).
- e) After Pentecost they will fully understand the relationship between the Father and Son.
- f) Through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit believers are united with Jesus. *"The Spirit reveals the Christ, glorifies Him, applies His merits to the hearts of believers, makes His teachings effective in their lives. Hence, when the Spirit is poured out, Christ truly returns"* (William Hendricksen).