



Father, Son, and Holy Ghost



An egg is composed of the shell, the white stuff, and the yolk. In a three-leaf clover, all three leaves are a part of the one clover stalk. There are three forms of H₂O: water, ice, and steam. Finally, a human being consists of mind, heart, and body. 'Trinity', one nature but three distinguishable forms, is all around us.

Rich in Mercy

My dad taught me how to swim and how to shoot a gun. At the age of seven he walked with me to my primary school and was present at many school meetings during the years of my elementary education. He built a house for our family and for years was our only breadwinner. He constantly proved his love for us.

The entire Old Testament is dedicated to God as the Father. He creates the universe, chooses Abraham, and delivers his descendants from slavery in Egypt. He leads them through the desert to the land of milk and honey, and constantly lavishes upon them all sorts of blessings. No wonder, the book of Deuteronomy asks these two rhetorical questions:

(1) *Did any people ever hear the voice of a god speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and still live?*

(2) *has any god ever attempted to go and take a nation for himself from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, and by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great deeds of terror, all of which the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? (Deut 4:33-34).*

However, the New Testament goes even further. God is not only concerned with one nation but with the whole world. "God so loved the world that He gave His

The Gospel

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them.

And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age".

(Matt 28:16-20)



In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

only Son” (John 3:16). He does not only liberate from worldly slavery but from the power of sin and death. “God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ” (Eph 2:4-5).

Through Him and For Him

The atheists say that there is no god and the Muslims insist that God does not have a son. If it was true, then there would not be any atheist nor any Muslim. The universe cannot be explained without God and a lonely God is incapable of creating the universe.

In the story of creation (Gen 1:1-2:4) thoughts become things through words. The refrain, “and God said” followed by “and it was so”, is repeated eight times in that story. God spoke His creative word and things came into being. The Gospel of John reveals to us that this creative word is God’s Son:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made (John 1:1-3).

It is this Word that became flesh and lived among us (John 1:14). That is the reason why we, the people of the New Testament, worship the Son. The Gospel of Luke, uses the same term, ‘Lord’, for the Father and the Son. Mary is the servant of the Lord - the Father (Lk 1:39) and the mother of the Lord - the Son (Lk 1:43). The shepherds hear from the angel of the Lord - the Father (Lk 2:9) the good news about the birth of Christ, the Lord - the Son (Lk 2:11). The magi from the East worshiped Jesus at Christmas (Matt 2:11) and apostle Paul writes that “at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:10-11).

Transformed by the Spirit

I was sitting in a protestant church and listening to a pastor calling people to make a decision for Christ. “This the most important decision you will ever make in your life, brother”, he said to one of

them. Two weeks later, this brother was back to his old worldly pattern of life. He had good intentions but lacked the Spirit of God.

Peter spent years with Jesus, yet he was fearful, did not understand the Master’s teaching and at the end miserably failed by denying the Lord. But, when the Spirit fell on him, he became a different man. It is the Spirit that brings radical change. Empowered by Him, the prophets boldly challenged the mighty of this world and the disciples of Jesus are willing to lay down their lives for their faith. Saul, the persecutor of the Way, became Paul, the missionary for the Way. The Spirit replaces the fear of God with the love of God and the law with His fruits, such as “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Gal 5:22-23).

The Spirit is not an impersonal power of God. He leads the Church to right decisions about faith and morals (see Acts 15:28). He guides the Church in preaching the Gospel (see Acts 8:39-40; 16:6-7). The New Testament even recorded the words spoken by Him during the prayer at Antioch: “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them” (Acts 13:2). According to prophet Isaiah, the people of the Old Testament “rebelled and grieved God’s Holy Spirit” (Is 63:10). Therefore, we are told: “do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Eph 4:30). One can only grieve a person.

Conclusion

Today, I wish to ask you these questions:

- (1) Did any people ever know a god so rich in mercy like our Heavenly Father?
- (2) Has any god attempted to come into this world, live among us, and offer His own life for us, all of which the Son of God did for us?
- (3) Has any god ever tried to sanctify and adopt human beings as His own children, as the Spirit of God did for us?

The Holy Trinity is One God and there is no other. Therefore, we shall be grateful for the Spirit of adoption, love our Heavenly Daddy, and live up to our new identity of being brothers and sisters of Christ, the Lord.