* Are We Right About The Trinity?
* We have a big problem
  + Every cult attacks it
    - Often the FIRST place they go.
    - JW
    - Mormons
    - Islam
    - Mother God Cult
    - Christian Science
    - Oneness Pentecostals
    - Black Hebrew Israelites
    - Unitarian groups
  + Any they can run circles around most Christians.
  + Christians don’t know it!
* **Questions**
  + 1 Why isn’t the word Trinity found in the Bible?
    - Because it’s not biblical
    - I thought you believed the Bible!
  + 2 Jesus said the Father was the only true God!
    - ***John 17:3 (ESV) 3And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.***
    - So He can’t be God
  + 3 Obviously, Jesus isn’t God because He said “My Father is greater than I”
    - ***John 14:28 (ESV) 28You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*** 
      * How can God be greater than God?
  + 4 Was God praying to God?
  + 5 How can Jesus be God if He is God’s Son?
  + 6 But Colossians says that Jesus is just the first creation of God!
    - “Jesus was the first and greatest being created by God the Father” (78%)
    - ***Colossians 1:15 (ESV) 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.***
  + 7 Why didn’t Jesus say “I am God”
* I want to establish and explain the **doctrine** of the Trinity and then answer those **questions**.
* The doctrine
  + Monotheism – generally this isn’t a problem for people
    - ***Isaiah 43:10 (ESV) 10“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.***
    - ***Isaiah 44:6–8 (ESV) 6Thus 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. 7Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”***
    - ***Isaiah 45:21–22 (ESV) 21Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. 22“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.***
    - If you have a view of God that compromises this, something is wrong.
      * The Trinity does NOT
  + Three in one (TRI-UNITY)
    - Not three gods in one god
    - One WHAT Three WHOS
      * What – essence or being of God
        + There is just one God
      * Whos – persons
        + Father, Son, Holy Spirit
        + Share in the same Being
      * “Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally, three co-equal and co-eternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” (Forgotten Trinity, 26)
* Scriptural support
  + The Father is God
    - ***1 Peter 1:2 “God the Father”***
    - But not the Son
      * ***Matthew 3:16–17 (ESV) 16And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”***
    - Most will agree
  + Jesus is God
    - ***Colossians 2:8–9 (ESV) 8See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. 9For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*** 
      * “godhead” is essence of deity
        + Not 100% God and 100% man
        + Truly God and truly man
    - ***Titus 2:13 (ESV) 13waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,*** 
      * Granville Sharp’s rule – when two substantives agree in gender, number and case, are connected with “kai” and only the first has the definite article, they are referring to the same person. If these substantives are singular, personal and not proper names it works 100% of the time.
        + **LINK** – Granville Sharp’s rule explained with examples <https://youtu.be/nnh_gFv1zFc>
    - ***2 Peter 1:1 (ESV) 1Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:***
    - ***John 8:58 (ESV) 58Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”*** 
      * Not “I was”
        + Eternal existence
      * Ego Eimi
        + ***Isaiah 43:10 (ESV) 10“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.***

***John 13:19 (ESV) 19I am telling you this now, before it takes place, that when it does take place you may believe that I am he.***

***John 8:24 (ESV) 24I told you that you would die in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins.”***

* + - * This wasn’t lost on the Jewish audience
        + ***John 8:59 (ESV) 59So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.***
    - ***Revelation 22:12–13 (ESV) 12“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. 13I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*** 
      * ***Revelation 1:8 (ESV) 8“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”***
      * ***Isaiah 41:4 (ESV) 4Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.***
    - ***John 20:28 (NKJV) 28And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”***
    - ***John 1:1–3 (NKJV) 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*** 
      * This “Word” is Jesus
        + ***John 1:14 (NKJV) 14And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.***
      * The Word was
        + eternal
      * The Word is with God
        + In relationship with God (persons)
      * The Word is God
        + One being
      * Balance forced on us.
    - **John 12:37–41 (NKJV) 37But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, 38that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” 39Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: 40“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with their eyes, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” 41These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.** 
      * The same one he spoke of is the one whose glory he saw.
        + Vs 41 – Isaiah saw whose glory?
      * 2 passages
        + Isaiah 53:1 (NKJV) 1Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

So messianic!

* + - * + Isaiah 6:10 (NKJV) 10“Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”
      * So, who did Isaiah see?
        + Isaiah 6:1–10 (NKJV) 1In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord** sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe (LXX “his glory”) filled the temple. 2Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the **LORD of hosts**; The whole earth is **full of His glory**!” 4And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. 5So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips**; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.”** 6Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. 7And he touched my mouth with it, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged.” 8Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.” 9And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ 10*“Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”*
      * He sees God and specifically mentions His glory.
        + So, who did Isaiah see?

Jesus… YHWH

* + - But He’s not the Father or the Holy Spirit
      * The SON came in human form
      * The SON died for our sins and raised to life again
      * Different roles but co-equally God
        + Role relates to person
        + Nature relates to being
      * His example to follow
        + Humility
        + Love
        + Obedience
    - Did the Father *become* the Son?
      * ***John 17:5 (ESV) 5And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.*** 
        + Not “AS you”
        + Ruining modalism
  + The Holy Spirit is God
    - ***Acts 5:3–4 (ESV) 3But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”***
    - Personhood –
      * ***Acts 13:2 (ESV) 2While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”***
      * ***Acts 10:19–20 (ESV) 19And while Peter was pondering the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Behold, three men are looking for you. 20Rise and go down and accompany them without hesitation, for I have sent them.”***
      * Guides, testifies, speaks, discloses, glorifies,
      * 2 Cor 2:11 the Spirit “knows” the thoughts of God
      * He can be blasphemed (Mk 3:29) **29**but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”
      * He can be grieved (Eph 4:30)
        + ***Ephesians 4:30 (ESV) 30And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.***
      * He can be insulted (Heb 10:29)
        + **29**How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?
    - But He is NOT the Father or the Son
      * ***1 Peter 1:2 (ESV) 2according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.***
      * One BEING, three persons
    - ***Matthew 28:19 (ESV) 19Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,***
  + Conclusion: It’s not the problem, it’s the solution
    - Modalism
      * Father became Son who became the Spirit
    - Tri-theism
      * Three gods (Mormonism)
    - The Trinity rises from the scripture
    - This is why cults jump around!
      * In attacking the Trinity they move quickly away from scriptures that contradict their view
* **1 Why isn’t the word Trinity found in the Bible?**
  + Omniscient?
  + Omnipresent?
  + Aseity?
  + “but the concept!”
    - exactly
* **2 Jesus said the Father was the only true God!**
  + ***John 17:3 (NKJV) 3And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.*** 
    - Jesus is also the only true God. One being
    - Recall Jn 1:1, 8:58,
* **3 Obviously, Jesus isn’t God because He said “My Father is greater than I”**
  + ***John 14:28 (NKJV) 28You have heard Me say to you, ‘I am going away and coming back to you.’ If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, ‘I am going to the Father,’ for My Father is greater than I.*** 
    - What it’s not saying “I’m not God, I’m less than God”
    - It’s person specific “the Father is greater”
    - It’s temporary!
      * ***John 17:5 (NKJV) 5And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.***
    - Philippians 2:6–11 (NKJV) 6who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
      * The Father was greater because Jesus was humbled and would be exalted
* **4 Was God praying to God?**
  + The Son was praying to the Father
    - 3 persons means that there can be a relationship in God
      * LOVE
  + It is possible because God it Triune
* **5 How can Jesus be God if He is God’s Son?**
  + Son=person
  + God=Being
  + Because of the Trinity
* **6 But Colossians says that Jesus is just the first creation of God!**
  + Jesus was the first and greatest being created by God the Father (78%)
  + ***Colossians 1:15 (NKJV) 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*** 
    - Firstborn means more than first one born
      * ***Psalm 89:27 (NKJV) 27Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.***
      * ***Exodus 4:22 (NKJV) 22Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Israel is My son, My firstborn.***
      * One to be special and higher than others
      * “firstborn OVER all creation”
    - Other texts show Jesus is uncreated (Jn 1:1-3)
    - Read on –
      * ***Colossians 1:15–19 (ESV) 15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,***
* **7 Why didn’t Jesus say “I am God”**
  + He did – but was careful to distinguish His personhood from the Father
* We just believe the whole Bible.
  + The final challenge…
    - “I don’t get it”
      * But, do you get that the Bible teaches it.
        + Yes
    - Trusting God means that when He says “this is what I am like” you say “Ok, I believe you”
  + It gets better
    - ***1 Corinthians 13:12 (ESV) 12For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.***
* Q&A -
  + The Forgotten Trinity by James White
  + Consider
    - Why analogies fail
      * ***Isaiah 40:25–26 (NKJV) “To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.***
    - What do you do when there is NOTHING to compare God to?
      * We take His word for it