

*The Godhead,
The Holy Spirit,
The Family of God*

A Message from Jesus

*“God, ...has in these last days
spoken to us by His Son...”
Heb. 1:1-2 (NKJV)*

Joseph M. Smith

The Godhead, the Holy Spirit, The Family of God

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Theology

Derickson's Notes

By Stanley L. Derickson

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Adam Clarke's Commentary

Emphases not found in original text are ours.

(Revised in 2010)

Acknowledgments

“Then Jesus prayed this prayer: ‘O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, thank You for hiding the truth from those who think themselves so wise and clever, and for revealing it to the childlike. Yes, Father, it pleased You to do it this way!’

“My Father has given Me authority over everything. No one really knows the Son except the Father, and no one really knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him.”

Matt. 11:25-27 (NLT)

The Godhead, The Holy Spirit, The Family of God

It is truly awe-inspiring to see how everything comes together with clear focus as God reveals the culmination of His plan through Jesus Christ. His revelation helps us to see and to understand, not only His plan for all mankind, but it also aids us in our comprehension of God Himself and the Godhead.

Is the Holy Spirit a separate personage from the Father and Jesus? Is there really a trinity? If so, does it consist of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Let’s look into the Word of God with the humility of a little child, all the while asking, seeking, and knocking for understanding and revelation. If we are willing to ask God with humble hearts and minds, He will give us comprehension through the Holy Spirit, for it is the Holy Spirit that will lead us into all Truth (Isa. 66:2; Luke 11:13; John 16:13).

As we look into the book of Revelation, we began to get a glimpse into the makeup of the Godhead. “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from **the throne of God and of the Lamb**” (Rev. 22:1 NKJV).

Have you ever wondered why the Holy Spirit is never mentioned as having a throne? Where is the throne of the Holy Spirit? If there are three personages to the Godhead,

where is the throne for the Holy Spirit? Why didn't this verse read, "Proceeding from the throne of God, of the Lamb, and of the Holy Spirit"?

Everything we receive from God spiritually comes through His Spirit, for God is a Spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

In Revelation 22:3 we see, "And there shall be no more curse: but **the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it**; and His servants shall serve Him." If there is a trinity composed of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, where is the throne of the Holy Spirit?

The Godhead

The word "Godhead" is mentioned three times in the Bible and in none of these verses is the Holy Spirit mentioned as being a separate or coequal, spirit being like the Father and the Son. The Father is referred to and clearly indicated as being part of the Godhead. The Son is also unmistakably shown to have "all the fullness of the Godhead." But nowhere in the Bible is the Holy Spirit called out as being a distinct and separate personage of the Godhead.

Acts 17:29 states, "**Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God**, we ought not to think that the **Godhead** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

Romans 1:20 says, "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and **Godhead**; so that they are without excuse."

Colossians 2:6-9 reads, "As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, *so* walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. **For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**"

The New Living Translation puts it this way, "Don't let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ. **For in Christ the fullness of God lives in a human body**" (Col. 2:8-9).

The Godhead is also shown in I Corinthians 8:6 (NLT), "But we know that **there is only one God, the Father**, who created everything, and we exist for Him. And **there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through Whom God made everything and through Whom we have been given life."

In the Godhead, Jesus has always subordinated Himself to the Father. He said, "...My Father is greater than I" (John 14:28).

We also read in John 17:3, “And **this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent.**” Eternal life consists of knowing the Godhead—the Father and the Son. But where is the Holy Spirit if it is part of a triune God? How can a person have eternal life and not have or know the Holy Spirit?

Nowhere in the Bible is the Godhead ever referred to as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit

If God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and He is Holy, then He is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not separate from the Father—**it is the Father!** And in the same way, Jesus is God, He is Holy, and He is the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “I and My Father are one.” To say the Holy Spirit is a separate personage of the Godhead would be a paradox and an oxymoron.

Do we stop to realize how foolish it sounds to say that the Holy Spirit is a separate personage from our Spiritual Father or Jesus Christ, our Spiritual Brother, when they are Spirit, they are Holy, and they are one? **If the Father wasn’t spirit and holy and Jesus wasn’t spirit and holy, only then would it make any sense to have a separate Holy Spirit!**

Romans 2:11 says, “For there is no respect of persons with God.”

If God is a Spirit, which He most certainly is (see John 4:24), then to have no respect of persons would mean the Holy Spirit, too, should have a throne if He is a separate personage from the Father and the Son.

And why is it that we can sin against the Son and be forgiven, but to sin against the Holy Spirit can never be forgiven? It is more crucial to sin against the Holy Spirit than to sin against Christ, yet the Holy Spirit doesn’t even have a separate throne.

Is God a respecter of persons within the Godhead? The Father has a throne and the Son has a throne but it is like the Holy Spirit is told to, “Go sit over there on the floor that is a sea of glass like unto crystal.” This idea of a separate Holy Spirit as a spirit personage, separate from the Godhead of the Father and Jesus Christ, makes no sense.

Whom are We to Worship?

In Hebrews 1:5-6 we see, “For unto which of the angels said He at any time, ‘Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten thee?’ And again, ‘I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to Me a Son?’ And again, when He bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, He saith, ‘And let all the angels of God **worship Him.**’” In verse 8 we read, “**But unto the Son He saith, ‘Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever...’**”

When it comes to Whom we are to worship, we find in the Bible only two beings of the Godhead that are worthy of our worship—the Father and the Son Jesus Christ. (See John 4:24; Heb. 1:5-6.)

“And **this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom Thou hast sent**” (John 17:3). Eternal life consists of knowing and having a close, personal relationship with the Godhead—the Father and the Son. And the only way this is possible is through them dwelling in us, that is, the Holy Spirit in us.

Nowhere in the Bible is the Holy Spirit found to be worshipped as a separate personage of the Godhead. Yet to sin against the Holy Spirit, “It shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” The Holy Spirit has no separate throne and we are not commanded to worship the Holy Spirit as a separate being from the Father or the Son, yet to sin against the Holy Spirit is an eternal sin. How can this be?

Jesus Disproves the Trinity

In John 10:30 we read, “**I and My Father are one.**” Why didn’t Jesus say, “I and My Father and the Holy Spirit are One”? Jesus missed a prime opportunity to clarify and to confirm the existence of a triune God. Jesus had a perfect occasion to clearly explain the Godhead! **And that is exactly what He did!**

John 14:10 says, “Believest thou not that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?** The words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but **the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.**”

We read in John 14:15-20, “If ye love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and **He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth** [Truth is a person—Jesus Christ. See verse 6; therefore, the Spirit of Truth is the Spirit of Jesus]; Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: **but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.** Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also. At that day **ye shall know that I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you.**”

If there is any trinity alluded to in the Bible, this is it! The words of Jesus are very clear, “**I am in My Father, and ye in Me, and I in you.**” “**And the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them...**” (John 17:22).

The Comforter is not another person of the Godhead! **Jesus said, “I will come to you.”** The Greek word for comfortless is “orphanos,” those lacking a teacher, guide, or guardian, which means fatherless. This is why Jesus said in verse 20 that, after the Holy Spirit is given, you would come to see that Christ is in the Father, you are in Christ, and Christ is in you.

In John 17:21-23 we see, “That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, *art* in Me, and I in Thee, **that they also may be one in Us**; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me. And **the glory which Thou gavest Me I have given them**; that they may be one, even as We are one: **I in them, and Thou in Me**, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou hast sent Me, and hast loved them, as Thou hast loved Me.”

“In the last days, God said, ‘I will pour out **My** [not another Spirit—it is HIS] **Spirit** upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out **My Spirit** upon all My servants, men and women alike, and they will prophesy” (Acts 2:17-18 NLT).

“We are witnesses of these things and so is the **Holy Spirit**, who is **given by God to those who obey Him**” (Acts 5:32 NLT).

“But we know that **there is only one God, the Father**, who created everything, and we exist for Him. And **there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through Whom God made everything and through Whom we have been given life” (I Cor. 8:6 NLT). Why wasn’t the Apostle Paul inspired by the Holy Spirit to also say, “And there is only one Holy Spirit” to show the trinity? The Apostle Paul had it right! God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ comprise the Godhead; they are one and there is no other!

“And because ye are sons, **God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son** [The Spirit of Jesus was sent into our hearts, not another Spirit separate from the Holy Father and Holy Jesus who are one and are Spirit.] **into your hearts**, crying, ‘Abba, Father.’ **Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ**” (Gal. 4:6-7).

We are sons of God if the Holy Spirit of the Father and the Holy Spirit of His Son dwells within us!

The Apostle John continues to reveal our relationship with God, “We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And **our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ**” (I John 1:3 NLT).

Our fellowship with the Father and with Jesus Christ is through Them being in us—which is, the Holy God that is One, Spirit, and dwelling in us!

The glory of this mystery, “...is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**” (Col. 1:27), not a separate, third being as the Holy Spirit.

You see, the Godhead consists of the Holy Father who is Spirit and Jesus Christ who is also Spirit and Holy! Jesus said that He is Truth (John 14:6) and that He, the “Spirit of Truth,” would come to us (John 14:17-18). Therefore, the Comforter or the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of our Holy Father and the Spirit of the Holy Jesus Christ! Jesus said, “...If a

man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and **We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him**" (John 14:23).

Family of God

"I have said, Ye *are* gods; and all of you *are* children of the most High" (Psa. 82:6).

To deny that we are children of the Father would mean we believe the Father is impotent and unable to have children. To call the Father "our Father" and not believe God is able to reproduce is a contradiction in terms when using the name "Father." This thinking, to believe God is not able to be a father, would impose a limitation on God and He would not be almighty. How foolish it is for us to even think that way!

Why is it that we can see, admit, and believe that God made all creatures in our world to reproduce after their "kind," then think that God can't reproduce after "the God kind"?

Some will say, "Come on, look at us. We are flesh. How can you think we are gods"? God has a marvelous way of looking at everything. In Romans 4:17 (NIV) we see, "...the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were." God sees the end from the beginning and He views us in light of His power and ability. He knows His plan for us, our potential, and our future.

Arguments often arise around the statements made in John 1:14, 18, 3:16, and 18 about Jesus Christ being, "The only begotten of the Father," "The only begotten Son," "His only begotten Son," and "The only begotten Son of God." People are often confused as to what is meant by these phrases. They jump to the conclusion that Jesus is the only true son of God and the rest of us are not really God's children, but rather, kind-of-adopted into the family but not quite given all the privileges of true children born into the God family. They do not understand that we are real children of our Father in every sense of the term "children" and God the Father is really our progenitor.

Let me explain. The term, "The only begotten Son of the Father" means Jesus Christ is, and will always be, the only Son of God conceived in the womb of a woman by God the Father. Christ is the only one begotten of the Father. We have been conceived or begotten in the womb by an earthly father and later received the Spirit of our heavenly Father by His grace through faith. We are born into the God family through faith in Jesus Christ. "Every one who believes that Jesus is the Christ is a child of God..." (1 John 5:1 RSV).

In Romans 8:16 we see, "The Spirit itself beareth witness [testifies jointly; corroborative evidence] with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

Some have turned to Romans 8:15, 23, 9:4; Galatians 4:5; and Ephesians 1:5 (where the Apostle Paul uses the Greek word for adoption) to attempt to prove we will never be born into the God family. The Greek word for adoption, *uihothesia*, hwee-oth-es-ee'-ah

means “the placing as a son, or sonship in respect to God.” This word indicates office, position, or rank as related to the Father and the Son. They are the Godhead, we are in the God family (born into “the God kind”), but we will never be part of the Godhead.

Satan would have us believe that we worship a Father that is incapable of having children. Satan has fostered a colossal lie to deny Christians the knowledge of their inheritance!

Which one of us is willing to place a limit on God by saying He doesn’t have the ability to reproduce after His kind—“the God kind”? He has already proved He can reproduce after the God kind—Jesus’ birth and subsequent return to Glory has already proved this fact. How dare we even think God has limitations! The only limits God has are self-imposed.

God chose to live the way of love, for He is love. He has elected to share everything He has with His children. God started from before the foundation of the world with a plan for Jesus to lay down His life for all humans. His plan will culminate in the Kingdom of God by bringing many sons into the family of God for all eternity.

In Hebrews 2:9-10 we read, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for Whom *are* all things, and by Whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

In John 10:34-36, “Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your law, “**I said, Ye are gods?**” **If He called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken**; say ye of Him, Whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, “Thou blasphemest;” because I said, “I am the Son of God?”’”

If God calls us gods, why can’t we believe Him? Who are we to argue with God? Jesus confirms the words in the “Psalm of Asaph” from Psalm 82:6 when He said, “...the scripture cannot be broken” (John 10.35).

If we say we are part of the God family, why would you say we lie or blaspheme when it was God Himself that said we are gods and Jesus came to confirm that statement and testify that the scriptures can’t be broken?

Yes, Jesus is the firstborn of many brethren! In Romans 8:29 (NLT) we read, “For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn, with many brothers and sisters.” The very fact that Jesus Christ is called “the firstborn” means there will be others to follow—more to be born into the God family.

We will never be the Father, nor will we ever be Jesus, the Firstborn of many brethren, but we are children of the most High—children of our Father! If there is

anything in the Holy Bible that in any way resembles a trinity, this is it! This is the part of the reality of the mystery of God spoken of in Revelation 10:7, “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as He hath declared to His servants the prophets.” In another version it states, “But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, then the mystery of God is finished, as He preached to His servants the prophets” (NASB).

There will be no more mystery about God or His Plan. The seventh angel, or the blowing of the seventh trumpet, will clarify God and His plan. The sounding of the seventh trumpet is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords! We, the faithful worshipers of God, will be resurrected from the dead and rise to meet Christ in the air. Or, if we are alive, we will be changed into spirit bodies and born into the family of God at the seventh trumpet!

Did you notice it was the mystery about God and His plan that was to be cleared up and completely understood? With the blowing of the seventh trumpet will come the reality and understanding about God that has been hidden in mystery even though it was spoken of by the prophets down through the ages. The Apostle Paul stated it this way, “But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies” (1 Cor. 15:51-53 NLT).

The secret purpose of God that has been hidden in mystery is that God is going to have a family!

Jesus said to those who overcome, “...I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and I will write upon him My new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” (Rev. 3:12-13).

Jesus said: (1) “I will write upon him the name of My God.” The last name will be “God”; (2) “The name of the city of My God.” The angel told John in Revelation 21:9-10, “...I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem...” The Bride of Christ—the Lamb’s Wife is the Holy City and New Jerusalem; and (3) “I will write upon him My new name”—some will have Jesus Christ’s new name as His Bride.

God is not fooling around! He is creating a family! And those who overcome will be placed in the very heart of the family of God!

Why do we have such a hard time believing Jesus when He tells us the truth? How can we read the Holy Word—Jesus and not believe Him? Jesus confirms the words of scripture. He didn’t deny any part of that quote from Psalm 82:6, “I have said, ‘Ye *are* gods; and all of you *are* children of the most High.’”

Have we forgotten the twelve apostles were told they were to sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel? (See Matt. 19:28). How is it that these sons of God, spirit beings with spirit bodies, will have thrones and the Holy Spirit will not have a throne in the Kingdom of God? Revelation 3:21 says, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.”

Have you ever wondered who sits on the throne with Jesus Christ? In a kingdom, who sits on the throne with the king? It is his bride or wife—the queen. John was told, “...Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb’s wife” (Rev. 21:9).

Have you ever asked Jesus about His bride? What will be her composition? Will the Lamb of God marry outside “the God kind”? And how can the bride sit on the throne with the Lamb of God—Jesus Christ and not be part of the God Family?

So, we see, it is not the Holy Spirit, as a separate part of the Godhead that sits on a throne with the Father and Jesus Christ, but it is the bride of Jesus Christ who sits with Christ on His throne.

Unpardonable Sin

It is important for us to understand the Holy Spirit in order to realize what it means to sin against the Holy Spirit and thereby commit the unpardonable sin.

“Wherefore I say unto you, ‘All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world to come*’” (Matt. 12:31-32).

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: [*but*] *he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also*” (I John 2:22-23). The unpardonable sin is to deny the Godhead—the Father and the Son! This is sinning against the Holy Spirit!

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is sinning with foreknowledge and total contempt. It is denying and rejecting both the power and beings of the Father and the Son. By disclaiming and dismissing the Holy Spirit, a person is contradicting and refusing all there is of the Godhead—both the Father and the Son.

To sin against the Holy Spirit is to sin, or blaspheme, against all there is of the Godhead. Denying the Holy Spirit is disclaiming both Jesus as the Messiah and God as our Father. To deny the Holy Spirit rejects all there is of the Godhead. There is nowhere else to appeal for forgiveness or plead for mercy!

Let's take a look at the some of the philosophies extant among churches today.

Human Reasoning

Some theologians center their belief in the trinity around the use of the Greek pronoun for “he” instead of “it” when referring to the Holy Spirit. In John 15:26, it is the same Greek pronoun **ἐκεῖνος**, or ekeinos {ek-i'-nos}, that is used for “he, she, or it.” Why do they ignore all the other pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs used by Jesus showing the Spirit was from the Father and Jesus? Why get myopic over a Greek pronoun when some of the original manuscripts were written in the Aramaic language? This is weak and not very compelling evidence compared to the clear words of Jesus.

Others attempt to use Matthew 28:19 (NLT) as proof of the trinity. Jesus said, “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” In the study of the Word, those lead by the Holy Spirit cannot use this verse to prove the existence of a trinity. It does not say anything about the Holy Spirit being a separate personage from the Father or the Son. That idea is an assumption based on the insertion of a heresy in 1 John 5:7, as we will understand later.

Teaching for Doctrine The Commandments of Men

The following notes are taken from:

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DERICKSON'S NOTES ON THEOLOGY

by Stanley L. Derickson

“TRINITARIANISM INVOLVES: 1. His unity as god and the distinction of persons in the Godhead.

“Can we illustrate the Trinity? [How about trying to prove or disprove it? *JMS*]
We can come close; it is impossible, due to the fact that we cannot really fully understand the Trinity. Nor is there anything like the trinity which can be our illustration! [I can't understand it either. How can we understand what is not taught in the Bible? *JMS*]

“GOD IS ONE

“God is a unity even though there are three persons within that unity. This is seen in both the Old and New Testaments, Deu. 4:35, I Ki. 8:60, Isa. 45:5, Mark 12:29-32, I Co. 8:4-6.”

[No proof is given to support this statement of three persons. Each one of these verses shows One God. None of them show three persons or the unity of three persons. I Cor. 8:4-6 clearly shows the Godhead as composed of The Father and Jesus Christ. Did the Apostle Paul miss a chance to show the Holy Spirit as part of the Godhead? *Stanley L. Derickson* goes about trying to find scriptures that he can stretch to support his theory. The thought of the trinity is pulled out of thin air then human intellect is used to try to find some sort of proof to back it up in scripture. JMS]

“GOD IS THREE

“The term Trinity is not used in Scripture, however, the trinity is hinted at in the Old Testament.”

This ends Derickson’s quotes on trinitarianism.

Are hints good enough to support doctrine? He takes a theory, makes it fact, and then proceeds to attempt to find scriptures to back up his supposition.

The Word of God is Spiritually discerned not intellectually perceived. John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth [gives life to or understanding to]; the flesh profiteth nothing [spiritually speaking]: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit [and can only be spiritually discerned], and *they* are life.”

One of the problems with the study of theology throughout the centuries has been that of trying to understand the Word of God with human intellect alone. This is why Jesus had to reprimand the Churches in Revelation by saying, “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” Many try to read the Word and then apply human intellect to discern the Bible. The Word, combined with human intellect alone, will profit nothing spiritually. The Word without the guidance of the Holy Spirit can equal false teachings, for it is the Spirit that, “...will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).

Many go to I John 5:7 to begin a “proof” of the Trinity. It reads as follows: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” This verse is false. It was added many years after the original text was written.

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CLARKE’S COMMENTARY

by Adam Clarke

I John 5. “Verse 7. *There are three that bear record*—The FATHER, who bears testimony to his Son; the WORD, Logos, who bears testimony to the Father; and the HOLY GHOST, which bears testimony to the Father and the Son. And these three are

one in essence, and agree in the one testimony, that Jesus came to die for, and give life to, the world.

“But it is likely this verse is not genuine. **It is wanting [not] in every MS. [manuscript] of this epistle written before the invention of printing, one excepted, the Codex Montfortii, in Trinity College, Dublin: the others which omit this verse amount to one hundred and twelve.**

“It is wanting [not] in both the Syriac, all the Arabic, Aethiopic, the Coptic, Sahidic, Armenian, Slavonian, etc., in a word, in all the ancient versions but the Vulgate; and even of this version many of the most ancient and correct MSS. have it not. **It is wanting [not] also in all the ancient Greek fathers; and in most even of the Latin.**

“The words, as they exist in all the Greek MSS. [that is, in 112 Manuscripts. *JMS*] with the exception of the Codex Montfortii, are the following: [The following is the correct and original text. *JMS*]

“6. This is He that came by water and blood, Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness because the Spirit is truth.

“7. For there are three that bear witness, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one.”

Adam Clarke went on to say, “Though a conscientious believer in the doctrine of the ever blessed, holy, and undivided Trinity, and in the proper and essential Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, which doctrines I have defended by many, and even new, arguments in the course of this work, I cannot help doubting the authenticity of the text in question; and, for farther particulars, refer to the observations at the end of this chapter.”

[Adam Clark was a believer of the Trinity Doctrine without proof of scripture. *JMS*]

“OBSERVATIONS ON THE TEXT OF THE THREE DIVINE WITNESSES

“The seventh verse of the fifth chapter of 1 JOHN, has given rise to more theological disputes than any other portion of the sacred writings. Advocates and antagonists have arisen in every quarter of the civilized world: but the dispute has been principally confined to the Unitarians of all classes, and those called Orthodox; the former asserting that it is an interpolation, and the latter contending that it is a part of the original text of St. John. It is asserted that (one excepted, which shall be noticed by and by) **all the Greek MSS. written before the invention of printing omit the passage in dispute.**”

This ends the notes taken from the Adam Clarke Commentary.

This error was inserted into 1 John 5:7 as it appears in the King James Version sometime during the dark ages. This error was added by editors to the Latin Vulgate Translation sometime after the Council of Nicaea in the summer of A.D. 325 and before the invention of the printing press. This heresy, however, was not widely disseminated until the Bible went to the printing presses.

Where does this study leave us today? Will we believe Jesus? Or will we cling to our own beliefs? **Are we willing to teach the very words of Jesus Christ or do we want to teach for doctrine the commandments of men?**

“Don’t let anyone lead you astray with empty philosophy and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the evil powers of this world, and not from Christ” Col. 2:8 (NLT).

Most, like Dr. Adam Clarke will, by ignoring Truth—that is, Jesus, choose to continue to believe as they always have, despite proof to the contrary. They will elect, by default, to cling to the teachings and doctrine of men rather than believe Jesus. No wonder Jesus said, “This people draweth nigh unto Me with their mouth, and honoureth Me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from Me. But in vain they do worship Me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men” (Matt. 15:8-9).

When Jesus was yet on the earth, many believed on Him and His words, but, because of their religious leaders, they didn’t openly show agreement, “...for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.” (See John 12:42-43.)

Do we desire so much to feel a part of “the in group” among members of the Christian community that we are willing to ignore the very clear words of Jesus?

How about you personally? What truth are you willing to compromise or to ignore to be liked by other people? Will you allow Jesus to teach you? Are you going to listen to the Holy Spirit and follow its lead into all Truth?

Or will you be like *Dr. Stanley L. Derickson* who believes in something he could neither illustrate, nor prove?

Summary

It is the Father and Jesus Christ who compose the Godhead and it is their Spirit that dwells in all those who have the Holy Spirit. “...If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and **We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him**” (John 14:23).

Why can’t people believe Jesus? Are His words too difficult to grasp? Or is it that their hearts are too hard to receive His words? Or have they plugged their ears so they cannot hear? Are Christian believers going to continue to resist the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives? Jesus has warned the Churches down through the ages to listen to

the Holy Spirit to understand what He has said in His Word. “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches...” (Rev. 2:7).

“But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, **Whom the Father will send in My name**, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

“But when the Comforter is come, Whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me” (John 15:26).

The Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Truth—the Spirit of Jesus (John 14:6), also comes from the Father. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father and the Spirit of Jesus—the very essence and power of the Godhead!

There is not a third being mentioned here as being part of the Godhead.

John 14:21 quotes Jesus, “He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me: and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.”

If the Holy Spirit is a third being in the Godhead, then this sentence should read, “He that loves Me will be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and the Holy Spirit will love him, and I will manifest Myself to him.”

But you see, the sending of the Holy Spirit is the revealing of Jesus Himself in us! If the Holy Spirit is a third being, then Jesus has not come to dwell in us as He said! It is the Holy Spirit of the Father and His Son Jesus which has come to us and now dwells in all that have the Holy Spirit!

So we see the Holy Spirit is from the Father (John 15:26). It is the Spirit of Truth—which is the Spirit of Jesus (John 14:6). It is also the Spirit of your Father which will speak in you, and it is the Father that, in verse 16, “...shall give you another Comforter...” In verse 18 Jesus says, “I will not leave you comfortless: **I [Jesus] will come to you** [in Spirit].”

We will know that Jesus is in His Father, that we are in Jesus, and Jesus is in us (verse 20). So, “...If a man love Me, he will keep My words: and My Father will love him, and **We will come unto him, and make Our abode with him**” (John 14:23).

How much more clearly can Jesus explain the Holy Spirit?

Therefore, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of our Holy Father and the Spirit of the Holy Son that dwells within us. **There is no need for a separate throne for the Holy Spirit because it is the Father and the Son that comprise the Godhead. They have come to dwell in us, if we have the Spirit of God abiding within us!**

We do not have to guess or wonder about the Holy Spirit. Jesus, who is Truth, has clearly shown us the Holy Spirit!

Well, how did Jesus do in explaining the Holy Spirit? Did He clearly show to you the Holy Spirit? Just a few pertinent questions were asked. Jesus in writing (the Word of God) has shown you all about the Holy Spirit. But it was the Holy Spirit of the Father and Jesus that led you to the words of Jesus.

If you don't understand, go back over the scriptures we have covered. Ask God, seek diligently in the Word, and knock at His door until He clearly reveals the Holy Spirit. In all your desires to understand, keep the attitude of a little child (that of meekness and humility) and the Holy Spirit will lead you into all Truth.

It was Satan that inspired the idea of a trinity and found a way to place the idea into the Bible to make himself appear to be a spirit of light (holy). I John 5:7 was added many years after the original manuscripts. In II Corinthians 11:13-14 (NLT) the Apostle Paul said, "These people are false apostles. They have fooled you by disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. But I am not surprised! Even Satan can disguise himself as an angel of light."

By force, Satan many millennia ago, ascended to heaven in an attempt to become one of the Godhead. The result was the destruction of the earth and some of the surrounding planets. Our moon and Mars show the pockmarks of this monumental battle. God had to re-create the earth for Adam and his descendants.

"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars [other angels] of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:12-14).

Satan would like to be thought of as the third part of the Godhead—looked up to, and worshiped as God. He wants to destroy the Children of God and to remove us from God's family. Satan doesn't want us to see or to fully understand our true inheritance in the family of God.

A Call to Repentance

Jesus Christ is calling out to Christians everywhere to repent of our lack of desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of Him (II Pet. 3:18). We Christians, in the developed parts of the world, have so much physically that we don't see the need for our spiritual growth and development. We recognize all our physical needs and the things we lust after, but we don't discern our own spiritual nakedness. We don't realize how empty and lacking we are in our own relationship with God.

We go about our daily lives running faster and faster trying to get and to accomplish

more, all the while leaving God out of our busy lives. We say we are Christians, but does Christ, through His Holy Spirit, guide us throughout the day?

Most Christians are much too busy to have time for God. Some equate success with activity, all the while missing the fact that true success is a rich relationship with God our Father and Jesus Christ—Their Holy Spirit working in us.

Jesus is crying out to all Christians everywhere to repent of leaving Him standing at the door of our hearts knocking and knocking. He wants to have a deep, meaningful relationship with us, if only we had time for Him.

The Spirit of God will not be deterred. The Word and message from Jesus will accomplish all it is sent to do. If we, as God's people, will not listen to the warnings sent to us from Jesus through His servants, then God will speak to us in the only language we have been accustomed to hearing—the physical.

Physical pain and suffering lie ahead if we do not listen to God's Spirit as it calls out to us. God will not be thwarted in pursuing a close, personal relationship with each one of us. He loves us so much that He allowed Jesus to die for us so we could be reconciled to Him. God will do what it takes to get and hold our attention.

Many of us have difficulty seeing the value of the Spiritual. Numerous ones are confused, thinking what's important is the physical, not realizing that what is comprised of Spirit is the only thing that is real and lasting.

This is why Jesus says in Revelation 3:17-19, "Because thou sayest, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing;' and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

Jesus went on to say, in verse 20 (NLT), "Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear Me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal [spiritual food] as friends."

Jesus concludes His plea to believers everywhere in verse 22 (NLT), "Anyone who is willing to hear should listen to the Spirit and understand what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Are we willing to listen to the Spirit of Jesus as He works to build a deeper relationship with us?

Where does this leave those of us who are teachers of Christ today? Are we, as the leadership of the Churches and Denominations, willing to listen to the Spirit of the Father and of Jesus Christ? Or are we going to continue to teach for doctrine the ideas of men

rather than the Words of Jesus? And furthermore, are we willing to correct errors in our teachings and doctrines as the Spirit of Jesus shows us the truth, or are we going to continue to teach error because we fear men instead of God? We must fear God rather than men, for He is able to destroy both body and soul in Hell.

Jesus says, “To those who are open to My teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But to those who are not listening, even what they have will be taken away from them” (Matt. 13:12 NLT).

How much of the truth from Jesus do the churches really understand today?

When Jesus comes again, if we are not about teaching His words, He will say, “...I tell you I do not know you, where you are [coming] from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity” (Luke 13:27 NKJV).

What are you teaching about the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, and the Family—the Kingdom of God?

Jesus Christ is calling out to all Churches and Denominations worldwide to wake up and change the teachings and doctrines that are not from God. It is incumbent upon all Christian leaders to confess all sins to God, to admit doctrinal errors, and to prepare God’s people for the return of Jesus Christ!

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