

he shares between the three persons of the Trinity. And that love between them binds them into one being.

That bond of love in God is unbreakable. Of course it is! How can something that is the bond of perfectness ever break. It has no sin. It has no basis for being broken! So bound together are these three persons of God's being that they cannot be separated. So intimate is that bond that these three persons share with each other that God is one. Because of God's love for himself there is an intimate life of friendship and fellowship that goes on in God. And again, it is a perfect life of fellowship and friendship. It is not marred by sin. There is no jealousy in God toward himself. There is no envy or strife in God. There is a life of perfect peace and harmony. A life that is characterized by perfection. In God exists a life of love and fellowship that has no comparison! Would it not be fantastic to share in that perfect love that binds? Would it not be the best of things to enjoy fellowship and friendship with God and with each other without sin getting in the way? How wonderful to love someone and be loved by someone without that relationship being marred by sin! Life with God in perfection would be to us the highest possible good!

### *Perfect Purpose*

Well, good news! This is God's

perfect purpose for you and me! That union of love God shares in himself is exactly what he has chosen to share with his people in Christ (John 17: 21-23). That is God's purpose with respect to all things: the glory of his name through a people chosen to share in his fellowship.. From eternity, in his eternal plan for all things, God purposed to share the life of love and fellowship he has within himself with a people outside of himself. God chose to do this by means of Christ and through the way of sin and grace. God has in store for his people the highest possible good, to be allowed into that very same blessed life of love and fellowship he shares in himself. God binds us to himself in that eternal bond of love. And that bond will not be broken. We are his. We have become his through the blood of Jesus Christ. He has established covenant with you and me! That life of love and friendship in God is the beginning and end of all things. All things take place in order that God can accomplish that end or goal. We look for and long for that perfect life of love! We share it now in part, but it awaits us in heaven. How do we know? Because the one true God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. That is the God who loves us. That is the God whom we love!

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## LORD'S DAY 8 AND A GLIMPSE INTO GOD

**Rev. Wilbur Bruinsma**

### *Perfect Life*

It would be wonderful to know God now the way we will know him when we reach glory! Yet, we cannot because God is above all creatures. Man cannot by searching find out God (Job 11: 7). He is transcendent standing above the heavens and all things earthly and material. You and I are limited by this present world in our knowledge of things that are too high for us.. Yet, God has given you and me a little glimpse into who he is. We learn enough about God to be able to speak to him and about him with fear and praise.

But it is not always easy for us as finite creatures to understand this eternal God either. Some of the truths concerning God are difficult to understand. They

take some serious thinking. This is true of the doctrine of the Trinity, that is, that God is one in being and three in persons. This is, however, a fundamental truth of the Scriptures - one that defines who a Christian truly is as opposed to the liars spoken of by John in his epistles. The Bible clearly speaks of God as a triune God, so it is important for us to know what this means.

There are not many religions in today's world that maintain there is only one God. Most of them are polytheistic (belief in many gods). I examined a few books in my study in an attempt to count the number of gods worshiped by various pagan religions. The Egyptians, for example, believed in as many as 35 gods. The Greeks had five major gods and 15 minor gods. I was not able to

find a complete list of the god's of the Hindus but there are at least 10 of them that I gleaned from the pages of a book. The only religions in the world that are monotheistic are Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

I bring this up because it shows the spiritual ignorance that prevails among fallen man in whom God has not chosen to work by his grace. Neither are the gods of Islam or Judaism the true God of heaven and earth, though it is argued that these religions believe in the same God as does the Christian.

In contrast to the pagan religions of this world, we believe that there is one God, and only one God. He is from

**25. Since there is but one Divine Being, why do you speak of three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?**

**Because God has so revealed Himself in His Word, that these three distinct persons are the one, true, eternal God.**

eternity to eternity God. He has by the mere Word of his power created all things for himself. By the same Word of his power God upholds and governs all creatures great and small. He directs this world to one end - to fulfill his own purpose and good pleasure. No god stands beside him or even under him. There simply is no other God. The gods of heathen lands are but the work of human hands. They cannot see, they cannot speak, their ears are deaf, their hands are weak. They are not God! There is one God alone: Jehovah.

We will defend this in the face of the millions of people who belong to the cults today. The cults contend that they only among Christians truly believe in one God. They argue that traditional Christianity has deviated from the truth of one God by maintaining that God is triune: three in persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.. They accuse us of believing in three gods. This accusation is false. We believe there is only one true God and we serve that one God. The cults of today in fact deny this one true God. They do so when they refuse to bow before the authority of Scripture that teaches three persons in one Godhead. God is one in essence or being, but reveals himself to us in His Word as three distinct persons that subsist in the same Being. This beautiful truth is also what distinguishes our God from that of Judaism, and certainly from the Allah of Islam.

Where is this truth revealed? In many passages. We give but a couple of examples. John 1:1-3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and

without him was not any thing made that was made." The Son (the Word), we learn, was with God and is God together with the Father. Concerning Christ Paul writes in Colossians 1:15-17, "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." There is no getting around the truth of these passages that reveal the divinity of Christ as the second person of the Trinity.

The Bible speaks in the same terms of the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit of God we learn in Genesis 1 that moved upon the face of the waters. The Spirit created. Psalm 104:30, "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth. The Spirit teaches, guides, reproves of sin (John 14, 15, 16). The Spirit saves people (I Corinthians 6:11)! Certainly he too is God!

Much more can be found in Scripture that proves these three are divine and that they together subsist in the one being we call God. This is why Christ commands the church to baptize people in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is why Paul pronounced this blessing upon the church: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (II Cor. 13:14)"

If a person, then, denies that God is three in persons and one in being, he denies the one true God of heaven

and earth. We must be clear on that! Those who deny the Trinity do not believe in the same God as we do - neither do they have the right to call themselves Christians! They deny the one fundamental truth concerning the true God revealed in Scripture. That is a serious error!

It is serious because they are blinded to a beautiful truth about the God whom we serve. Our God is a personal Being who has a life that goes on within himself. It is hard for us to describe that life, but it is there. We learn that the Father generates the Son and the Son is generated by the Father (John 1: 14, 18). There is an intimate Father - Son relationship that is eternally shared within God himself. Furthermore, the Spirit enters into this relationship too. The Spirit is sent forth from the Father to the Son, and then the Son sends that Spirit back to the Father forming that link of love between Father and Son (John 15:26). And although we cannot possibly understand all of this, we do know one thing: that within the one being of our God there is a perfect life of love - a life of perfection that binds these three Persons into one God. God is complete and perfect in himself. He is the living God, the constantly active God who lives a life within his own triune self. Deny that God is triune and we deny the fundamental nature or character of God: he is a God of love and fellowship.

### *Perfect Love*

This is the only way a person is truly able to understand the prayer of Jesus in John 17. Notice the beginning of verse

21, "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us . . ." Christ as the Son here speaks of the truth that he is in his Father and his Father is in him. That statement is most striking because it points to the essential unity of the persons in the Godhead. The Father is in the Son, and the Son is in the Father. They are not simply with each other. They are not two distinct Beings in the Godhead. They are in each other. In other words, God is not made up of parts. He is not 1/3 Father, 1/3 Son, and 1/3 Holy Spirit. God cannot be divided into pieces as can a pie, for example. The Father and Son are one in each other. God's glory is the Father's glory and God's glory is the Son's glory. The Holy Spirit, though not mentioned here in John 17 enters into the unity of divine persons. The Spirit is not a distinct being from the Father and Son. He is not God in himself - a part of the triune God. The Holy Spirit is God. He is in the Father and in the Son, as the Father and the Son are in him.

What that shows, very simply is this: there is a perfect, unblemished life of love that goes on within God himself. Read what Jesus says at the end of verse 24 of John 17, "that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. " In eternity there is the most intimate and pure life of love that goes on in God between the three persons. Do not forget how the Bible describes love for us. Colossians 3:14 speaks of love as that powerful force that binds two perfect people together! And that is why we say: God is love. He is this in himself. This bond of love