

# Basic Christianity – Jesus, the trinity and His great purpose | 6/12/16

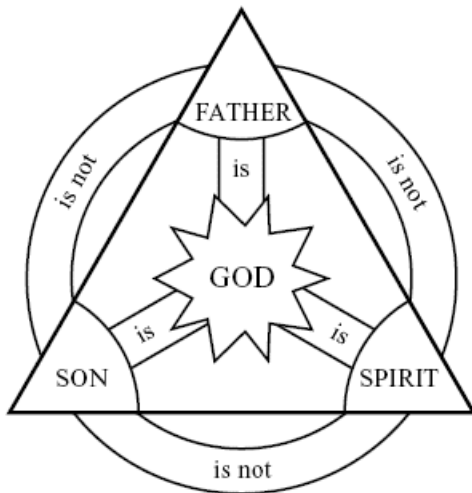
- Introduction
  - Who is Jesus Christ?
    - **Why is this question so important?**
    - **There are those who say that the whole issue with Jesus among the various religions really isn't that important. What does this tell you about the worlds perception of Jesus?**
  - C.S. Lewis – Mere Christianity
    - “I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher ... You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool ... or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.”
  - Of all of life's questions this is by far the most important. Because the answer holds the key to eternal life.
    - There is not a greater question and answer than just exactly who is Jesus.
    - Our Salvation depends on it.
      - John 3:36
        - “The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who refuses to believe in the Son will not see life; instead, the wrath of God remains on him.”
      - John 11:25-26
        - “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me, even if he dies will live. Everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die—ever. Do you believe this?”
      - **So knowing “who” the Son is is quite important and our response to Jesus's question to Martha holds the key to our salvation.**
    - The world and its various religions have different perceptions of who is Jesus Christ and even what a Christian is. However, of all of the various rights and wrongs of Christianity this is the one thing we must get right.
  - This question has been debated for centuries ever since Jesus was born into the world.
    - It was debated by the apostles, the Pharisees, the Jews, Gentiles and Kings.
      - The Pharisees
        - They denied His deity and portrayed Him as evil.
          - John 10:33
            - “We aren't stoning You for a good work, the Jews answered, but for blasphemy, because You –being a man—make Yourself God.”
          - Matthew 12:24
            - “When the Pharisees heard this, they said, “The man drives out demons only by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.”



- But that they are one and the same.
- This truth means that Jesus Christ is divine.
- Jesus makes this distinction Himself.
  - John 10:30
    - “I and the Father are one.”
  - I Am
    - God declares Himself as I AM
      - Exodus 3:14
        - “God replied to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.”
    - Jesus declares Himself as I AM
      - John 8:58
        - “Jesus said to them, “I assure you: Before Abraham was, I am.”
- This truth is made known to us in the opening chapter of the Gospel of John as well.
  - John 1:1-3,14
    - “Word” in Greek is “logos” [LAH gahss]
  - The “Word” is Jesus Christ made in the flesh.
  - Logos is used to denote divine revelation through Scripture in the Old Testament and also the words of Jesus.
- Jesus is the image, radiance and exact expression of the nature of God.
  - Colossians 1:15a
    - “He is the image of the invisible God,…”
  - Hebrews 1:3a
    - “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of His nature…”
  - The use of the word radiance tells us that Jesus is not just a mere reflection of God, some person that reflects the real God, but instead he radiates the Glory of God.
    - This means that he is in fact God because God’s glory is within Him.
    - He is the exact expression of God’s nature because God’s nature is within him.
    - He isn’t an actor that looks and acts similar or some false imitator but instead he IS God
      - John 14:8-9
        - “Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time without your knowing Me, Philip? **The one who has seen Me has seen the Father.** How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”
  - And therefore coming to the world as man and still being God shows us both the oneness of the Father and the Son and the distinction of the purposes of the Father and the Son.
  - This relationship between Jesus and the Father is clearly taught in Scripture and it is important that we have a right understanding of who Jesus is.
- The humanity of Jesus Christ
  - Then we are shown that “logos” became flesh which is Jesus Christ.
    - This shows us the humanity of Jesus Christ.
      - While God he was also human. He did not have just a likeness or image of a body, but He is God incarnate in the flesh, born of the virgin Mary.

- Luke 2:1
  - “Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”
- Romans 8:3
  - “What the law could not do since it was limited by the flesh, God did. He condemned sin in the flesh by **sending His own Son in flesh like ours under sin’s domain**, and as a sin offering,”
  - While He was under the domain of sin He was without sin and perfect in every way.
- Jesus set aside His “godliness” to take on the flesh of man and to bear our sins upon the cross.
  - Philippians 2:5-8
- The importance of Jesus taking on the flesh for the propitiation of our sins.
  - Hebrews 2:14-17
  - It was absolutely vital that Jesus take on humanity so that He could be the ultimate sacrifice.
- **What do you think about Jesus setting aside His deity to take on flesh for us?**
- **Does Scripture make it clear that this is an important truth?**
- The divinity of the Holy Spirit.
  - The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and not something created.
    - Genesis 1:2
      - “Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the surface of the waters.”
  - This same Spirit (Holy Spirit) is given to all Christians. It is God living within us.
    - 2 Corinthians 1:22
      - “And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put His seal on us and given us **His Spirit in our hearts** as a guarantee.”
  - The truth is further recognized by the command given by Jesus for baptism in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
    - Matthew 28:19
      - “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,”
  - The apostles also were knowledgeable of this truth.
    - 1 Peter 1:2
      - “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father and set apart by the Spirit for obedience and for sprinkling with the blood of Jesus Christ. May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”
  - **Do we take the Holy Spirit for granted as Christians? Do we at times forget just WHO the Spirit is?**
- There is one God in three persons
  - This brings us to the trinity which how we attempt to deal with the relationship between God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
  - The word “trinity” is a extrabiblical word that is not found in Scripture.
    - It is man’s word used to capture the scriptural teachings of the unity of God.
    - So while the word is not found in Scripture the concept most certainly is.

- When one hears “trinity” one immediately understands the intention of the unity between God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit.



- - We worship ONE God who has made Himself known to us in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
  - These are not separate beings that makeup God, but they are different persons within the same Godhead.
    - Analogies are difficult to use and get right with the trinity but we can think of an actor in an old play where they used different masks for different persona’s during the same play.
    - The actor is always of the same “essence” but he has different persona’s.
  - These persons have had different roles.
    - God the Father who sits on His throne watching over us.
    - God the Son who came into the world in flesh to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
    - God the Holy Spirit who lives within our hearts.
  - **Regardless of the different persons or roles, there is only ONE God.**
- Progressive revelation
  - While some like to think that the God of the Old Testament is not the God of the New Testament because the relationship between Jesus and God isn’t made so distinctly.
  - However, from seeing Scripture as a whole we can see quite clearly that God has always been a triune God, just because God didn’t reveal the trinity in the OT as He has in the NT does not change anything.
  - What this does show us is that God has chosen to reveal His truths to us in progression over time and revealing His plan piece by piece.
- However as hard as we try to understand the trinity we cannot ever fully comprehend it.
  - It is a mystery that we will never fully understand this side of Heaven.
- Jesus came to fulfill the Scriptures
  - It is important that we understand the relationship of Jesus Christ and the Old Testament Scriptures.
  - Jesus is not a “new” God that came to replace the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), but instead Jesus came to fulfill them.
    - Hebrews 1:1-2a
      - “Long ago God spoke to the fathers by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, He has spoken to us by His son...”

- Matthew 5:17
    - “Don’t assume that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy **but to fulfill.**”
- God coming to earth in the flesh as Jesus Christ was simply a continuation of God’s plan for the redemption of humanity that began at the fall.
  - Genesis 3:15
    - “I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”
    - This is the “first good news” as it is the foretelling of the Gospel.
  - Isaiah 7:14
    - “Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel” - God with us.
  - Matthew 1:20-24
- The early Jewish-Christians understood that Christianity was a continuation.
  - The first Christians were Jews who believed in Jesus Christ. They did not see following Jesus as a new religion but as a continuation.
  - However, there were many Jews who did not believe and that hold true today.
- Jesus after his resurrection made clear the meaning of the fulfillment of Scripture to His disciples.
  - Jesus made certain that His disciples fully understood this relation and after His Resurrection He opened their minds to the truth.
  - Luke 24:25-27
    - He said to them, “How unwise and slow you are to believe in your hearts all that the prophets have spoken! Didn’t the Messiah have to suffer these things and enter in to His glory? Then beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted for them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”
  - Luke 24:44
    - “Then He told them, “These are My words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
- **What does Jesus fulfilling the Scriptures tell us about God and humanity?**
- The great purpose of Jesus Christ.
  - Now understanding who Jesus is and what He did in relation to Scripture, let us now see what was great purpose for coming.
  - Jesus came to testify to the truth and to show us God’s grace and mercy.
    - John 18:37a
      - “You are a king then? Pilate asked. You say that I’m a king, Jesus replied. I was born for this, and I have come into the world for this: to testify to the truth...”
    - John 1:17
      - “for the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
  - So what exactly is this truth?
    - We are all sinners in need of a savior.
      - Romans 3:23
        - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”
    - Jesus came to reconcile our sins and to make peace through the cross.
      - Colossians 1:19-20
        - “For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

