

2. Father and Son are distinct from the Holy Spirit

- (1) Christ distinguishes self from both John 14:16,17
- (2) Spirit proceeds from the Father John 15:26
- (3) Spirit is sent by Father and Son. John 14:26; 15:26

3. The Holy Spirit is a person.

- (1) Designations proper to personality are given Him. John 16:14
- (2) His name mentioned in immediate connection with other persons in such a way as to imply his own personality Acts 15:28; Matt.28:29; II Cor. 13:14
- (3) He performs acts proper to personality. He searches, reveals, convicts, commands, guides, inspires, etc Gen 6:3; Luke 12:12; John 3:8; Acts 8:29 Rom.8:26
- (4) He is affected as a person by the acts of others. Isa 63:10; Matt.12:31; Acts 5:3,4,9; Eph 4:30
- (5) He manifestas Himself in visible form - distinct from Father and Son - Matt. 3:16,17

III. This Tripersonality of the Divine Nature is not Merely Economic and Temporal, but It is Immanent and Eternal

1. Scripture proof that these distinctions are eternal.

John 1:1,2; 8:58; Rev. 22:13,14; John 17:5.

2. Errors refuted by these passages

(1) The Sabellian

Sabellius (c 250 A. D.) held that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are mere developments or revelations to creatures, in time, of the otherwise concealed Godhead. They are forms or manifestations of God.

(2) The Arian

Arius (c 300 A. D.) held that Father is the only divine being absolutely without beginning; the Son and the Holy Spirit, through whom God creates and recreates, having been themselves created out of nothing before the world was Christ is called God because He ranks next to Him Jesus was neither divine nor human.

IV. This Tripersonality is not Tritheism; for, while There are Three Persons, There is but One Essence

1. Term Person must be used in a qualified sense. It only approximates the truth.

2. The necessary qualification is that, while three persons among men have only a specific unity of nature or essence - that is, have the same Species of nature or essence, the persons of the Godhead have a numerical unity of nature or essence - that is: have the same nature or essence.

V. The Three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are Equal.

1. These Titles belong to the Persons

- (1) Father shows relationship to the Son and through the Son and Spirit to the Church
- (2) Son designates the relationship to the Father whereby He is sent to redeem the world
- (3) The Holy Spirit designates the relationship to the Father & Son whereby He is sent by them to accomplish the work of renewing the ungodly and of sanctifying the Church.

2. Qualified Sense of These Titles

Like the word "person", the names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not to be confined within the precise limitations of meaning which would be required if they were applied to men.