

## “The Last Days: Trinity Under Fire”

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### □ Philosophical logic

- I John 4:8—“God is \_\_\_\_\_.”
- Bruce M. Metzger: “The Unitarian professes to agree with the statement that ‘God is love.’ But these words, ‘God is love,’ have no real meaning unless God is at least \_\_\_\_\_ Persons. Love is something that one *person* has for another *person*. If God were a single person, then before the universe was made, he was \_\_\_\_\_ love. For, if love be of the essence of God, he must always love, and, being eternal, he must have possessed an eternal object of love. Furthermore, perfect love is possible only between equals. Just as a man cannot satisfy or realize his powers of love by loving lower animals, so God cannot satisfy or realize his love by loving man or any creature. Being infinite, he must have eternally possessed an infinite object of his love, some \_\_\_\_\_, or, to use the language of traditional Christian theology, a consubstantial [“of one or the same being”], co-eternal, and co-equal \_\_\_\_\_.” (*The Jehovah’s Witnesses and Jesus Christ* 83)
- Otto H. Christensen: “There is a sense in which the fact that God is love requires that he be more than one person. Love must have both a \_\_\_\_\_ and an \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, prior to the creation of other persons, humans, God could not have really loved, and thus would not have been truly love. If, however, there have always been multiple \_\_\_\_\_ within the Trinity itself, among whom love could be mutually exercised, expressed, and experienced, then God could always have been actively loving. . . . Because God is \_\_\_\_\_ persons, rather than two, there is a dimension of openness and extension not necessarily found in a love relationship between two persons, which can sometimes be quite closed in nature.” (*Getting Acquainted with God* 58, 59)
- Two persons form a \_\_\_\_\_—three persons become a \_\_\_\_\_.

### □ Biblical Revelation

- In John 13-17 Jesus declares His unity with the \_\_\_\_\_ (13:31,32; 14:6; 14:7; 14:9; 14:10,11; 14:12; 14:13 [et al]; 14:23; 14:28; 14:31; 15:1; 15:10; 15:15; 16:3; 16:5; 16:16; 16:27; 16:28; 16:32; 17:1-26).
  - John 14:9, 10—“He who has seen Me has seen the \_\_\_\_\_ . . . . I am in the Father, and the Father in Me.”
  - John 14:16—“And I [one Being] will \_\_\_\_\_ the Father [another Being], and He will give you another Helper [a third Being].”
  - The divinity of Christ:
    - John 10:30-33
    - John 8:58-59
    - The Gospel of John unequivocally declares the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ: opening with “And the Word was God” (1:1-3) and concluding with “My Lord and My God!” (20:28).
  - John 14:23—“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and \_\_\_\_\_ will come to him and make \_\_\_\_\_ home with him.”
    - Genesis 1:27—“Let \_\_\_\_\_ make man in \_\_\_\_\_ image.”
    - Jesus Himself is describing God as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - John 14:31—“I \_\_\_\_\_ the Father.”
  - John 15:15—“All things I \_\_\_\_\_ from My Father I have made known to you.”
  - John 16:32—“I am not \_\_\_\_\_, because the Father is with Me.”
  - John 17—Jesus’ entire prayer is steeped in language that declares His \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father.
- In John 14-16 Jesus declares His unity with the \_\_\_\_\_ (14:16-18; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7; 16:8-11; 16:13; 16:14; 16:15).

- John 14:26—“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit [one Being], whom the Father [another Being] will send in My name [a third Being], \_\_\_\_\_ will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that \_\_\_\_\_ said to you.”
    - Note that the Upper Room Discourse intentionally uses the masculine pronoun “\_\_\_\_\_” to refer to the Holy Spirit—rather than the neuter pronoun (“it”) the neuter word “Spirit” calls for—thus affirming the biblical truth that the Holy Spirit is not an impersonal spirit that emanates from the Father or the Son—but is rather a \_\_\_\_\_ Being that joins Them in Their divine mission.
  - John 15:26—“He will testify of \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - John 16:14—“He will glorify \_\_\_\_\_.”
  - Woodrow Whidden: “The \_\_\_\_\_ of the one God” is “the profound unity or oneness inherent in the doctrine of the Trinity. Here are \_\_\_\_\_ divine beings lined up together in such a way as to point to Their \_\_\_\_\_ of purpose in imparting grace and love to God’s people through Their deep fellowship with one another and the redeemed.” (*The Trinity: Understanding God’s Love, His Plan of Salvation, and Christian Relationships* 74—with Jerry Moon, John Reeves)
  - No wonder the New Testament radiates with the glory of the Trinity!
    - Matthew 3:16, 17—The Trinity at Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_
    - Matthew 28:19—The Trinity at your \_\_\_\_\_
    - I Corinthians 12:4-6—The Trinity in our \_\_\_\_\_
    - II Corinthians 13:14—The Trinity at our \_\_\_\_\_
    - I Peter 1:2—The Trinity for our \_\_\_\_\_
  - The Trinity is a teaching inherent in the Old Testament as well.
    - Deuteronomy 6:4—“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is \_\_\_\_\_!”
    - Instead of choosing the word *yachid* which means “one” in the sense of “only” or “alone,” Moses chose the plural word *’echad*—which means “one among others in a joined or shared \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - Genesis 2:24—“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one [*’echad*—two beings who share oneness of] flesh.”
    - Like in a marriage—when two distinct human beings become one—even so in the Trinity, Three distinct divine Beings are One.
- **Personal application**
- Jesus’ last prayer: “That they may be one, just as We are one.” (John 17:11,21,22,23)
  - But how?
  - The unity of the Trinity is the fruit of mutual \_\_\_\_\_.
    - The Father submits to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Heb 1:13; Phil 2:9-10).
    - The Son submits to the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 5:19, 30; I Cor 15:28; Phil 2:6-8).
    - The Holy Spirit submits to the \_\_\_\_\_ and to the \_\_\_\_\_ (John 14:16, 26; 16:7, 13, 14).
  - Mutual submission is the secret to genuine unity—when I place \_\_\_\_\_ interests ahead of \_\_\_\_\_ interests—when I love you \_\_\_\_\_ (i.e., at my own expense).
  - Calvary is the Trinity’s most sublime exhibit of Their mutual submission to our fallen race!

## *unity within Community*

love, two, not, *alter ego*, Son, subject, object, persons, three, couple, community, Father, Father, ask, deity, divinity, We, Our, Us, Our, plurality, love, heard, alone, unity, Holy Spirit, He, I, [He], personal, Me, Me, triunity, three, oneness, baptism, baptism, church, worship, salvation, one, oneness, submission, Son, Father, Father, Son, your, my, sacrificially

**"THE LAST DAYS"**

**CONNECT CARD**

Dr. / Mr. / Mrs. / Miss / Ms.

Change in contact information

March 10, 2012

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1st Time Guest  2nd Time Guest  Regular Attender  Member

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Best Contact Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**YOUR AGE GROUP:**

- Junior  High School
- Collegiate  20s
- 30s  40s
- 50s  60s
- 70s and up

If guest, how did you hear about PMC? \_\_\_\_\_

(Flyer, TV, Google search, name of person who invited you, etc.)

**Place this card in the offering plate or hand it in at the Welcome Center as you leave.**

**MY NEXT STEP TODAY IS:**

- I want to read Jesus' John 17 prayer every day this next week.
- I will seek to build unity within community.
- I would like more information about being baptized on Saturday, April 21 or Saturday, April 28.

**I'M INTERESTED IN:**

- Beginning a relationship with Jesus
- Information on baptism
- Information on church membership
- Serving on a team @ PMC
- Learning more about the Bible

Comments, Prayer Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

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Feel free to mail this in to:

New Perceptions  
Box 0970  
Andrews University  
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