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Dear Associates and Friends,

January 2012

“[The Antichristian Doctrine of the Trinity](#)” is this month’s article from an audiotaped lecture that Dr. Ernest L. Martin presented in October 1993. This article may offend some people, perhaps many people. That is unfortunate because the doctrine of the Trinity is not biblical.

The Trinity is supposedly a basic teaching, a foundational doctrine of Christianity. Such a bedrock teaching should be able to withstand provocative and challenging examination. It cannot. Yet belief and acceptance of the Trinity practically defines whether your belief in God is orthodox or heretical. This is true for most of Christianity. The Trinity is an antichrist doctrine. Here is the opinion of one secular historian:

“Christianity did not destroy paganism; it adopted it ... [From Egypt came the ideas of a divine trinity, the Last Judgment, and ... reward and punishment.](#)”

• **Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*¹**

A Challenging Question

The idea of God being a Trinity deals with the nature of God. The study of the nature of God is the primary object of “theology,” which comes from the Latin *theo* (God) + *logos* (treatment of, or study of). If you get that wrong, you are worshipping and praying to a God who is not there!

The nature of God can only be revealed by God. It cannot be derived through reason, or experience, or tradition. The nature or the fundamental qualities of God can only come through God’s revelation of Himself through Christ Jesus (God’s Living Word) and the Bible (His written word). The question is asked in Scripture several times “What is man?” Scripture never asks “What is God?” because that is the purpose of Scripture — to reveal Him to mankind.

Let me ask, if the Trinity is so important and such a foundational teaching, where in the Bible is there discussion about the Trinity? Can anyone point out to me where that discussion is? I am not talking about “allusions” of the Trinity or “hints” about it. The entire Book of Job and all the Wisdom books of the Old Testament are about “the problem of evil.” But there are no discussions about “the problem of the Trinity” anywhere in the Old or New Testaments. Scholars readily admit that to be the case.

Easton’s Bible Dictionary is a traditional orthodox reference work from the late 1800s. In the article “Trinity” note the lack of biblical evidence about the Godhead comprised of three “persons.” In fact, the biblical evidence is obviously avoided:

“TRINITY, a word not found in Scripture, but used to express the doctrine of the unity of God as subsisting in three distinct Persons. This word is derived from the Gr. *trias*, first used by Theophilus (A.D. 168–183) or from the Lat. *trinitas*, first used by Tertullian (A.D. 220) to express this doctrine. The propositions involved in the doctrine are these: (1). That God is one, and that there is but one God (Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 Kings 8:60, Isaiah 44:6, Mark 12:29,32, John 10:30) (2) That the Father is a distinct divine Person (*hypostasis, subsistentia, persona, suppositum intellectuale*), distinct from the Son and the Holy Spirit. (3) That Jesus Christ was

¹ Will Durant, *The Story of Civilization*, Part 3: *Caesar and Christ, a history of Roman civilization and of Christianity from their beginnings to A.D. 325* (New York: Simon & Shuster, 1944), p. 595.

truly God, and yet was a Person distinct from the Father and the Holy Spirit. (4) That the Holy Spirit is also a distinct divine Person.”

• *Easton Bible Dictionary, 3rd ed., 1897 by M.G. Easton*

The italicized words are Latin theological terms that try to explain the relationships between the “persons” of the Trinity. You will learn about the development of the Trinity doctrine in Dr. Martin’s article.

In the epistle of First Corinthians the apostle Paul deals with the issue of food sacrificed to idols. That was a problem for the Corinthian *ekklesia*, composed of recent pagan converts who formerly worshipped multiple false gods. Paul founded the *ekklesia* and taught them for 18 months. He taught them about the true God as opposed to pagan gods. Did he teach them about the supposed Trinity? No. He reminded them of what he taught them previously:

“For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many [demons who counterfeit as gods],) But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge.”

• *1 Corinthians 8:5–7*

The Corinthians were not confused about the nature of God. They were confused whether to accept or reject food served to them that had been dedicated to pagan idols. Paul was away from Corinth when he wrote the epistle. To answer their questions he clarified his teaching about the nature of God in chapter 8, within his answer to them about food offered to idols. He did not remind them of a Trinity, but he should have done so if the Trinity was true, a bedrock teaching that all Christians must believe. Remember, the Corinthians were new Christians, former pagans, yet are we to suppose they understood the sophisticated philosophical teaching of God as a Trinity (although no theologian throughout history has understood it)?

Paul said **“there is but one God ... and one Lord Jesus Christ.”** Mention of the Holy Spirit is missing, yet the word “spirit” occurs 35 times elsewhere in First Corinthians. It is not part of Paul’s instruction about God. Paul said that the Father is God and Jesus is Lord (who as God’s agent has full authority to use God’s personal name YHWH). God’s Holy Spirit is not a “person,” it is **“the power of the Highest”** (Luke 1:35), just as the angel Gabriel told Mary. Who was **“the Highest”**? It was God the Father of Jesus. The Holy Spirit is a “power” (Luke 4:14; Acts 1:8, 10:38; Romans 15:13, 19; 1 Corinthians 2:4; Ephesians 3:16).

Year-end Receipts

For one final time I want to remind you, tell us if you require a receipt for your contributions to ASK in 2011, which are often deductible. You will not receive a receipt unless you request one.

Thank You

Those who believe in the Trinity demand acceptance of it on faith, but it is faith without biblical evidence. The odd non-Christian doctrine of the Trinity is a mental exercise for theologians. Very few people care about it, and most people accept it without question. Ask too many questions about the Trinity and get ready for fireworks! To paraphrase an old joke about the Trinity and those scholars and teachers who promote it: “It’s not that they’re ignorant, it’s that they know so much that isn’t so!”

At ASK we do not avoid asking tough questions of any teaching. Dr. Martin never did. Nor did he allow suggestions to water down his teachings from the Bible and he strongly (even angrily) refused to “go along to get along.” We teach the evidence of the Bible. If you read and study ASK material you should support us, even financially. If you contributed in the past and stopped doing so, yet still read ASK material, you should begin contributing again. Do not muzzle us oxen (1 Timothy 5:18), because we are worthy of your support. We are extremely grateful for those who do. You are heroes and we are thankful to God for you.

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