

Understanding the Trinity 2. God is three in one

John Percival

Introduction

- Photo mosaics...
- *"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

God exists in three persons

- Hinted at in the Old Testament (Gen. 1:26, 11:7, Is. 6:8, Gen. 32:22-30, Is. 9:6)
- Made explicit in the New (Mark 1:9-11, Matt. 28:19)

Each person is fully God

- The Son is God (John 1:1, 20:28, 8:58, Col. 2:9)
- The Spirit is God and a person (Acts 5:3-4, Rom. 8:26, Eph. 4:30)

Implications:

- God is love (1 John 4:8)
- God is complete (John 17:3, 1 John 4:10)

Conclusion

Genesis 32v22-30

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."

²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?"

"Jacob," he answered.

²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome."

²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."

But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.

³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Mark 1v9-11 (NIV)

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

Glossary

Modalism: erroneous belief that God exists in three aspects or "modes"

Arius: priest around 318AD who began to deny that the Son was fully God

Athanasius: deacon at the Council of Nicaea (325); opponent of Arius who argued that the Son was always equal with the Father