

A Plural Unity: The Source of Love

As human beings we are created in the image of God. God created us with not only physical attributes, but with a soul, a spiritual aspect of each of us. One component of our soul is the ability to love. Love cannot be measured, weighed, tasted, touched, or seen. We can see the effects of love or the lack of it, but we cannot see love itself; it is not physical.

Where does love come from? If humans are created in the image of God, then love must have come from God Himself – a part of His image that He put within us. God cannot give us something He does not have. It is reasonable to assume, then, that since we have love, this love must have come from God, and God Himself has love and is capable of loving.

Love requires an object on which to demonstrate its existence. Love cannot exist independently – I cannot demonstrate love towards myself in the true sense of the word. I need someone or something to show love toward. So it stands to reason that God also required someone to love, even before He created man. After all, if love comes from God, it must have existed as long as God has existed, eternally.

In the godhead of Christianity, we see the perfect opportunity for love to be at work in eternity past. It is only in this plural unity that love can operate: God the Father showing love toward God the son, with God the Holy Spirit lovingly cooperating to bring about the will of the Father.

It is only through the Christian concept of God that we can understand the origin of true love.

The Good News: God Loves You!

God created each of us unique and special. God loves each one of us. He calls us His children; He is our Father.

Because a father loves his children, He would do anything to protect them – he would give anything to save their lives if necessary, including his own life.

God loves us so much that He came down from heaven as 'Isa, the second person of the trinity, the plural unity of God. In 'Isa were all the attributes of both God and man. God became a human to give His own life to save ours.

The Bible tells us that God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. You see, every person has violated God and His holiness. The relationship God desires with us as His children is incomplete because of sin.

So God, because of His love for us, sent his son, 'Isa, to die for our sin. 'Isa was holy, pure, and sinless. The Bible says God made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we can become the righteousness of God in him.

Thank God for giving us 'Isa to die for our sins. Ask God to forgive you, and ask 'Isa to be the Lord of your life. God loves you!!

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. – Romans 5:8, The Holy Bible



One
God
Or
Three?



One God, Three Persons

Christians are accused of worshipping three Gods. This is not true. Christianity has always affirmed the oneness of God, just as Muslims do (tawhid). But according to the taurat and the injil, the one God is made of three persons. This concept can be described as follows:

- God is three persons
- Each person is fully God
- There is one God

GOD IS THREE PERSONS

In the Bible, God's word sent before the Qur'an, we find the three persons in the following verses:

- Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,
- 1 Cor. 12:4-6 - There are diversities of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. There are differences of ministries, but the same **Lord**. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same **God** who works all in all.
- 2 Cor. 1:21-22 – Now He who establishes us with you in **Christ** and anointed us is **God**, who also sealed us and gave us the **Spirit**
- 2 Cor. 13:14 - The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.
- Eph. 4:4-6 - There is one body and one **Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one **Lord**, one faith, one baptism; one **God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

These verses and others show very clearly that God is composed of three distinct persons, each with his own unique personality and function.

EACH PERSON IS FULLY GOD

1. *God is God.* This requires no explanation.
2. *Jesus is God.*

Both the Bible and Qur'an affirm God created everything. But Jesus also created all there is:

- John 1:1,3 – In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.
- Colossians 1:16 – By Him [Jesus] all things were created, visible and invisible... all things have been created through Him and for Him.

If God's word tells us that God created all things, but it also tells us Jesus created all things, then Jesus must be God; there is no other possible explanation. God does not contradict Himself, nor is He a God of confusion.

Jesus is also called God, and equates himself with God:

- John 20:28 – Thomas answered and said to him [Jesus], "My Lord and My God!"
- John 10:30 – "I and the Father are one."
- John 14:9 – "He who has seen me has seen the father."

3. *The Holy Spirit is God.*

The apostle of Jesus by the name of Peter confirms the Holy Spirit as God. In Acts 5, Peter confronts Ananias with lying about a certain deed. In verse 3, Peter tells Ananias, "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit." Then, in verse 4, Peter tells Ananias, "You have not lied to men but to God!" If Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, and he also lied to God, then the Holy Spirit must be God.

David also writes in the Psalms (zabur):

- Psalm 139:7-8 – Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there...

THERE IS ONE GOD

The Bible affirms throughout that God is one, and only one.

- Deuteronomy 6:4 – The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!
- 1 Kings 8:60 – that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.
- Isaiah 45:5 – I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.
- Malachi 2:10 – Do we not all have one father? Has not one God created us?
- Romans 3:30 – there is one God...
- 1 Timothy 2:5 – for us there is one God
- Ephesians 4:6 – one God and father of all

- 1 Corinthians 8:6 – yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

Clearly, scripture teaches that God is three persons, that each person is fully God, but that there is only one God. This one God, then, must be composed of three persons.

SINGLE YET PLURAL

In the creation account, we find the single plurality of God.

- Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

In this verse, the word 'God' is *Elohim*, a plural masculine noun—literally Gods. But the verb *bara* is a masculine singular. Literally the verse can be translated "In the beginning Gods, He created the heavens and the earth." This does not imply multiple gods created; rather, that one God (*bara* – he created) worked together as a plural unity in the creative process.

We see this example again in verses 26 and 27 of Genesis 1:

- Genesis 1:26 – Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image
- Genesis 1:27 – God created man in His own image.

God said "Let us create," but then God created in His image. The "us" is "one."

DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND?

Our human intellect has trouble understanding how God can be one yet more than one at the same time – how God can be a plural unity. Yet we would be foolish to believe we humans, with our limited knowledge, would be able to conceive and completely understand God in all His majesty and glory.

A CONTRADICTION?

The law of non-contradiction states that a thing and its opposite cannot both exist at the same time and in the same sense. It would be contradictory if Christians said the trinity is one God made of three Gods, or was one Person made of three persons. However, to say that the trinity is one God made of three persons does not violate the law of non-contradiction.