David A. Rankin “Tony”

Mike Vestal

Godhead

1 April 2020

The Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead

 The controversial nature of the Godhead has been examined since the second century A. D. Is God represented in three forms as one solitary person or do three separate personalities exist as deity. What about a popular doctrine of the Trinity today, is it true or false. Let’s see if the answers can be found to these questions.

 Theodotus of Byzantium and Sabellius of Libya believed that the Trinity designations, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost represented one person. This is also a popular doctrine today taught by the Pentecostals and other religious groups.

 Let’s see if through examination if in fact the Trinity is one being or three distinct beings. The name of God, first of all is not a personality it is a unified nature says Wayne Jackson (Jackson, Wayne. “The Biblical Doctrine of the Godhead.” [ChristianCourier.com](http://ChristianCourier.com) April 1, 2020). Jackson goes on to say that this divine and unified nature is shared by three distinct personalities. These three personalities are identified as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each personality is eternal and of equal essence though they may have different roles which would include subordination (Jackson. Godhead. [ChristianCourier.com](http://ChristianCourier.com) 1 April 2020).

 Let’s look at Old Testament evidence of Divine Plurality. In Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God (elohim) is plural and Jackson goes on to say that Adam Clarke and Richard Watson were in agreement of the plurality of elohim. Though some claimed that this was a form of “plural of majesty” Jackson said that Nathan Stone observed that the “plural majesty “was not known then.” Professor Harold Stigers also agreed with the plurality of the title God. Another Old Testament example would be in Genesis 1:26 which states “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness which limits the creating to God says Jackson. No created entity such as the angels (Nehemiah) could create because they were created by God the creator. There are many more examples that when researched will support the plurality of the term God says Jackson.

 Let’s look at New Testament evidence of Devine Plurality. In Matthew 3:16-17 when John the Baptist was baptizing Christ, the Father is speaking from heaven, and the Holy Spirit is descending as a dove explains Jackson. In Matthew 28:19 the record shows that when given the great commission baptism was to be carried out “into the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit” says Jackson. There are numerous more examples when researched one will find that support the plurality of the term God.

 When reviewing the supporting evidence there is ample evidence that has been given to support the one nature of God and the three distinct personalities of the Godhead that are noted throughout all scripture. This also puts to rest the popular belief of the Pentecostals and other religious groups that there is just one personality of God. If we are truly searching for the truth, God will reveal His truth in the overwhelming evidence found in the nature of God and the three distinct personalities of the Trinity. The answer to our question is both. God is singular and plural working to complete His will.