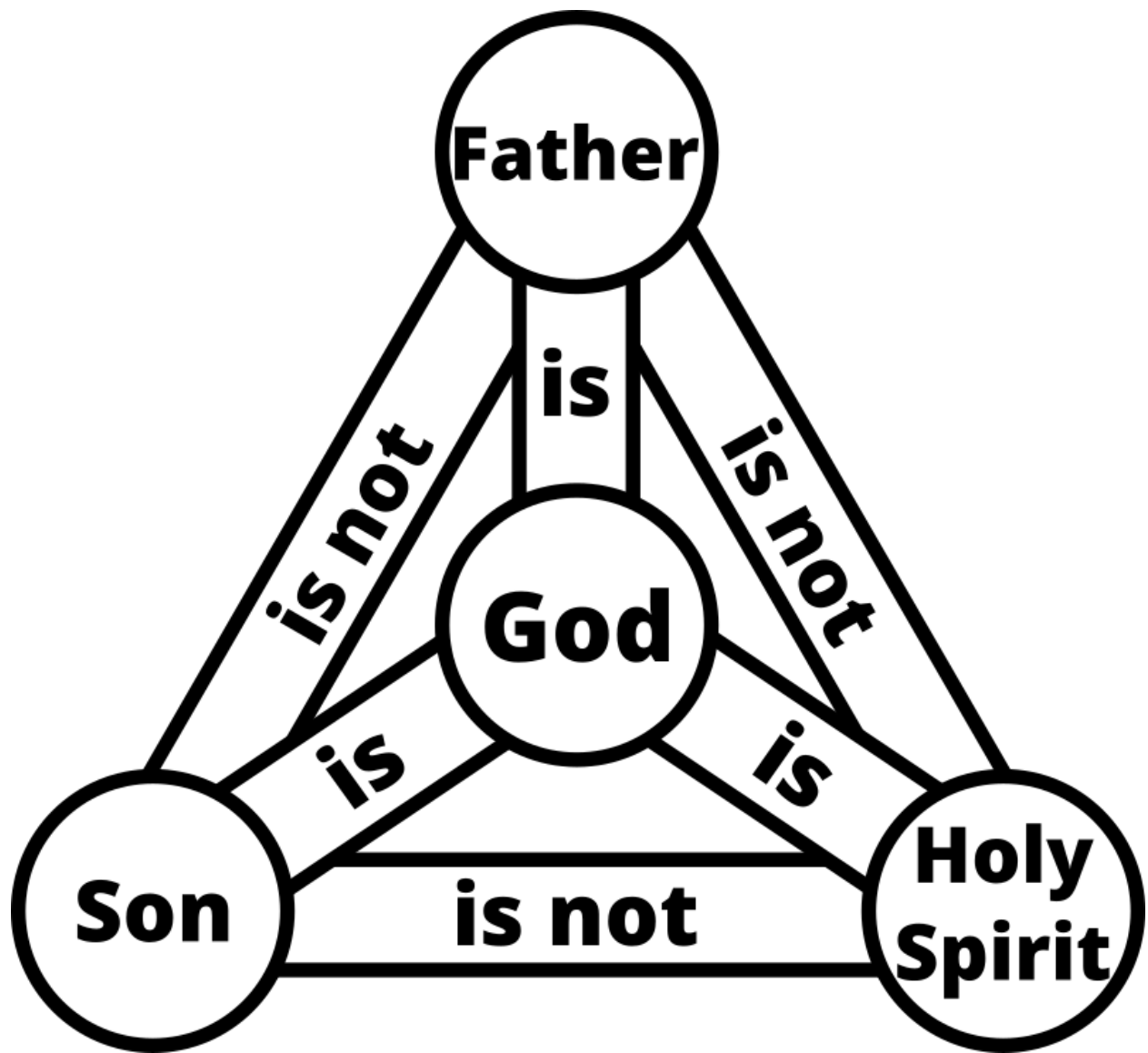




"My Reasons for Not Believing in the Trinity"

By Jefren Shablack

Introduction

The doctrine of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit coexisting as one God—is a foundational belief for many Christian denominations. However, upon careful examination of Scripture and historical accounts, I discovered that this doctrine lacks biblical support and was not a part of early Christian teachings.

This book is an exploration of my journey away from the Trinity doctrine. It is not intended to attack anyone's beliefs but to inspire readers to search the Scriptures for themselves, guided by the Holy Spirit, which I believe is the Spirit of Jesus.

1. Lack of Explicit Trinitarian Doctrine in Scripture

The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible, nor does Scripture explicitly describe God as three co-equal, co-eternal persons. This absence raises critical questions about the validity of this doctrine, which was not formalized until centuries after Christ.

The Historical Development of the Trinity Doctrine

The Trinity doctrine was first articulated at the **Council of Nicaea in 325 CE**, initiated under Emperor Constantine's influence. Constantine's goal was political unity in the Roman Empire, and the formulation of a unified Christian creed served this purpose. {a}

At the **Council of Constantinople in 381 CE**, the doctrine was further refined to include the Holy Spirit as a third person in the Godhead. These developments occurred hundreds of years after the apostles, suggesting that the doctrine was not part of the original Christian faith. {b}

God declares, "**I change not**" (*Malachi 3:6*), emphasizing His consistency. Jesus taught, "**I did not come to abolish the Law or the Prophets but to fulfill them**" (*Matthew 5:17*). These verses challenge the notion that God's nature would shift from singularity to a triune concept.

Constantine's Influence on Christianity

Constantine not only presided over the Council of Nicaea but also introduced non-biblical traditions, such as declaring **Sunday as a day of rest** in 321 CE. This marked a departure from biblical Sabbath observance (*Exodus 20:8-11*), illustrating how political motives shaped Christian practices. {c}

The question arises: Who will you believe—Christ, whose teachings were rooted in Scripture, or Constantine, whose decisions were driven by political strategy?

2. What the Bible Says

The Bible consistently emphasizes the oneness of God and does not present the Trinity as a concept. Let us examine key scriptural passages to understand the nature of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

A. The Oneness of God

- **Deuteronomy 6:4:** *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."*
- **Isaiah 45:5:** *"I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me, there is no God."*

These verses affirm the singularity of God, leaving no room for a triune nature. Jesus Himself echoed this in **Mark 12:29**, reiterating the Shema: *"The most important commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."*

B. Jesus' Subordination to the Father

Jesus often described Himself as being subordinate to the Father, which challenges the Trinitarian claim of co-equality:

- **John 14:28:** *"The Father is greater than I."*
- **John 17:3:** *"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*
- **1 Corinthians 11:3:** *"The head of Christ is God."*

Jesus is the **Son of God**, our Lord and Savior, and He is divine (*Matthew 1:23*). However, He consistently identified the Father as greater and distinct from Himself.

C. The Holy Spirit as God's Power

The Holy Spirit is described in Scripture as the power or presence of God, not as a distinct person:

- **Luke 1:35:** *"The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you."*
- **Acts 2:1-4:** The Holy Spirit empowered the apostles at Pentecost.

In **John 16:13**, Jesus refers to the Spirit as a guide into all truth, sent by the Father and Himself. Nowhere in Scripture is the Holy Spirit worshiped or described as co-equal with God and Jesus.

3. The Problem with Forcing the Trinity Doctrine

The Trinity doctrine was not derived from Scripture but was imposed on Christianity through councils and creeds.

A. Historical Persecution

During the Roman Empire, those who opposed the Trinity and other Constantinian doctrines, such as Sunday worship and the immortality of the soul, were labeled heretics and often persecuted. The **Arian controversy**, for example, centered on disagreements about the nature of Christ and His relationship to God. {d}

B. Lack of Scriptural Clarity

If the Trinity were a central biblical truth, it would be clearly and repeatedly taught in Scripture. Instead, it requires complex theological explanations and philosophical reasoning to justify.

C. Influence of Greek Philosophy

The Trinity reflects the influence of Hellenistic philosophical ideas, rather than being derived purely from biblical teachings. The concepts like "substance" and "persons" are foreign to the Hebrew worldview. {e}

Jeremiah 29:13 reminds us: *"You will seek me and find me when you search for me with all your heart."* Truth should not be obscured by tradition but revealed plainly through God's Word.

4. The Real God vs. the False God

A. Satan's Deception

From the very beginning, Satan has sought to distort the truth about God. In the Garden of Eden, his first lie to humanity was:

"You will be like God, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5).

This cunning statement wasn't just a temptation to sin but an invitation to reject God's authority and redefine His nature. It echoes Satan's own rebellion, as described in Isaiah 14:13-14:

"For you have said in your heart:

'I will ascend into heaven,

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;

I will also sit on the mount of the congregation

On the farthest sides of the north;

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,

I will be like the Most High."

Satan's ambition to "be like the Most High" was not merely about power but also about misleading others to worship him as though he were God. This same tactic of confusion and deception has been employed throughout history to divert worship from the one true God.

The Trinity and the False God

The doctrine of the Trinity, while widely accepted in many Christian traditions, can be viewed as mirroring this same deception. It introduces the concept of "God the Holy Spirit" as a distinct, co-equal deity. However, upon closer examination, the Bible does not provide direct support for this concept. Instead, the Holy Spirit is consistently depicted as the power and presence of God and Christ working in believers.

Consider the words of Jesus in John 17:3:

"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Here, Jesus clearly identifies the Father as the "only true God" and Himself as the one sent by God. There is no mention of a third co-equal person in the Godhead.

Furthermore, the Apostle Paul reinforces this understanding in 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."

Paul emphasizes the Father as the one God and Jesus as the Lord, with no indication of a third entity equal to them.

A Warning Against False Worship

In Revelation 13, we are warned about the deception of a false system of worship:

"So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, 'Who is like the beast? Who is able to make war with him?'" (Revelation 13:4).

This verse shows that Satan, symbolized as the dragon, works to redirect worship toward himself and his counterfeit systems, often cloaked in what appears to be true religion.

The Bible consistently calls us to worship the one true God, as declared in Deuteronomy 6:4:

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

Any doctrine or teaching that obscures this truth risks leading believers into idolatry, even if unintentionally.

Satan's ultimate goal has always been to distort the character and nature of God, leading humanity away from the truth. The Bible urges us to be vigilant and discerning, testing all teachings against Scripture. As followers of Christ, we are called to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (John 4:24), rejecting the subtle deceptions that would pull us away from Him.

B. Questionable Verses

Certain verses often cited to support the doctrine of the Trinity have faced scrutiny due to historical evidence suggesting textual alterations. These questionable verses raise concerns about their authenticity and intent, particularly in relation to promoting the Trinity doctrine.

1. Matthew 28:19

The verse reads:

"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."

While this verse is commonly used as a foundational proof of the Trinity, many scholars argue that it reflects later liturgical additions rather than the original teachings of Jesus. Early Christian writings, including the Book of Acts, consistently show the apostles baptizing in the name of Jesus Christ alone (Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 19:5). This discrepancy has led some to conclude that the original wording of Matthew 28:19 may have been altered to align with evolving Trinitarian theology.

Eusebius of Caesarea, a 4th-century church historian, often quoted this passage in its simpler form:

"Go and make disciples of all nations in my name."

This earlier version aligns more closely with the practices and teachings of the early Church as recorded in the New Testament. {f}

2. 1 John 5:7

This verse, known as the *Johannine Comma*, states:

"For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."

However, this phrase is absent from the earliest Greek manuscripts and only appears in the Latin Vulgate, a translation of the Bible into Latin. It was later included in the Textus Receptus, which influenced the King James Version (KJV). Most modern translations, such as the New International Version (NIV) and English Standard Version (ESV), omit the phrase, recognizing it as a later addition to the text.

The absence of the *Johannine Comma* in early manuscripts highlights how theological agendas may have influenced certain textual modifications to retroactively support the Trinity doctrine. {g}

Additional Scriptural Evidence

The New Testament offers multiple examples of a clear and consistent focus on the Father and the Son, without introducing a third co-equal person. For instance:

- **John 10:30:** *"I and My Father are one."*
Jesus emphasizes His unity with the Father without mentioning a third entity.
- **1 Timothy 2:5:** *"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."*
This verse underscores the role of Jesus as Mediator without reference to the Holy Spirit as a distinct person.
- **John 17:3:** *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*
Jesus again identifies the Father as the "only true God" and Himself as the one sent by God.

Implications of Alterations

The existence of textual changes, such as those in Matthew 28:19 and 1 John 5:7, raises important questions:

1. Why were these modifications made?
2. What theological agenda might they reflect?
3. How can believers discern between genuine Scripture and later alterations?

The Apostle Paul warns us about the dangers of altering God's Word in Galatians 1:8:
"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed."

Furthermore, Revelation 22:18-19 offers a solemn warning:
"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life."

The questionable nature of these verses serves as a reminder to approach the Scriptures with careful discernment. The Bible itself provides the tools to uncover the truth about God and His nature, free from the influence of human agendas. By relying on the whole counsel of Scripture, believers can uphold the integrity of God's Word and reject doctrines that rely on altered or fabricated texts.

5. Moving Forward: Returning to Biblical Truth

To grasp the true nature of God, believers must base their faith on the unchanging Word of God rather than traditions or doctrines shaped by human interpretation. Scripture calls us to seek truth directly from God's revelation, unclouded by theological constructs that may distort His nature.

Worship in Spirit and Truth

In John 4:23-24, Jesus emphasized the importance of genuine worship:

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

This profound statement calls believers to a relationship with the Father that transcends rituals and man-made traditions. True worship is guided by the Holy Spirit, aligning our hearts with the truth revealed in God's Word.

The Role of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, described as the Spirit of the Father and the Son, plays a vital role in leading believers into all truth and empowering them to live in obedience to God's will.

Jesus promised His followers this guiding presence in John 16:13:

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

The Holy Spirit is not introduced as a separate deity but as the active presence of God and Christ working within believers:

- **Romans 8:9:** *"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."*
- **Galatians 4:6:** *"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"*

These verses emphasize the intimate connection between the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, with no suggestion of a distinct third person.

Living Empowered by the Spirit

Through the Holy Spirit, believers are equipped to live in alignment with God's will and bear fruit that reflects His character:

- **Galatians 5:22-23:** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

- **2 Timothy 1:7:** *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

The Spirit's work in us is a continuation of Christ's presence, fulfilling His promise to dwell within His followers:

- **John 14:23:** *"Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.'"*

Moving forward requires a commitment to Scripture as the ultimate authority. By worshiping the Father in spirit and truth, relying on the Spirit of Christ for guidance, and rejecting doctrines rooted in human tradition, believers can experience a deeper, more authentic relationship with God.

Paul's admonition in Colossians 2:8 serves as a fitting warning and encouragement: *"Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ."*

Let us press on to know God as He truly is, revealed through His Word and His Spirit, walking in the light of His truth.

Conclusion

The doctrine of the Trinity is not rooted in Scripture or the teachings of Christ but in historical and political influences. As followers of Jesus, we are called to seek God's truth with sincerity and humility, testing all doctrines against His Word.

I urge you to examine the Scriptures, pray for guidance, and allow the Spirit of Jesus to lead you.

May God be with you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

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