

**This is an era of grace,
not “nice.”**

—Martin Zender

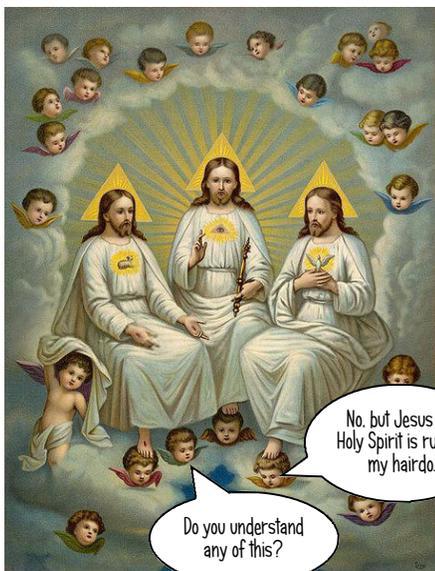
Martin Zender's Clanging Gong News

*“If I know all mysteries and all knowledge, but have no love,
I am a clanging gong” --1 Cor. 13:1-2*



Two out of three isn't bad.

“The Trinity”—deadly doctrine on steroids



The only thing wrong with the teaching of the Trinity is that it is wrong. In fact, it is so wrong that it denies one of the basic tenets of the gospel of our salvation and disqualifies hundreds of millions of people from membership into Christ's body.

How odd that one of the worst deceptions of Satan (only the teaching of human free will eclipses it) has become a litmus test determining one's dedication to God. If you even hint that you do not believe in the Trinity, you are labeled a heretic and given up to hell.¹ How ironic that the doctrine of the Trinity is the heresy.

Teachings of demons

“Now the spirit is saying explicitly, that in subsequent eras some will be withdrawing from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and the teachings of demons, in the hypocrisy of false expressions ...” (1 Timothy 4:1).

How do demons teach? Demons work their way into humanity, not by writing in the sky like the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wizard of Oz*, but by infiltrating human counsels and creeds. I am thinking,

specifically, of the Council of Nicaea. Do you think anything good or God-like could have emerged from what basically amounted to a government meeting? From Wikipedia:

The First Council of Nicaea was a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia (present-day İznik in Turkey) by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in AD 325. The Council was the first effort to attain consensus in the church through an assembly representing all of Christendom. Its main accomplishments were settlement of the Christological issue of the relationship of Jesus to God the Father; the construction of the first part of the Nicene Creed; settling the calculation of the date of Easter; and promulgation of early canon law.

Here was the main so-called accomplishment of the conclave (from Wikipedia):

► *Jesus Christ is described as “God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,” proclaiming his divinity.*

► *Jesus Christ is said to be “begotten, not made,” asserting his co-eternality with God, and confirming it by stating His role in the Creation. Basically, they were saying that Jesus was God, and God's son, not a creation of God.*

► *He is said to be “one in being with The Father,” in direct opposition to Arianism. Eusebius of Caesarea ascribes the term *homoousios*, or *consubstantial*, i.e., “of the same substance” (of the Father), to Constantine who, on this particular point, may have chosen to exercise his authority.*

The hypocrisy of false expressions

Truth is simple; it is Satan who confuses. Satan loves to oppose Scripture with false expressions (see verse at left), many of which appear in the above excerpt: “God from God, true God from true God”; “begotten, not made”; “of the same substance”; these are all non-scriptural Satanic expressions keeping people from the simple truth of the death of Christ.

A three-year old can grasp this truth

Jesus Christ is God's Son. It does not get any simpler than this. Do you have a son? Very well then; this is the illustration God has graciously placed in our midst to help us understand the relationship between Himself and *His* Son. Are you your son? That is, are you and your son the same person? Um—no. So neither are God and Christ the same person.

Don't believe me: Allow the Son of God to speak for Himself:

- “The living Father commissions Me, I, also, am living because of the Father” (John 6:57).
- “I have given them the glory which Thou hast given Me” (John 17:22).
- “He who is not honoring the Son is not honoring the Father Who sends Him” (John 5:23).
- “I cannot do anything of Myself ... I am not seeking My will, but the will of Him Who sends Me” (John 5:30).
- “The Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).



Absolute Deity cannot have a Deity

Jesus Christ is commissioned by God to finish the work given Him by His Father (John 17:3-4). If Jesus Christ is the Father Himself, then He can't be commissioned. If Absolute Deity (Jesus) is commissioned, then what Absolute Deity above Him is commissioning Him? That's the God I want to know.

Jesus Christ never claimed to be God. The very thought would disgust Him. The Apostle Paul continually uses the phrase, “The God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ.” Absolute Deity cannot have a God, nor a Father. Therefore, Jesus Christ is not Absolute Deity.

It is that simple.

¹ What deceit: **Belief in a false teaching sends you to a false place. Ooh—I'm so scared.**

Objections simply solved

I am aware, of course, of the few Scriptures that purportedly undo or contradict the above verses, which clearly show Jesus Christ to be God's Son. The one put forward most often is John 14:8-9, and it is representative of the rest:

"Philip is saying to Him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficing us.' Jesus is saying to him, 'So much time I am with you, and you do not know Me, Philip! He who has seen Me has seen the Father.'"

In 2 Corinthians 4:4, Jesus Christ is called, "the Image of the invisible God." No one will ever see God; Jesus Christ is His visible image. He represents His Father to a T. He is such a perfect representation that He is worthy to take the names and titles of God, and even to be worshipped as God. This no more makes Him identificationally God (that is, the same being as God) than a photo of my wife makes the photo identificationally Rebecca. And yet I rightly hold up the photo and say, "This is Rebecca."



Is it *really* Rebecca? No; it's her image. The statement is figurative, relative, and representational, as opposed to literal, absolute, and identificational.

Likewise, it is perfectly right to look at Jesus Christ and say, "This is the Father." It was perfectly right for Jesus to say, "He Who has seen Me has seen the Father." Does this make Him identificationally the Father? Not to any rational person. He is representationally the Father; He is God's image. Just as the photo represents my wife, and I say that it is my wife (it's her image), so does Christ represent God, and we say that He is God. It is in this sense

only—the representational sense—that He is God. Identificationally, the Father is the Father and the Son is the Son. They are literally separate beings.

Why Satan did this

Why did Satan introduce the false doctrine of the Trinity into Christianity? Simply this: He wants to disqualify as many people as he can from becoming members of the body of Christ. The doctrine of the Trinity well accomplishes this, as I will show you momentarily.

Satan is now in heaven. Scripture calls him, "The chief of the jurisdiction of the air" (Eph. 2:2). He will not be cast from heaven until later, as described in Revelation 12:9. Because Satan is banished, at that time, with many of his angels, we can safely say that the Adversary presently has a strong following and great influence among the celestial host. The following is Ephesians 6:12—

"For it is not ours to wrestle with blood and flesh, but with the sovereignties, with the authorities, with the world-mights of this darkness, with the spiritual forces of wickedness among the celestials."

The realm of the members of Christ's body is "inherent among the celestials" (Phil. 3:20). In the future, this select group of humans is to be seated at the right hand of God in heaven (Eph. 2:6), from whence they shall judge angels (1 Cor. 6:3), foremost of whom will be the sovereignties, authorities, and world-mights of darkness who now serve Satan. In other words, the body of Christ is destined, not only to *displace* Satan from his current realm, but to judge his subordinates.

The belief of body members

Those whom God chooses beforehand for membership in the body of Christ will be found to be believing certain core teachings. These core teachings are announced by Paul in 1 Corinthians 15:3-5:

"For I give over to you among the first what I also accepted, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was entombed, and that He has been roused the third day according to the Scriptures."

The death, entombment, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is vital truth. Without resurrection, Jesus Christ is still dead. Yet without death, there is no real resurrection. The death of Christ demonstrates for us the faith of Christ—faith, because He let go and trusted that His father would rouse Him from the dead. This is vital truth because it is Christ's

faith that saves us (Rom. 3:21; Gal. 3:22), not our own. Unless His impending death was real, Jesus would not have needed faith.

The Trinity denies Christ's death

Those who hold to the teaching of the Trinity *do not and cannot believe* that Jesus Christ truly died. Therefore, they do not and cannot believe that He was truly raised from the dead.

If Christ is the Deity Absolute, then who—or Who—was running the universe while Absolute Deity was dead? May we all agree that there can be no Absolute Deity above Absolute Deity? The road is now paved to conclude that Absolute Deity cannot die. If we have safely come thus far in our sane and scriptural conclusions, I will venture the following: If God cannot die, and if Jesus Christ is God, then Jesus Christ did not die on the cross, and one of the core teachings of Paul—necessarily adhered to by members of Christ's body—is fatally compromised. Let us put forth, then, the following syllogism:

A. No one in the body of Christ will deny the death of Christ.

B. The doctrine of the Trinity denies the death of Christ.

C. No one in the body of Christ will be found believing in the Trinity.



Satan infiltrated the Nicaean Council

Satan does not want people ruling over him or judging his angels. He hates the truth of the death and resurrection of Christ. He can do nothing to undo this truth, but he can do much to keep people from believing it. His main tactic is confusion, whereby he "blinds the apprehension of the unbelieving, so that the illumination of the evangel of the glory of Christ ... does not irradiate them" (2 Cor. 4:4). He does this, not through the injection of poison into the bloodstream, but through the placement of lies into Christianity via polished, popular creeds.

In one stroke of diabolical genius, Satan invented a teaching whereby millions of well-meaning people *think* they believe in Jesus Christ's death, while at the same time vehemently denying it.

May the reader of these lines be spared this fate. ■