

Servant's Preparation 2015~2016 St. Mina's Coptic Orthodox Church, Holmdel NJ

What is a Dogma?

Dog·ma

- dôgmə/
- a principle or set of principles that is incontrovertibly true.
- Synonyms
 - Teaching, belief, tenet, principle, precept, article of faith, canon

Our Knowledge of God

- God in HIS essence is incomprehensible
 - -1 Timothy 6:15 "He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen."

St. Cyril of Jerusalem

 "We explain not what God is, but candidly confess that we do not have an exact knowledge concerning HIM...to confess our ignorance is the best knowledge"

 6th Catechetical Lecture

-St. Cyril of Jerusalem

 "if someone says that the Essence of God is incomprehensible, then why do we speak about HIM? But is it really true that because I cannot drink the whole river, I will not take water from it in moderation for my benefit? Is it really true that because my eyes are not in a condition to take in the whole sun, I am therefore unable to behold as much as is needful for me? If, when going into some great garden, I cannot eat all the fruits, would you wish that I go away from it completely hungry? Catechetical lecture 6.5

What is it that we Know about God?

1. God is Spirit

 John 4:24 "God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"

2. God is Eternal / Infinite

 Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."

3. God is All-Good

Mark10:18 "...No one is good but One, that is, God."

4. God is Omniscient

Isaiah 40:28 "His understanding is unsearchable."

What is it that we Know about God?

5. God is All-Righteous

Psalm 119:137 "Righteous are You, O Lord, And upright are Your judgments."

6. God is Omnipotent – Almighty

 Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty"

7. God is Omnipresent

Psalm 139:7-8 Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.

8. God is Immutable /Unchangeable

- James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
- Malachi 3:6 For I am the Lord, I do not change;

What is it that we Know about God?

9. God is LOVE

 1 John 4:8 "He who does not love does not know God, for God is love"

• 10. God is TRINITY

— "1 John 5:7 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one."

The Dogma of the Holy Trinity

1. God is Three

- There are hints in the OT scattered about in the OT of the Plurality of God.
 - "Let us make man in Our Image" Gen 1:26
 - "man is become as one of Us, to know good & evil"

 Gen 3:22
 - "Let us go down" Gen 11:7
 - "Son of God Daniel" 3:25
 - "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me" Isaiah 61:1

2. Each One is distinct from the Other

— "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter...even the Spirit of Truth Jn 14:16, 26

The Dogma of the Holy Trinity

3. Each of these Three is a Personal Being

- Personal actions are attributed to each
 - "My Father works even until now and I work" Jn 5:17
 - "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God" Ephesians 4:30

4. These Three are ONE

- They are united together
 - "I and the Father are one, He that has seen me has seen the Father" John 10:30
 - "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" Matthew 28:19
 - "There are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit and these Three are One" 1 John 5:7

The Dogma of the Holy Trinity

5. Each of these Three Persons is God

God the Father

- "Go to my brethren and say to them, I ascend unto My Father and Your Father" John 20:17
- "Grace to you and peace from god our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ" Romans 1:7

God the Son

- "My Lord and My God" John 20:8
- "in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" Col 2:8
- "Of the Son He says, Your throne, O god is forever and ever" Heb 1:8

- God the Holy Spirit

- "Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...you have not lied to men but to God" Acts 5:3
- "He who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness"
 Mark 3:29

God is Trinity



"Come near to Me, listen to this: from the first I have not spoken in secret. From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit has sent Me" (Isaiah 48:16).





The Trinity Chart

HOLY SPIRIT	FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
Called God	Phil. 1:2	<u>John 1:1,14;</u>	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isaiah 64:8	<u>John 1:3</u>	<u>Job 33:4, 26:13</u>
Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matt. 28:20	Psalm 139:7-10
All knowing	<u>1 John 3:20</u>	<u>John 16:30;</u> <u>21:17</u>	1 Cor. 2:10-11
Eternal	Psalm 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Rom. 8:11; Heb. 9:14
A Will	Luke 22:42	<u>Luke 22:42</u>	<u>1 Cor. 12:11</u>
Speaks	Matt. 3:17	<u>Matt. 5:3</u>	Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:2
Loves	<u>John 3:16</u>	Eph. 5:25	Rom. 15:30

The Father, Son & Holy Spirit All Do What God Does!!!

Father

- Creator
- "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" Gen 1:1



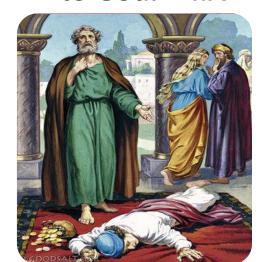
Son

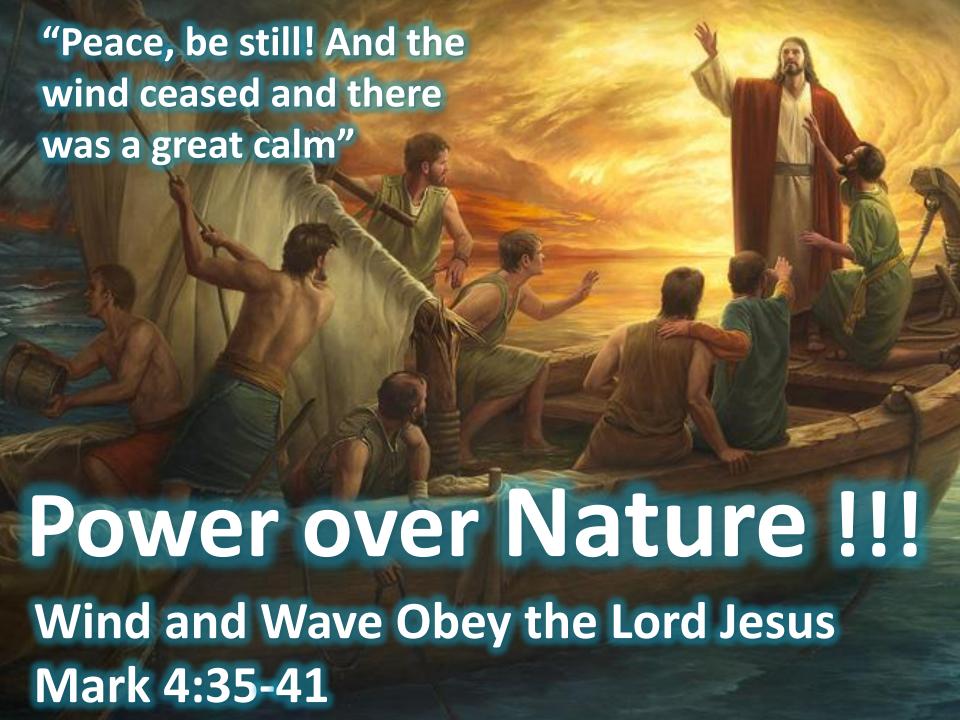
- Life Giver
- "He cried with a loud voice, Lazarus come forth" John 11:43

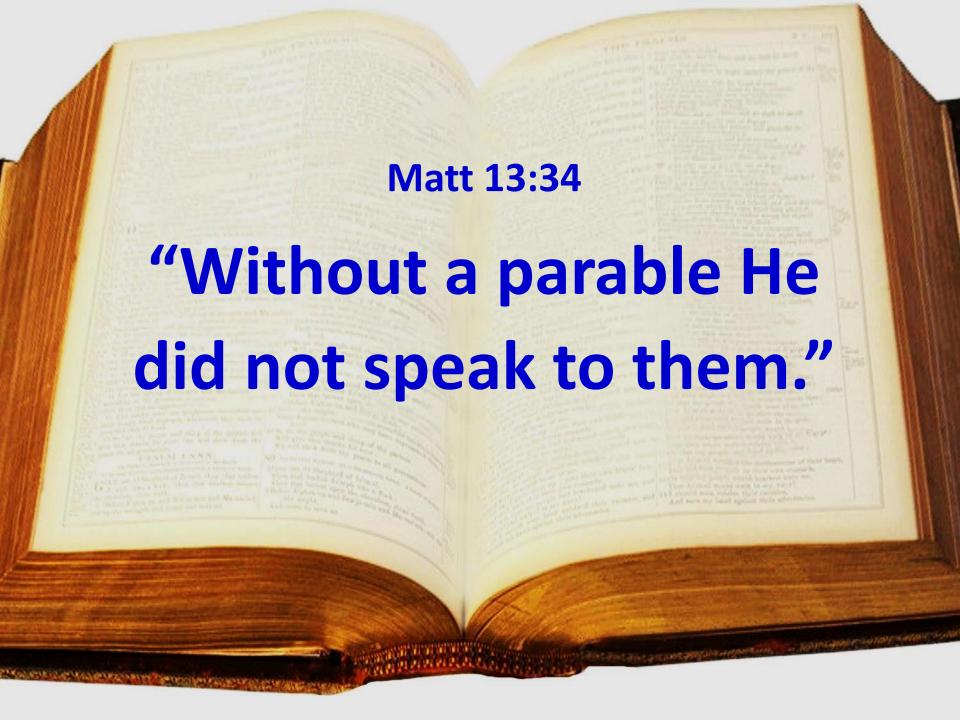


Holy Spirit

- Anianus &Sapphira Liedto God
- "You have not lied to men but to God." Acts 5:4







Analogy of the Trinity

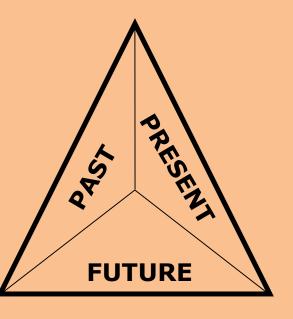
- Perhaps the best analogy of the Trinity is found in creation.
 - "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made... (Rom. 1:20).

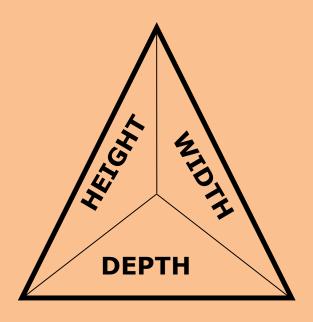
Time	Past	Present	Future
		\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	5
Space	Height	Width	Depth
Matter	Solid	Liquid	Gas

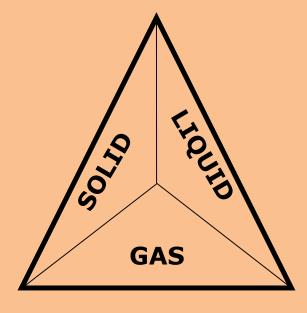
Analogy of the Trinity

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 Our universe is comprised of a trinity of trinities.



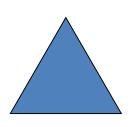




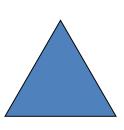
TIME

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MATTER

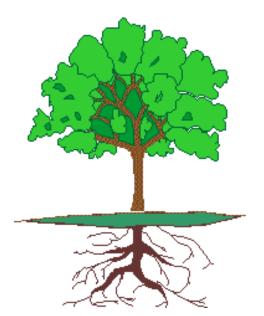


Examples of the Holy Trinity

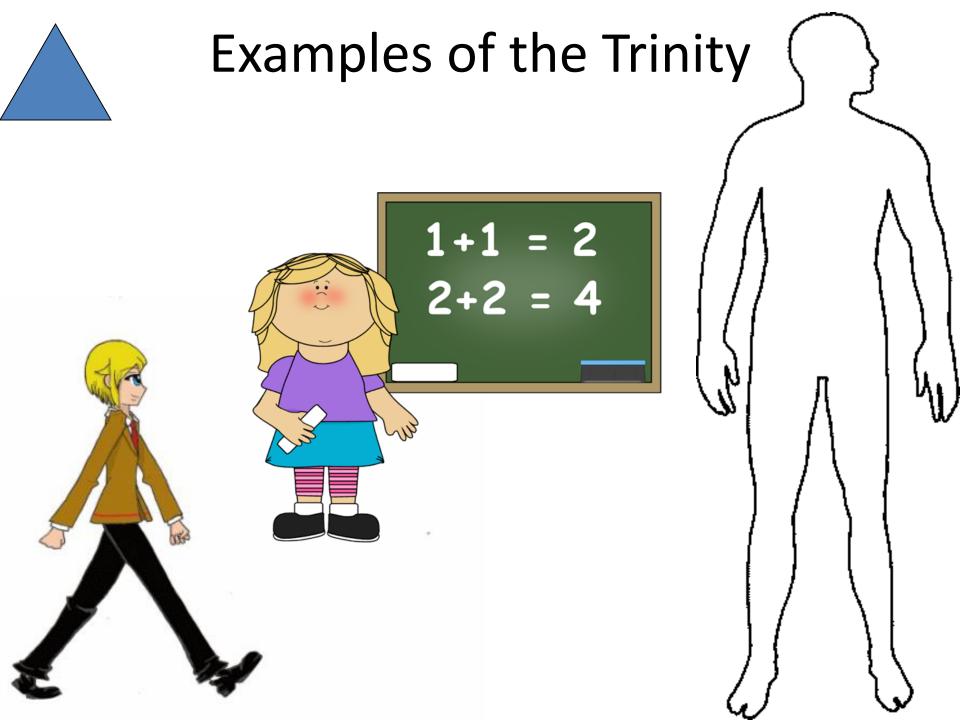


- Concept of Three in One Illustrated by
 - -Sun (the sun, its light, its heat)
 - **Tree** (the root, the trunk, the fruit)
 - Fire (the flame, the light, the warmth)







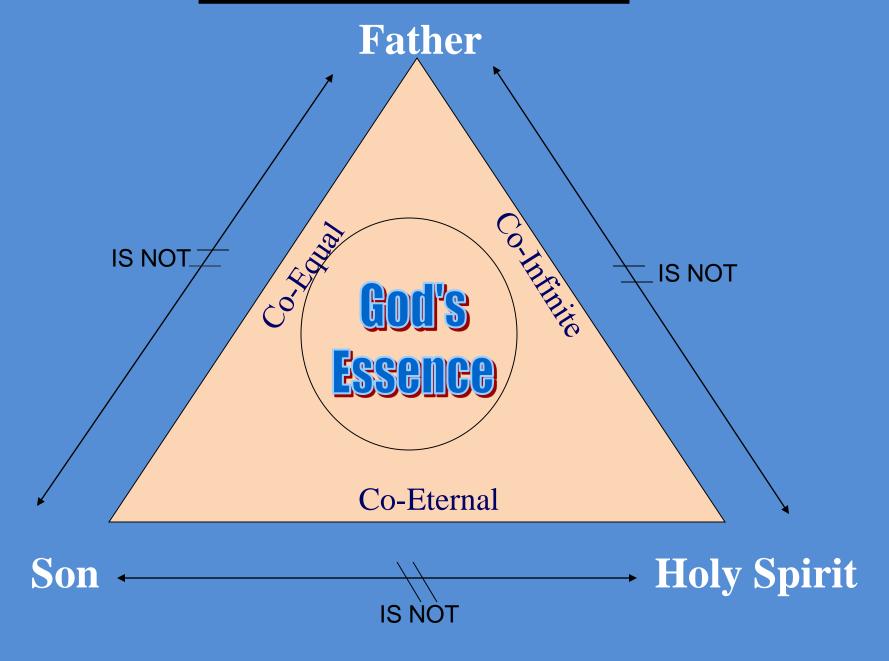


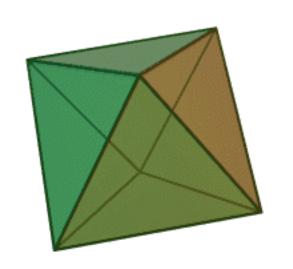
Tri = 3 Unity = 1 Tri+Unity = Trinity

- Three in One and One in Three
- The Father & the Son & The Holy Spirit



10. God is TRINITY





Questions?

