

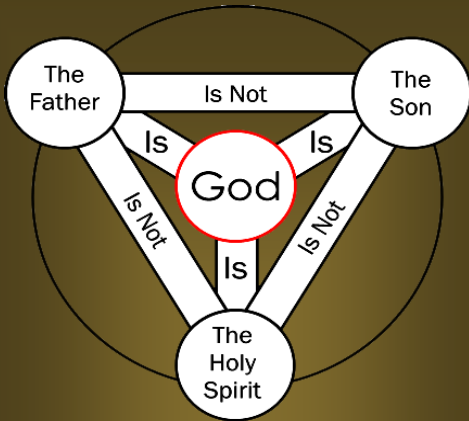


THREE

FOLD



SEPTEMBER 9, 2018



Trinity

noun Trin·i·ty \ 'tri-nə-tē \
 Triad, three at a time.
 triple, threefold.

The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible; but our triune God is clearly presented throughout it.



The beautiful island of Trinidad, off the coast of Venezuela, was originally called "Land of the Hummingbird."

But before embarking on his third voyage, Christopher Columbus vowed that he would dedicate the first land he came upon to God – "La Isla de la Trinidad" – "The Island of the Trinity." Which of your challenging endeavors in life will you dedicate to God today?

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NLT)

Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble. A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.

I. The Power of Community in the Trinity

When He had been baptized, Jesus [God the Son] came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice [God the Father] came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:16-17 NKJV).

- A. God is an eternal triune being – God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- B. The three Persons of the Godhead act separately and uniquely – but in perfect unity – Oneness.
- C. God's got His own small group going on.
- D. This threefold cord makes the Enemy shudder.

You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror (James 2:19 NLT).

II. The Power of Community in Relationships

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden (Genesis 3:8 NIV).

fellowship

noun fel·low·ship \ 'fe-lō- ,ship \

to be part of a community of companionship, social interaction, mutual support and respect, closeness, togetherness, solidarity

The phrase, "one another" is used nearly 100 times in the New Testament. But the phrase is derived from only one word in the Greek – the word – allelon – meaning "one another, each other, mutually, reciprocally."

(Kinda reminds ya' of a threefold cord, huh!)

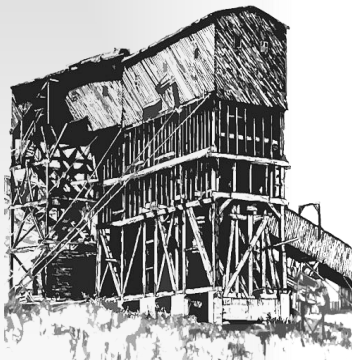
And all those references? The majority are telling us how we as believers are – and are not – to treat "one another" in community....

Around 1831, Wilhelm Albert, a German mining official developed what soon grew to be standard piece of equipment in industry and construction throughout the world – iron rope – the grand-daddy of our modern steel cable.

Prior to Albert's invention, individual wires had been laid parallel, side by side, bound together, and then covered with tarred hemp yarns.

But Albert's iron rope was made by first twisting pieces of wire together to form strands. Then three or more of those strands were twisted together to form a wire rope which was far superior in strength, service-ability and cost.

Likewise, it is good when believers join together, side by side, for worship and ministry. But it is far better when believers intertwine their lives and their giftings in community relationships as well as in worship, ministry and outreach. After all, a threefold cord is not quickly broken....



A. The first small group was in the garden. (Threefold Cord)

B. God created a man and a woman to fellowship with Himself.

So God created human beings in His own image. In the image of God He created them; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them and said, "Be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:27-28 NLT).

C. When Adam and Eve left out God, sin entered the world. (Threefold Cord)

So when the woman saw that the tree *was* good for food, that it *was* pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make *one* wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate (Genesis 3:6 NKJV).

III. The Power of Community in the Church

For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20 NLT).

A. This is like God in the Garden with those He loves.

B. The Power of the Church in community prayer.

"Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19 KJV).

After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. All the believers were united in heart and mind. And they felt that what they owned was not their own, so they shared everything they had. The apostles testified powerfully to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God's great blessing was upon them all (Acts 4:31-33 NLT).

C. The Power of the Church in a united purpose.

Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose (Philippians 2:2 NLT).

A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12 NLT).