

G R O W

Get focused, Read, Observation, Worship

God in 3 Persons – 2 Corinthians 13:14

Do you think twins have a psychic connection? Some people believe that twins, triplets, and such have a special connection where they can read each other's minds, feel each other's pain, and so forth. No doubt twins/triplets share a special connection and DNA, but psychic abilities? Some have likened triplets to the Trinity; 3 distinct people but with a supernatural connection. Other popular analogies for the Trinity are clover leaves and 3 states of H₂O. Are there others you have heard? Each are helpful in understanding the Trinity, but none are complete as each one fails in some way in describing the special nature of the Trinity. The Trinity is totally unique and not like anything else. The Bible declares that the one God exists in 3 persons, each distinct from the other but still connected as one. Although the word "trinity" does not appear in the Bible, it is taught in the Bible, as we will see.

GET FOCUSED

What distracts you from focusing on God and studying the Bible: external noises, social media curiosity, internal worries? Take a few moments and silence those distractions and focus your mind. Every time we go to the scriptures, let's expect to hear from God.

READ

We believe the Bible is God's inspired word. God inspired these writers to give His revelation to mankind, so it's important for us to read the Bible, so we can know God's revelation. Take time to read 2 Corinthians 13:14.

OBSERVATION (COMB through the text)

In this step, we want to investigate the passage, to understand its message and meaning. In addition to reading our main passage, read the verses around it to understand the **context**. This is the last verse of Paul's second letter to the church in Corinth. This verse is a final benediction for the church. It isn't within a passage focused on teaching about the Trinity, but each member seems to be deliberately mentioned. It would appear that the understanding of the Trinity was common to the early Christian church: a fundamental truth.

Next, we want to **observe** the key words and phrases in 2 Corinthians 13:14. What stands out to you? You should see these key words and phrases: grace, love, and fellowship & Lord Jesus Christ, God, and Holy Spirit.

To help understand the **meaning** of these words and phrases, invest in a good study Bible or utilize online tools like netbible.org. All 3 are presented on equal footing and essential to the Christian. Both Jesus and Spirit are described with words that make them equal with God. Through the NT, Jesus is referred to as both Lord and Christ. To put it simply, “Christ” means savior. The OT prophets spoke of one that would come and rescue people from their sin and its plight. There would be a special one, anointed and appointed for this task. In Hebrew the word was “messiah,” and in Greek the word is “Christ.” But Jesus is not just a man given a special assignment; He is God incarnate. He is Lord. The term “lord” was a term regularly used to refer to God. The term means “ruler,” and God is the ruler over all things. He is Lord God Almighty (Rev. 4:8). So, to call Jesus Lord is to acknowledge that He is God, which is something He taught and confessed (Jn. 10:30), and we must know Him as Lord to be saved (Rom. 10:9-13, Rom. 6:23). Jesus is not mere man; He is God. Not God manifesting Himself as a man at particular times, but a distinct second part of God (Matt 3:17). What term is used to describe the Spirit? The term “holy” means set-apart or distinct. He is a distinct spirit, different from our spirits. Every person has a spirit, the inner man that makes us more than just flesh. This is partly what makes us created in God’s image because God is spirit (Jn. 4:24). But this Spirit is Holy and distinct from us. God’s Spirit is often referred to within scripture (Gen. 1:2), and the Holy Spirit is another distinct part of the one God (Acts 5:3). This verse makes it clear that there are 3 persons of God: father, son, and Holy Spirit.

And this verse makes it clear that we need each person of the Godhead. We need His grace, His love, and His fellowship. Grace is unmerited favor. We don’t deserve God’s goodness; in fact, it’s the opposite (Rom. 6:23). But through the work of Jesus, we suffered in our place for sin, we get God’s goodness (Rom. 3:24). God does not treat us as our sin deserves (Ps. 103:10); He is patient and loving with us. God is love and He is moved by His love, giving us more time and more opportunity to know Him, to love Him, and to worship Him. If we’re going to get the most of life, we must have fellowship with Him, learning to follow His lead through the work of the Spirit (Gal. 5:25, Eph 4:30).

So, what’s the **bottom-line**, how would you sum all this up? 2 Corinthians 13:14 shows us that God exists in 3 persons and we desperately need Him.

WORSHIP

In this last step, we consider how to live all this out. This is what worship is. Worship is more than songs; it is showing who God is in our lives. We can sing all the right songs but still live wrongly, so take a few moments and consider what this scripture means for your life.

We may never be able to fully understand how one God exists in 3 persons, but we know it’s true because we trust His Word. And we can strive to know God fully through each person of the Trinity. We must realize that we are saved from sin by grace, which is given to us through the work of Jesus. We must orient our lives around Jesus, under His Lordship. We can celebrate His grace and love. We can also appreciate that God wants to have a real relationship with us, so we must to know Him more. The more time we spend in the word and in prayer, the more sensitive we are to the Spirit’s leading. So, think about what you must do to spend more time with Him.