

Three in One and One in Three

June 11, 2017 – II Corinthians 13:14

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Who Is God? There are many who ask this question. There are also many who ask, Does God Exist?

We know that God exists from – Creation – Conscience and Scripture.

It is in Scripture that we learn that God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus, to save us from an eternity of hell. In God’s grace He has brought You and I to faith in Him.

In Scripture God reveals Himself as One God in Three Persons. God is Triune.

In **Deut. 6:4** – **God** says: *“Hear O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is ONE”*

In **Matthew 28:19** – We learn that there are Three Persons: *“Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”*

Satan has of course been battling against God since his rebellion and then leading Adam and Eve into sin in the Garden of Eden. Throughout the O.T. Satan battled against the Lord God and has continued until now and will continue until the end of time. One of the attacks of Satan is against the definition of God. Who is GOD?

In an effort to maintain and defend the teaching of the Triune God, Christians have 3 Christian Creeds, also called Ecumenical Creeds.

Those three Creeds - are the Apostle’s – Nicene & Athanasian.

A Creed = A statement of Faith, generally beginning with the Words, I believe, or We (Una Sancta) believe.

The Apostle’s Creed did not come from any meeting of Christianity but rather developed as a response of Christians simply stating their faith based upon the teachings of the Apostle’s which of course are based upon Scripture.

The Nicene Creed comes out of the Council of Nicea which was held in Nice (NEES,) France. The Council was held in 325 A.D. as the Christians of the time clarified the doctrine of the Trinity.

The Athanasian Creed is named after a theologian named Athanasius (273-373 A.D.). He is not believed to be the actual writer of this creed, but he was a steadfast defender of the Christian faith in the 4th century (301-400 A.D.) The Athanasian Creed was prepared to assist the Christian Church in combating two errors that undermined the Bible teaching. One error denied that God’s Son and the Holy Spirit are of one being or Godhead with the Father. The other error denied that Jesus Christ is True God and True Man in one person. The Athanasian Creed continues to serve the Christian Church as a standard of the truth.

In this TEXT we hear the Apostle Paul in his final words of this letter to the congregation located in the city of Corinth. Corinth was located in the present day area of Greece / (Achaia / Macedonia).

In these closing words to the congregation through the Apostle Paul, we see the Trinity and a brief description of the Work of the Trinity.

Vs. 14 – May the grace - Χαρις - of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love - Αγαπη - of God, and the fellowship - Κοινωνια - of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Grace of God - Χαρις - is a gift – it is God’s Pure undeserved Love.

Ephesians 2:8 – “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God, not by works,”

The Love of God- Αγαπη - is God’s Unconditional Love, He expecting nothing in return.

“For God so loved the World, that He gave His One and Only Son, that Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (Jn. 3:16)

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us.” (1 John 3:16)

The Fellowship of the Holy Spirit - Κοινωνια - can also be translated as - Partnership – Communion – Fellowship - Sharers

Because of God’s Love for us in Christ Jesus, we NOW have fellowship with God. We are no longer enemies of God, but rather are friends of God, Children of God, we can approach God and can look forward to spending eternal Fellowship with God in Heaven.

As believers in Christ Jesus, we also have fellowship – a Partnership with one another.

It is as God tells us through the Apostle Paul. This Grace – Love – Fellowships is for ALL! Fear Not! Go and tell!
AMEN