

## **"THE DIVINE NATURE....THE GODHEAD"**

The King James Version in three passages (Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9) has translated the Greek terms THEIOS, THEIOTES, and THEOTES as "Godhead." Other translations render these terms "Divine Nature," or "Deity." Vine states that THEIOS denotes "the Godhead, the Deity, i.e., the one true God; THEIOTES denotes "the attributes of God, His Divine nature and properties;" and THEOTES denotes "the Divine essence of Godhood, the personality of God." (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, MacDonald Publishing Company, pp. 330-331).

Here is a mystery never fully explained in Scripture. The Divine Nature, while one, is composed of three divine persons or personalities. The most common word for God in the Hebrew Bible is ELOHIM, a plural noun which is used with both singular and plural pronouns as in Genesis 1:26-27, "Then God (ELOHIM) said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness....And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him: male and female He created them."

The Bible clearly presents the fact that the "We" in Genesis 1:26 refers to the Holy Spirit(v. 2), and to the Son (John 1:1-5, 14, 1 Cor. 8:6, Col. 1:1-4, 13-17, Heb. 1:1-4). This "We" is brought together in a wonderful way as the DEITY begins to bring to culmination a second creation, "the new creation" (2 Cor. 5:17, Heb. 10:19-20), at the baptism of Jesus: "And it came about in those days that JESUS came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening and the SPIRIT like a dove descending upon Him; and a VOICE came out of the heavens: "Thou art MY beloved SON, in Thee I am well pleased." And immediately the SPIRIT impelled Him to go out into the wilderness." (Mark 1:9-12). Here are clearly manifested the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT.

We have somewhat of a parallel in the Biblical claim that every human being is a kind of "trinity" composed of body (SOMA), spirit (PNEUMA), and soul (PSYCHE). Paul writes, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thes. 5:23...see also Luke 1:46ff, and Hebrews 4:12).

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