

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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The Godhead

Text of Interest:

“For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the godhead bodily” (Colossians 2:9).

What is the “Godhead?”

The word “godhead” is from the Greek *theios* which means “divinity, deity” (Moulton 193). The American Heritage Dictionary defines the word as “The essential and divine nature of God” (565). The divine nature of God is revealed as eternal (Jn. 1:1ff), omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent (Jer. 23:23-24; 32:17). God is revealed to be Holy (Lev. 11:44), perfect (Matt. 5:48), patient (II Pet. 3:9), merciful and comforting (II Cor. 1:3). God is the essence of love (I Jn. 4:8) and peace (I Cor. 14:33).

Identity of the Godhead

The Bible tells us that we can identify with deity through the visible creation (Rom. 1:19ff) and divine revelation (Gal. 1:11ff). God is identified, early in the pages of revelation, as a plurality of persons. Genesis 1:26 states, “And God said, let us make man in our image.” Again, at Gen. 11:6-7 revelation states, “*Jehovah said, ... Come, let us go down, and confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.*” Deity is thereby comprised of “us.” Each part of the “us” shares in the glory of deity.

The “us” (godhead) is further defined in revelation as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father (Jn. 5:18), Son (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 20:28), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4) are revealed to be God. Each individual in the godhead is separate from the other. The Father is said to be greater than the Son (Jn. 14:28). The Father is distinct from the Holy Spirit in that he sends him into the world so

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Tom Witherspoon (and the Jackson family) have left for Houston to begin Tom's cancer treatments. Let us keep them in our prayers that all would be successful.

Holiday Travelers:

Please remember all of our people who will be on the road of travel during this holiday season. We also thank God for those who have traveled here to be with loved ones and we pray that you have a safe return home.

New Quarter Bible Studies:

With the New Year comes a new quarter for our Bible studies. Let us all purpose to be involved in not only our adult studies but also with our children's Bible work. The new Adult class for the first quarter is "Job" on Wednesday evenings.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

that His laws will be made known (Jn. 16:13-16). Furthermore the Father is the only one who knows when the end of all things shall be (see Matt. 24:36).

The Son, Jesus, was worshipped as deity (Matt. 2:2; 28:17; Jn.9:38). Jesus was distinct from the Father and Holy Spirit in that he had a will (Lk. 22:42). The deity and individuality of the Holy Spirit is seen in the fact that he is eternal (Heb. 9:4), has knowledge (I Cor. 2:9-11), a will (I Cor. 12:11), hears (Jn. 16:13), is grieved (Eph. 4:30), and can be vexed (Isa. 63:10). The work of the Father is delegating (Jn. 3:16; 5:22). The work of the Son is the justification of mankind (Rom. 5:1ff). The work of the Holy Spirit is to reveal divine revelation (II Pet. 1:21; Jn. 16:13ff).

The Oneness of the Godhead

The Bible tells us that there is one God (Eph. 4:1ff). The apostle Paul wrote, "*For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or on earth; as there are gods many, and lords many; yet to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we unto him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him*" (I Cor. 8:5-6). Many reject the idea of three individuals (i.e., The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) in the godhead due to the fact that they cannot comprehend how that more than one person can be one. Seeing that three do not equal one it is an uncomprehensible idea to the erring. Others agree that there are three persons in the godhead yet explain it by saying, "This is a most incredible doctrine that is impossible for the human mind to understand."

Jesus unravels the mystery of three being one in the simplest terms. Jesus had prayed to the Father on behalf of the disciples. The purpose of the Lord's prayer was that believers would be sanctified by truth through the word of God (see Jn. 17:14-19). Jesus then defines the plurality of one mystery by saying, "*that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me... I in them, and thou in me, that they may be perfected into one...*" (Jn. 17:21-23). A plurality of saints are one in the same manner that Jesus and the Father were one; i.e., by their mutual stand in truth. The oneness under consideration is unity that is produced when two or more share the same approach to divine revelation and man's soul (cf. Rom. 15:5-6; I Cor. 1:10). The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were one in purpose yet three in person (Matt. 24:36).

Character Overhaul

Introduction:

A crane that looked a thousand years old sat in my dad's welding shop back in the 1970's. Dad decided that he would overhaul the engine and restore this mammoth piece of archaic equipment with my help. Over a period of one month we restored the crane and it was once again operable and of use.

People, I believe, would do well to take an honest look at their character and determine whether an overhaul needs to occur. Overhauling engines can be boring and laborious or it can be exciting and invigorating. One's approach to the project will determine how successful the task will be. Does your character need an overhaul?

- I. Accessing the Problem (The crane would not start so I viewed it as worthless):**
 - A. Character = "The combined moral or ethical structure of a person... public estimation of someone; reputation" (AHD 259).
 - B. Is my "moral or ethical structure" founded upon:
 1. Pride (Gen. 4:19-24)?
 2. Thinking too highly of self (Rom. 12:1-3; Phil. 2:1-2)?
 3. Empty words (Prov. 10:19; Eccl. 10:14; Matt. 23:1-3)?
 4. Bitterness, jealousy, lustful, angry... (Gal. 5:19-20)
 5. Christian virtues (Gal. 5:22-23; II Pet. 1:4-11)?
 - C. When people say my name what do they think of (Jesus – I Pet. 2:21)?
- II. The Overhaul (Can it be done? – Depends upon my attitude):**
 - A. An insurmountable problem with some overhaul projects is finding the right parts... (blindness – Matt. 23:23-26; II Pet. 1:9).
 - B. Need the right tools: Humility (Isa. 57:15) and conviction (Col. 2:5).
- III. Getting to work:**
 - A. Procrastination
 - B. Purpose
 - C. Repentance (Acts 17:30)
 - D. Prayer (Matt. 26:41; I Thess. 5:17)

Conclusion:

While the archaic crane sat in the shop it took up space and was useless. After the overhaul its value was great. Christians who allow their characters to be reputed as jealous, angry, prideful, bitter, arrogant, or action-less have lost their value and soul. A worthy goal of 2009 would be to assess my character, overhaul the malfunctioning areas of my moral structure, and purpose to maintain the Christian virtues in my life. Said project will take an humble and real assessment. I will need to purpose, in the most urgent manner, to turn away from immorality in repentance. Lastly, I will need to pray often for strength to overcome my character flaws. You and I both can do this with the help of the Lord. The apostle Paul said, "*I can do all things in him that strengthens me*" (Phil. 4:13).