

## The DEFENDER - June 2020



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the  
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast  
and the Cub Hill Bible Presbyterian Church.



### FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: We Will Obey God

We just celebrated Memorial Day last month and I can't help but wonder what those who gave their lives for our God-given freedoms would think of our nation today. I know what my grandfather, who fought in WWI and returned home, and my father, who fought in and returned home from WWII would be thinking if they were still around today. I can tell you it wouldn't be good. I served during the Vietnam war, and I can tell you what I'm thinking. This is no longer the land of the free because of the brave that it once was. We've had many of our freedoms taken from us, not from enemies abroad, but from enemies within. Some have disappeared slowly and incrementally over the years, so as to be almost unnoticed. Others have fallen in one fell swoop during the panic of the COVID-19 virus.

Our Constitution and our Bible have come under attack. Our freedom of association, movement, expression, and worship have all been stifled. The more power the government exerts, the more it seems to want. Couple that with the widespread ignorance of many in our nation today and you have a recipe for disaster. Many governors, mayors, and county leaders have crafted their own executive orders, wording them as if they were laws. But our representative system of government with its separated powers and guaranteed liberties assures us that only the legislative branch of government can craft a law. And the executive branch cannot enforce a law that has been illegally written. That's known as tyranny. And if that's where we are in America today, we're worse off than we can imagine.

It's also ironic that the government no longer seems interested in the separation of church and state, a phrase used by President Thomas Jefferson in his correspondence with the Danbury (Connecticut) Baptist Association in 1802. The Supreme Court's decisions of the last 70 years have subverted Jefferson's original intent to keep government out of religion by putting a muzzle on Christians who quote scripture to defend against immoral, unjust, and illegal legislation. So where are all those long-robed purveyors of justice now? If separation of church and state means that the church cannot influence government in any way, then why is the government allowed to influence the church? You can't have it both ways.

What is becoming more and more obvious in America today is the persecution of Christians. Why should western believers be exempt from the oppression that has tortured our brothers and sisters in Christ in other parts of the world for centuries? So how should we respond? We find our answer in the scriptures. When told by the authorities to stop preaching Christ, the disciples answered "We ought to obey God rather than men" (**Acts 5:27-29**). We also need the courage of Joshua, who said "as for me and my house (church), we will serve the Lord" (**Joshua 24:15**). Can those who stand **In Defense of Truth** do anything less?

*Rev. David Lewis*

## **Bible Basics for Christians**

### **Part VI – The Triune Nature of God**

**By Robert Luthardt, Sr.**

Christians are told, “Be ready always to give an answer to everyone ... of the hope that is in you ... (1 Pet. 3:15) and, “Study to show thyself approved unto God ... rightly dividing [interpreting] the word ...” (2 Tim. 2:15). All other religions refuse to teach the Trinity or the deity of Jesus Christ.

Before Christ returned to His throne and glory (John 17:5) He commanded, “Go ... teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the “Father” ... the “Son” and of the “Holy Spirit” ... (Matt. 28:19-20). Plainly then, we are to teach and defend the tri-unity of God.

Our God is one God, “Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” (Deut. 6:4) yet there is a plurality in our one God. “And God said let “US” make man in “OUR” image” (Gen. 1:26) and “But unto the Son He saith, Thy Throne “O God” is forever and ever (Ps. 45:6; Heb. 1:8). The Father APPOINTED [predestined] His only begotten Son to be heir of “all things.” Jesus Christ, by His own omnipotent power, created everything (John 1:1-3, 14; Col.1:15-17; Heb. 1:2) and upholds all creation (Heb. 1:3).

What light exists in natural man could never discern the tri-unity of God or fathom the two natures of Christ (1 Cor. 2:14). Kings are said to represent God, and the psalmist called judges “gods” (Ps. 82:6) but these are gods that die. Jesus countered blasphemers using this verse (John 10:34-38). “For though there be that are called gods ... to us there is only one God ... and one Lord Jesus Christ ...” and we in “Him” (1 Cor. 8:5-6).

There is only one living Lord (Jer. 23:24), one omnipotent God (Is. 44:6). Those who worship Allah or Rama or any antichrist (2 John 7) “err not knowing the scriptures” (God’s true words – Matt. 22:29). Christ is the only way back to the Father (John 14:6, 10:1). “There is only one Lord, one faith and one baptism” (Ep. 4:5), the only one for which we are to study for to please (2 Tim. 2:15). Ecumenical movements are divergent by-paths; faith in fables yielding eternal destruction. Not to trust the one true God displeases Him by default (Ps. 7:11). Better to discover the way and wisdom of Enoch (Heb. 11:5; Gen. 5:22-24).

God is pleased when we strive to do His will as Jesus did (John 4:34) which the Father publicly acknowledged (Matt. 3:17). God’s will is that we be holy (1 Thes. 4:3-7) and God is pleased when we do well the work before us (Ec. 9:10). Christ glorified God by His work (John 17:4) so we also ought to give God our best (Gen. 4:4). Being the only God, we pray only to Him as Jesus taught, “Our Father, who art in heaven ...” and NOT to angels or departed saints who are ignorant of our needs (Is. 63:16). Men make gods, false Messiahs, and co-redeemers with their “trinity” of evil endeavors (1 John 2:16) and anti-Christians abound (vs. 18).

Since we read that God is one, believers ought also to strive for unity. The harp has many strings but act in pleasing harmony (John 17:21; 1 Cor. 1:10). There is perfect harmonious unity in the Godhead – three personages, one God in perfect concert (Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9). There are three ... in heaven – the Father, the Word [John 1:1-3] and the Holy Spirit ...” (1 John 5:7). The Divine Trinity has distinctions but never divisions – three in substance but one in essence. The weakness of human understanding (Is. 40:28; 1 Cor. 2:14, 3:20) can no more comprehend God’s tri-unity than a nutshell can hold a lake of water. As the sun gives its substance to its beams and its beams give their substance for heat – they are different – yet not divided – one substance, differently manifested.

God the Son is begotten [proceeds from] the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds from both – three distinct persons in one God. One is not more God than the others for each is “IN” the others. “Thou Father, art in me, and I in thee” (John 17:21). The Father is NOT more perfect, more wise, nor more holy. There is priority but NOT superiority in the Godhead (Col. 2:9). God the Son is the second person in the Trinity and is begotten (NOT created: the babe of Nazareth was born – the eternal Son was GIVEN – Is. 9:6). Christ as “Mighty God and Everlasting Father” was “before all things” (Col. 1:17). Jesus Christ is Immanuel, “God with us” (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 17:5), “the righteous branch” (Jer. 23:5) for David’s Throne (Luke 2:32). “He shall be great,” the “Son of the Highest.” His divine power foreordained to justification all God’s called children (Acts 13:39; Rom. 8:29-32; Heb. 2:1-8, 7:15, 24-25). Let every knee bow (Phil. 2:10-11) for Jesus is God (Heb. 1:3, 8).

Christ made our redemption purchase with His own blood and the Holy Spirit gives us assurance (John 20:31; John 10:27-29; 1 John 5:13). We see the Trinity displayed when Jesus was baptized. The Holy Spirit descended as a dove, God’s voice declared, “This is my beloved Son ...”. The tri-unity of God functioned in the distinctiveness of the three divine presences (Matt. 3:16-17; Acts 2:33, 36; Heb. 1:1-3).

Without the Trinity man’s redemption is overthrown. Without Christ’s mediation we have no basis to stand in the presence of a holy and offended God. The symbolic shedding of animals’ blood God never intended as permanent or effectual atonement for sin (Heb. 10:11). The Son of God, having temporarily relinquished His Throne and divine power, did so to take on our humanity (but without sin by miraculous conception – Luke 2:34-35) to become a sinless sacrifice for OUR sins (John 3:16; Acts 2:22-24, 4:12). After returning to His Throne, Christ sent the promised “Comforter” (Holy Spirit) who now indwells the elect of God (John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26; Rom. 8:33). The Holy Spirit perfects a believer’s redemption by His imputation to us of Christ’s perfect righteousness to wash away all our sins (Is. 1:18; Ep. 1:7; Is. 43:25) never to be remembered (Heb. 8:12, 10:17).

Every born again believer is a “spiritual heir” of Abraham by righteousness born of the undeserved GIFT of Faith (Rom. 4:1-3, 13, 16; Ep. 2:8-9) and not of our works (Rom. 5:15-17). All of men’s religions deny the Trinity and Christ’s divinity and have no way to a God of love “AND” holiness (John 14:6, 15:6; 1 John 4:7-11) or eternal life. Jesus “is” co-equal with the Father (John 1:1-3, 14; 1 Cor. 8:6; Ep. 3:9; Phil. 2:6, 10-11; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2) but also co-essential, “in Christ dwelleth ... the Godhead bodily” (Col. 2:9). Christ is the God (1 Tim. 3:16) and Savior in the New Testament AND the Savior (Jehovah) of the old (Is. 12:2, 26:3-4, 43:10-11; Ex. 3:13-14; John 8:56-58, 11:25, 14:10, 17:20-26; Rev. 1:8). Whenever Jesus spoke of His Divine Nature, the unsaved sought to stone Him.

Christ made clear declarations of His divinity: “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30-33). “He that hath seen ME hath seen the Father” (John 14:9). “I am in the Father and the Father in Me” (John 14:11). “I came forth from the Father” (John 16:28). “Abraham rejoiced to see my day” (John 8:56). Christ exercised divine power over nature when He raised the dead, restored withered limbs, healed incurable diseases, walked on water, stilled a violent storm, and fed thousands from one small lunch and on and on. And He as God, forgives men and women of their sins – the case is rested.

On to the third person of the Trinity of God who is God the Holy Spirit who proceeds from the Father and the Son and who makes His temple the hearts of believers (John 14:26). He came NOT to testify of Himself but of Christ (John 14:16-17, 15:26, 16:13). God, with Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, each illuminate the minds of and inspires His chosen to holy endeavors. The Holy Spirit consecrates believers by “Holy Unction” (divine blessing – 1 John 2:20). First our Savior Jesus Christ “merits” grace “FOR” us, then the Holy Spirit “works” grace “IN” us (Phil. 1:6). The Spirit effects in us resurrection from the curse of spiritual death (Ep. 2:1; Rom. 8:11; 2 Cor. 3:6, 1 Pet. 3:18).

Some heretical theologians, ancient and modern, have denied the Holy Spirit. Scripture teaches that when Christ ascended to heaven, He would send the “Comforter” to assume the perfecting of salvation for God’s children and guidance of the church. His role was not for Himself but to glorify Christ (John 16:12-14; Acts 4:12). The Holy Spirit came also with gifts for the “body of Christ,” in His divine capacity (1 Cor. 12:4-6, 27). Christ called sinning against the Holy Spirit unpardonable because He “is” God (Matt. 12:31-32). Blasphemy is sin against God. Better never to have heard of Him (Acts 19:2).

The Holy Spirit’s work and power manifests in men’s opened and changed hearts (1Cor. 6:19-20; Acts 16:14). Jesus refused to turn stones into bread (Matt. 4:3-4). He knew the Holy Spirit would soon be turning stones into opened “hearts of flesh” in men (Ez. 36:26; Jer. 24:7; Luke 8:15; Acts 16:14). The divinity of the Holy Spirit is also shown in that His mere shadow over Mary brought divinity in human form. Thereby Mary became the honored Mother of Jesus’ true humanity though NOT of the eternal Son of God (she is NOT the mother of God – Rev. 1:8). God had no beginning.

The Trinity was in divine concert and complete conformity in Christ’s resurrection. The Father raised Christ (Acts 2:24, 3:13-15, 10:40) as did the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11; 1 Pet. 3:18) and by Christ’s own power (John 2:19-22). We may not possess every minute detail but enough to believe. We should follow Jesus’ advice (Matt. 18:1-4, 20:26-27, 23:11-12).

Man’s wisdom is inadequate to know the full mystery of God’s tri-unity, but where reason can only sink, God’s gift of faith carries us to heaven’s shore. The profoundly deep doctrine of God’s Trinity is NOT against reason but above and beyond it.

The hymnist wrote, “You ask me how I know He lives, He lives within my heart.” And so the Father does (John 17:21-23; 1 Cor. 8:6; Ep. 4:6) and the Son (John 17:23; Ep. 3:17; Col. 1:27) and the Holy Spirit (Ez. 36:27; John 14:17; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19; 2 Tim. 1:14; Rev. 3:20). The blood of Christ, applied by the Holy Spirit purges us “from dead works” to serve the living God (Father – Heb. 9:14).

So again, the charge to us all is to “go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15), “teach all nations, baptizing them in the ‘name’ (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19).

Keep looking up.

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## The Christian Life – Part V – Integrity

By Nancy Long

Psalm 45:7a – *“Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness .....*”

Proverbs 6:16-19 --*“These six things doth the Lord hate; yea, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”*

Proverbs 20:7 – *“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.”*

Matthew 25:21 –*“His Lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter now into the joy of thy Lord.”*

Luke 6:31 – *“And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.”*

Romans 12:21 – *“Be not overcome of evil but overcome evil with good.”*

2 Cor. 3:2 – *“Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.”*

Gal. 5:16 – *“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”*

Phil. 2:5 – *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”*

As we continue to move into yet another attribute of God, that being integrity, let's first look at the dictionary's definition. Webster defines “integrity” as *“the quality of being of sound moral principle, uprightness, genuineness, honesty, fidelity, trustworthiness, and sincerity.”*

We Christians .... those of us who have been born again, and are trusting in the perfect, precious blood of Jesus, have been exhorted to be of the mind of Christ .... to bear a resemblance to His life (Phil. 2:5). *“The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him”* (Prov. 20:7). In Luke 6:31, we Christians are given a powerful rule that is all encompassing for our behavior toward our fellow man. *“Do unto others as you would have others do unto you”* is the contemporary version, or at least the more familiar, of this principle!

Christ is the author of any good that might be in us. We believers have been endowed with, and blessed with, the “good” which is the Holy Spirit, and now are admonished to walk in that Spirit (Gal. 5:16). This is the only way that this standard of conduct, *“Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good”*, could possibly work (Rom. 12:21)!!

God's Word is written in our hearts! The apostle Paul writes that the Christian is an epistle "*known and read of all men*" (2 Cor. 3:2). We then are to carry His Word (letter) to all whom we meet, as we travel through as many days as we are given here on this earth. As we emulate Christ, every action of our lives ought to be honest, good, and decent. A clean life lived for the Lord, may not only silence those who may criticize, but may even be a means to bring those who are lost, to a saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our God is a God of integrity!! I think of the seven abominations written in the book of Proverbs, chapter 6, verses 16-19 – "*a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running into mischief, a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.*" God hates, with perfect hatred, any kind of idol, graven image, or really any obsession or fetish that would take His place in the hearts of His children. He loves righteousness .... and hates wickedness (Psalm 45:7)!!

If we believers fall into any one of these seven sins, we become double minded, I think. A Christian is expected to love the things God loves and hate that which He hates. Our talk is to match our walk! If not, we become unstable, and **not** a man or woman with integrity.

We here at Defense of Truth pray for all of you Defenders, as we covet your prayers for us as well, that we may seek the wisdom of the Lord, and that we may desire to please Him in all we do, so that one day we may hear these words, "*Well done, thou good and faithful servant*" (Matt. 25:21)!

God bless you all!!



## Essential or Not?

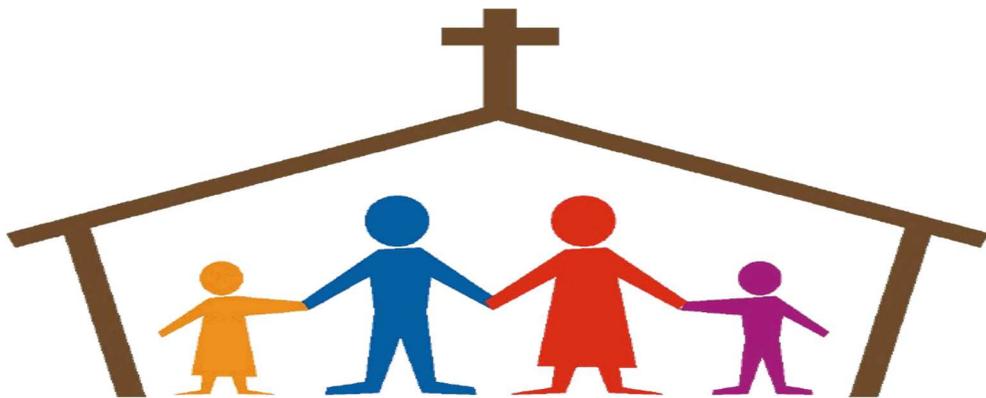
By Hank Arthur

My mind is in a quandary; I would really like to know,  
Just what is essential so I'll know which way to go.  
It goes without saying, we need food, water and air,  
But my soul is also important, and for it I must care.

Between grocery stores and carry-outs, food is abundant still.  
Liquor stores are thriving, everyone can indulge their fill.  
The air we breathe is free to all, given by our Father above.  
But we are not allowed in His house to worship Him with love.

By limiting access to our church, our leaders seem to say,  
"Communal worship of a people is not essential today."  
I guess the question really is, what is essential to you?  
Is God our creator still on the throne or have you chosen someone new?

El Shaddai, the God Almighty, is still the Lord of all.  
And, we the church, must be open to hear the lost ones call.  
Our Father has not forgotten us, he knows what is ahead.  
This is just another crown of thorns on our dear Savior's head.



*Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.*

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### **WRITE TO US!**

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### **Upcoming Events!**

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Outdoor Movie (Friday, June 26th)	8:30 PM