

The Mystery of the "Godhead"!

by Robert Schmid

Years ago I came across a booklet by the title: IS JESUS IN THE GODHEAD OR IS THE GODHEAD IN JESUS? Written by Gordon Magee. The title was confusing to me because I was not familiar with the word "Godhead." The obvious meaning of the word "Godhead" (at least to me) was that it is talking about the "Head of God." Then I searched my Bible where the word "Godhead" is used, but lo and behold the word was not in my (RSV) Bible. Further research revealed that the word "Godhead" is used three times (Acts 17:29, Rom. 1:20, Col. 2:9) in the KJV and not in most other translations.

What then do other translations use in place of "Godhead" and what exactly does the word "Godhead" mean? The Greek words **theiotes** and **theotes** are translated in various translations as: "the Deity," "deity," "God," "the divine being," "divine nature," "divinity," "Divine Nature," "Gottheit" in German and are so defined in most Lexicons.

However, in addition to the use of the word "Godhead" in the KJV, I have found that the word "Godhead" is freely and often used in Statements of Beliefs, in write-ups on the Nature of God and of Christ, and particularly in papers that (try to) explain the trinity doctrine. The question is: Why is the word "Godhead" used so frequently in non-biblical writings?

In the Catholic Encyclopedia on The Blessed Trinity it says: "The **Trinity** is the term employed to signify the central doctrine of the Christian religion – the truth that in the unity of the **Godhead** there are Three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, these Three Persons being truly distinct one from another." Writing about the baptismal formula, they say: "It has already been shown that the words as prescribed by Christ (Matthews 28:19) clearly express the **Godhead** of the **Three Persons** as well as their distinction."

From a write-up on **The Godhead** we read: "Although the word '**trinity**' is not in the Bible, the concept of the three-in-one, the triune God, is. The term 'Godhead,' referring to the three-in-one, can be found in Acts 17:29 and Colossians 2:9."

Let's remember that the Greek words **theiotes** and **theotes** (that are just derivatives of the Greek theios) are defined as: "The Deity," "divinity," "the divine being" and "Divine Nature." In other words, each one of these definitions simply designate the Creator – "**God,**" whereas, in Catholic theology these two words, translated "Godhead" (in the KJV), denote primarily the (false) idea of three-in-one, i.e., the word "**Godhead**" is used primarily as a synonym for the word "**Trinity.**"

Let's now consider the teachings of Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) and the (pre 1995) Worldwide Church of God (WCG). As is well known, HWA/WCG rejected the trinity doctrine on the basis that the Holy Spirit is not a third Person in the **Godhead**. HWA in his book MYSTERY OF THE AGES wrote in Chapter 1 entitled: Who and What Is God? "Many think God is a single individual supreme Personage." He wrote: "Long before anything else existed, there did exist two Supreme Beings, immortal, who ALWAYS had existed." And, "So here we find revealed originally two Personages. One is God. And with God in that prehistoric time was

another Personage who also was God – one who later was begotten and born as Jesus Christ.” This is plain and simply **polytheism!** Whereas Catholicism claims that there is ONE God in THREE persons, HWA clearly taught that there were TWO Gods in the beginning.

Of course, HWA did not profess a belief in polytheism, rather than he, as does Catholicism/Protestantism, claimed to be monotheistic, notwithstanding the teaching of TWO or THREE persons (literally Gods) in the **Godhead**.

How did HWA/WCG deal with this inconsistency of claiming to believe in ONE God and at the same time claim that there were TWO Gods? Before we can answer this, we need to establish another teaching of HWA, from the same book and chapter that is necessary to understand the problem. He wrote: “But these two Personages (Gods) were spirit, which is invisible to human eyes unless supernaturally manifested. Yet, at the time described in verse one (of Gen. 1 and John 1) Jesus **was not** the Son of God and God **was not** his Father.”

Let’s understand; Catholicism/Trinitarianism (falsely) claims that **God as Father** and **God as Son** always existed. HWA (correctly) claimed that **no Father** and **no Son** existed in Gen. 1:1 and John 1:1. What that means, however, is that since there was no Father and no Son, then, obviously there was **no God Family** either. That raises the question: what was the relationship between the TWO Gods HWA spoke of? No answer has ever been given to this question. To be sure, HWA often wrote of God and the “Spokesman,” but that is not describing a family relationship and the word “Spokesman,” used only in the KJV of Aaron, needs to be considered in more detail.

What is the underlying issue in all of this? **It is the question whether Jesus Christ pre-existed His birth through Mary, His mother, 2000 years ago!** Both, Catholicism/Protestantism based on the trinity doctrine, and HWA/WCG based on the twinity doctrine, affirm and teach that Jesus Christ existed **before He was born** as a separate center of thought, as a second person (God) in the **Godhead**. But, is that a Biblical teaching? Where does the idea of existence before birth come from? To be sure, there are scripture verses that seem to support such an idea, but, scripture verses are subject to (human) interpretation and can and are being used to support contradictory conclusions (read: My Scripture vs. Your Scripture!).

The idea of **life before birth** (re-incarnation) and **life after death** (immortality of the soul) has been a human desire from the beginning, and is very much a part of human, Babylonian mythology. But the Biblical fact, verified by God’s creation, is that **birth means beginning** and **death means end!**

Rom. 1:19-20 says that: “...that which may be known of God is manifest in them (men); for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him (God) from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead (**deity**); so that they are without excuse.” God made/created in Adam and Eve the process of procreation/birth which is always a beginning not only for man(kind), but also for the God(kind), i.e., for Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ, as the Son of God had a beginning when He was sired by His father God and born of His mother Mary.

However, Jesus Christ did pre-exist His birth, but, not as Jesus Christ, not as the Son (of God), not as a second person in a Godhead, not as the Spokesman, no, He existed as the Word (of God), and the Word (of God) was always with God and the Word (of God) was God. 2000 years ago the Word (of God) BECAME the Son (of God) which was the beginning of the ONE God Family (read: The Biblical Trinity – ONE God). God and the Bible are 100% monotheistic from beginning to end. There was only **ONE God** in the Old Testament, Yahweh Elohim, and there is only **ONE God Family** in the New Testament, consisting of God the Father, the first born Son Jesus and many begotten Sons that will become born Sons of God by a resurrection.

How did HWA/WCG justify a TWO God model in Old Testament time? That was accomplished by translating the singular English word “God” of Gen. 1:1, into the Hebrew word “Elohim” which he labeled a “uniplural noun,” allowing for more than one God in the Godhead/Family (but, keep in mind that he also taught that in O.T. time there was not yet a Father and a Son, i.e., no Family of God).

Then, HWA did the same in the New Testament with the clearly non-personal word “Word” in John 1:1, translating it into the Greek word “logos” and “logos” into the personal word “Spokesman,” i.e., Jesus Christ. But, John 1:1 does not say: In the beginning was (**he**) Jesus Christ, it says: In the beginning was (**it**) the Word!

IT, the Word was not a pre-existent Jesus, was not a second God in a Godhead. **IT**, the Word was God, just like **your word is you**. Consider that “the WORD of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” Just because **HE**, the SPIRIT of God is our Comforter, does not make **HIM** a third person in the Godhead! Just as the **Spirit of God** and the **Wisdom of God** are personified in scripture, so is the Word of God personified and whatever personal attributes or personal pro-nouns are used are but the personal attributes of the ONE God - Yahweh Elohim.

In other words John 1:1 addresses what was “**in the beginning**,” which was the ONE God and (it) His Word. Then, beginning with John 1:2 it addresses what was “**then**,” which was Jesus (He) the Son, the “Spokesman” for God, whose beginning/birth is clearly described in the previous three gospels.

The “three-in-one” trinity and the “two-in-one” twinity teachings force Theologians into mysterious and illogical explanations to define what the relationship of the Son is to the Father. Who can comprehend a teaching that claims that there is only one God not two (or three), but that there are two (or three) individuals in the one Godhead?” The teaching that Jesus pre-existed His birth, raises unanswerable questions and produces insurmountable obstacles to understand God.

So, what is the answer to the original question: “Is Jesus in the Godhead or is the Godhead in Jesus?” All I can say is that there can be no correct answer to a false question!

When Jesus Christ asked His disciples (and by extension you and me): “Who do men say that I the son of man am?” They said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others

Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them (and to you and me), “But who do YOU say that I am?” Peter replied for all of us when he said: “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” Jesus then confirmed that the answer was correct when He said: “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona! Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

Considering that the answer was confirmed by Jesus personally, we can be sure that the answer was not only correct, but complete, in order to know that, “**Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” Jesus did not pre-exist in a Godhead (say trinity or twinity), Jesus was the firstborn Son of God, who undoubtedly pre-existed in the **Head of God**, planned and anticipated from the foundation of the world, as all of God’s children are.

The mystery of the “Godhead” has now been demystified, for there is no “godhead,” no “trinity,” no “twinity” and no “ism’s.” There was but **ONE God** and His Word from eternity and throughout Old Testament time, and there is but **ONE God Family**, God the Father, and His firstborn Son Jesus the Christ, and many begotten children, in New Testament time and throughout eternity.

Therefore, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation (and God the Father and our elder brother, and all the angels) wait(s) with eager longing for the revealing of the **Sons of God**” (Rom. 8:18).