

In Matthew 28:19, the three members of the “Godhead” are named: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Throughout the New Testament, we see these three referred to and working separately, yet in complete harmony with one another.

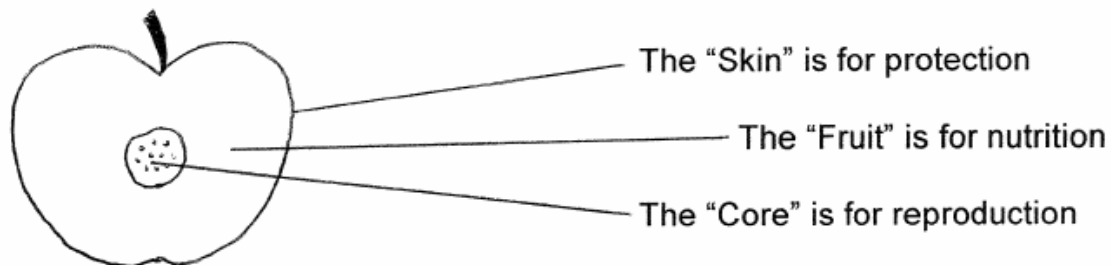
Under the Old Covenant, God was known as “Jehovah”; and Moses was emphatic that “Jehovah is **One**” (Deuteronomy 6:4). Through Isaiah the prophet, “Jehovah” was insistent: “Before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me” (Isaiah 43:10). If there is One God, and only One God, then how can we understand the three persons of the “Godhead”?

In Gen 1:26, God said, “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness ...” The Hebrew word used here is “Elohim”, the plural form of the word “God”. It’s interesting to note that God referred to Himself in the plural in this passage. When you look back at the account of creation in the preceding verses, you can see the various actions of God which brought the physical world into existence. These separate, distinct works are parallel to the works contributed by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in the New Testament description of the creation of the church.

<u>Deity</u>	<u>Text</u>	<u>Contribution to the Creation</u>	<u>Contribution to the Church</u>	<u>Text</u>
Father	Gen 1:1	creation, or conception of an idea	conception of an eternal purpose	Eph 3:8-11
Word	Gen 1:3	brought to reality the Father’s idea	brought to reality the Father’s idea	Mt 16:18
Holy Spirit	Gen 1:2	sustained the created world	sustained the blood-bought church	Jn 14:25-26

It is undeniably difficult for finite, mortal, human beings to understand the make-up of the eternal, immortal, divine creator of the universe. But, He seems to reveal Himself to us as being “One God” consisting of three persons with three unique functions. One is the source of the direction, or ideas, that He will pursue. The next is the active force which brings the idea into existence. The last is the sustaining force which preserves the now created idea.

To understand how three parts can make but one distinct whole, let us use the example of an apple. It is “One”, but made of three parts, each with its own unique purpose.



Yet, if one were to cut off a piece of the “Skin” and set it before you, would you not agree that it was “apple” that you see? Likewise, the “Core” would just as surely be identified as “apple”; and so would the “Fruit”. They are all three “Apple”; yet they are uniquely contributing parts of the overall whole.

“God” consists of 3 “persons” whose individual contributions make God “God”. This is the way God has revealed Himself to us. It is ours to accept Him by faith and seek Him with fervor.