

REPLY TO:
The Unknown God by David Asscherick

Acts 17:18-31 “Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babblers say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because **he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.** ¹⁹And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? ²⁰For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. ²¹(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.) ²²Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. ²³For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.** Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, **him** declare I unto you. ²⁴**God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth,** dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though **he** needed any thing, seeing **he giveth to all life, and breath,** and all things; ²⁶And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; ²⁷That they should seek **the Lord,** if haply they might feel after **him,** and find **him,** though he be not far from every one of us: ²⁸**For in him we live, and move, and have our being;** as certain also of your own poets have said, For **we are also his offspring.** ²⁹Forasmuch then as **we are the offspring of God,** we ought not to think that **the Godhead** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. ³⁰And the times of this ignorance **God** winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: ³¹Because **he** hath appointed a day, in the which **he** will judge the world in righteousness **by that man whom he hath ordained;** whereof **he** hath given assurance unto all men, in that **he** hath raised him from the dead.”

In the presentation, we are told that “the unknown God” is “one of the members of the Godhead” known as the holy spirit, but if you read the verse in question in its context, it becomes clear that it is talking about God the Father, not some third, “unknown” member of the Godhead.

He states that “we are not Greeks, we are not pagans, we believe the Bible, amen” but the Bible does not teach a trinity god. So, while he says we believe the Bible, he then proceeds to teach a doctrine that is not taught in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy and was never a part of the SDA church until it was introduced into the church by men like Leroy Froom from the 1930's to 1940's and onwards till it was finally officially accepted into the SDA church at the General Conference meeting at Dallas Texas in 1980.

The speaker then goes on to use imagery of a bus, warmth, a father, a son, to show that we can get a mental picture of these things then says “holy spirit” and says we can't get a mental picture of this. That should have been enough for him to leave it alone. You can't get a mental picture of the Holy Spirit because clearly it is not a separate god.

Jesus himself states...

Luke 24:39 “Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for **a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.**”

The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Christ” as the following Bible texts prove...

Romans 8:9-11 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. ¹⁰And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of him

that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

And as the following quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy show...

“We want the Holy Spirit, **which is Jesus Christ.**” {Lt66-1894 (April 10, 1894) par. 18}

“The **impartation of the Spirit** is the impartation of **the life of Christ.** {DA 805.3}

“All professions of Christianity are but lifeless expressions of faith until Jesus imbues the believer with **his spiritual life, which is the Holy Ghost.** The evangelist is not prepared to teach the truth, and to be the representative of Christ, till he has received this heavenly gift.” {3SP 242.2}

“**The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ,** which is sent to all men to give them sufficiency, that through His grace we might be complete in Him. The Lord has provided that we should always be under the teaching and influence of the Holy Spirit.” {14MR 84.3}

"While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, **He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.**" Desire of Ages p. 166

“The Holy Spirit, **which proceeds from the only begotten Son of God,** binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ." Review & Herald April 5, 1906

The presenter then says the following: When Paul stood before them he was talking about “the transcendence or the unknowability of God”, etc, but that is not true, as the above scripture in Acts shows. Paul actually goes on to explain to them who this “Unknown God” is. Yes, He was unknown to them, but He was not unknown to Paul, because he knew God the Father, and especially His only begotten Son Jesus Christ, he met Him personally on the road to Damascus and was taught the Gospel by him.

He then goes on to explain the doctrine of the trinity as found in the SDA 27 Fundamentals,

Fundamental Belief 2. Trinity – There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal persons,

He says that SDA’s have a single creed, which is the Bible and the Bible only but then states that they believe in the Trinity which is a false doctrine not found in the Bible. He states that the 27 Fundamental beliefs “are not set in stone in a creedal sense” but many believers have been disfellowshipped from the SDA church for not believing in the doctrine of the trinity, so what he says is not true, the 27 Fundamental Beliefs have become the “creed” of the church and anyone who doesn’t believe them would not be able to be a member of the SDA church.

He says again “This is not an authoritative creedal statement” but this is not true, if you ostracise or disfellowship anyone who doesn't believe it. He says he believes that the statement in the 27 fundamental beliefs is a “very accurate, very good articulation of what scripture teaches”. Does the scripture teach “There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal persons”?

Definitely not!

There isn’t even one text in the whole of Scripture that teaches that. That concept actually destroys the true Father/Son relationship, thus destroying the true concept of family that the presenter is trying to promote. That is a direct contradiction. If they are co-eternal then that means they are exactly the same age or have existed for exactly the same time as each other. Then there cannot be a real Father or Son.

The Scriptures teach plainly that there is One God the Father, and that He had a Son, the Lord Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God and they share one spirit, which is a part of God, His mind, His breath, His Spirit, “the Spirit of God”, “the Spirit of Christ”. That word “of” in the middle of each of the above means that the Spirit belongs to God or Christ, it is not a separate individual being like God and Christ.

“Those who believe the truth should remember that they are God’s little children, under His training. Let them be thankful to God for His manifold mercies and be kind to one another. **They have one God and one Saviour; and one Spirit—the Spirit of Christ**—is to bring unity into their ranks. – {SpTB04 23.3}

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

Yes, great is the mystery of Godliness, and as pointed out in the presentation, this is talking about when Jesus was born in Bethlehem

Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”

This text needs to be compared with the Spirit of Prophecy and then we have a clear picture of who is speaking and who is being spoken to...

“The Lord has shown me that Satan was once an honored angel in heaven, next to Jesus Christ. His countenance was mild, expressive of happiness like the other angels. His forehead was high and broad, and showed great intelligence. His form was perfect. He had a noble, majestic bearing. And I saw that **when God said to his Son**, Let us make man in our image, Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man. He was filled with envy, jealousy and hatred. He wished to be the highest in heaven, next to God, and receive the highest honors. Until this time all heaven was in order, harmony and perfect subjection to the government of God. – {**1 Spiritual Gifts 17.1**}

*Who is speaking? God the Father.
Who is He speaking to? “His Son”.*

How much clearer do you need it to be? Here is God working side by side with His Son to create everything and also Mankind. The following quotes show this as well...

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. **He had an associate** who could appreciate His purpose and share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. See John 1:1, 2. – {**Eternity Past 9.2**}

“Christ the Word was **one with the eternal Father, one in nature, in character, in purpose**. “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2. – {EP 9.3}

“The Father wrought **by His Son** in the creation of all heavenly beings. “By Him were all things created, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers.” Colossians 1:16. Angels are God’s ministers speeding to execute His will. **But the Son, the “express image of His person,” “the brightness of His glory,” “upholding all things by the word of His power,” holds supremacy over them all.** See Hebrews 1:3, 8. – {EP 9.4}

*Notice in the above quote how the Father and Christ are one, “**one in nature, in character, in purpose**”. As the only begotten Son of God, Christ shares His Father’s divine nature, the same as we share the human nature of our parents. He also shares the character of His Father because He is holy and shares all the attributes of His Father as His Divine Son. And likewise, it was always the desire of the Son of God to do His Father’s will and share in the work of God the Father in the creation of the Universe and the salvation of mankind.*

“Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator’s will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. **Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.** By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. “By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers” (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance. – {**Great Controversy 493.1**}

“**The King of the universe** summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of **His Son** and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. **The Son of God shared the Father’s throne**, and the glory of the eternal, **self-existent One** encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng—“ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands” (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven **the King declared** that none but **Christ, the Only Begotten of God**, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. **The Son of God** had wrought **the Father’s** will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due. Christ was still to exercise divine power, in the creation of the earth and its inhabitants. But in all this **He would not seek power or exaltation for Himself contrary to God’s plan, but would exalt the Father’s glory and execute His purposes of beneficence and love.** – {PP 36.2}

These quotes are so plain. Yes, there is One God, The Father and yes, He had an only begotten Son so there was a real family, God and His Son, Christ, in heaven before anything was created by God the Father through His Son.

The presenter then goes into a lot of things that are totally unnecessary in the study of God’s word. He places doubt on the truth of the Bible by implying that God didn’t write the 10 commandments on the tables of stone with His finger. He says “he may well have done that”. This statement or implication is totally false.

The Bible says He did.

Exodus 31:18 “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”

I believe that God did write the 10 commandments with His finger because the Bible says He did and to suggest anything else is totally wrong. God has a real body and real body parts. That is why we do, because we are made in the image of God.

Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Job 11:7 “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? ⁸It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? ⁹The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.”

Psalm 145:3 “Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.”

Yes, we agree with the above three texts, but God has truly revealed to us who He is and who His Son is and what the Holy Spirit is, in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and clearly it has not a single word on the doctrine of the trinity.

Genesis 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

Genesis 3:22 “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:”

*Compare the Scriptures above with the quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy and it is clear that God had indeed formed a family, Himself as God the Father and “**the only begotten of God**” who we know as Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God.*

He then went on to show us the truth that He is a God of love by giving His only begotten son, out of Total love for lost mankind, to us, to forever retain His humanity and demonstrate beyond all doubt that He loves us.

This vital truth, that all other truths of the Bible are built upon, is totally destroyed by the trinity doctrine, which teaches that God the Father and the Son, were not who they say they are in scripture but co-eternal. There is not one scripture that states that they are co-eternal but man puts it there.

Let’s make this clear. Jesus Christ is either “the only begotten Son of God” or the co-eternal person of the trinity called the Son. He cannot be both. The first teaches that He is “the only begotten Son”. The word “begotten means born” not created in any sense, but literally born of God. That make him the true Son of God, the real Son of God. The second teaches that He was co-eternal. That He had no beginning.

If this were true then He is not in any way a Son. That then would have to be just a name or as some call it a metaphor or a role play. That totally destroys the following, most loved and known verse in all the Bible...

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he **gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. ¹⁷**For God sent not his Son** into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. ¹⁸**He that believeth on him is not condemned:** but he that believeth not is condemned already, **because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.** ¹⁹And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”

*For God to “**give**” or “**send**” His only begotten Son, He would have to have an “only begotten Son” to send or give. The fact is that Christ was the “only begotten Son” before this world was even brought into existence, before anything else was created God brought forth, begat, His only begotten Son way back in the days of eternity. Jesus tells us that in the following text from Proverbs*

Proverbs 8:22-31 “The **LORD possessed me** in the beginning of his way, **before his works of old.** ²³**I was set up from everlasting,** from the beginning, or ever the earth was. ²⁴When there were no depths, **I was brought forth;** when there were no fountains abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains were settled, before the hills **was I brought forth**: ²⁶While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. ²⁷When he prepared the heavens, **I was there**: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: ²⁸When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: ²⁹When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: ³⁰Then **I was by him, as one brought up with him**: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him; ³¹Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.”

Compare this text above with what Jesus says in the following quote...

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. **He had an associate—a co-worker** who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:1, 2. **Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.** “His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6. **His “goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”** Micah 5:2. **And the Son of God declares concerning Himself**: “The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” Proverbs 8:22-30. – {PP 34.1}

The text above from Proverbs 8:22-31 is Christ Jesus talking about when He was begotten, “set up” “brought forth” “brought up with him”. The words “brought forth” in the Hebrew means “to be born”. Jesus says clearly that He “was born” before “before his works of old” “from everlasting”, and that he was “brought up” with God His Father. How much clearer do you need it to be. And please note carefully that this is destroyed by the trinity doctrine.

So, the true love of God and the family relationship of the Father/Son relationship is all set at nothing by the trinity and replaces it with a metaphor or a role play. Which one would you rather believe, The Bible, or a cunningly devised fable?