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the Trinity

One of the “embarrassing things” about our faith for some believers is our claim that our one God is made up of three persons. “*Explain that one, Christian boy!*” Cool your jets, Luke - I can’t! That’s right, I can’t! But I believe it is *reasonable* to believe in

the trinity.

The Bible clearly says that there is one God. That is one feature that separated the Jews from their neighbors. “*Hear, O Israel, the Lord, your God. The Lord is one.*” And the New Testament scriptures, written mostly by monotheistic Jews, back up the claim all over the place that there is just one God. **BUT!**

There are also verses which refer to God as the Father, and as The Spirit. And, of course, Jesus Himself claimed to be God! And so you don’t think that they are just three names for the same person, Jesus talks to the Father and says He’s sending The Spirit, and the Father talks about the Son, etc., etc. Sheesh! **THREE DISTINCT PERSONS, ALL IN ONE GOD????!!! WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE IS THIS????!!! SOYLENT GREEN IS PEOPLE!!!** err, move to strike that last remark, your honor...

Let’s go back to extra dimensions for a moment. (Thinking cap time!) Imagine a **Flatman** living in a **Flatland** - like on the surface of a piece of paper - up and down *but no depth*. Now, Flatman (as I so artistically rendered him below) in his flat universe can have a circle and a rectangle but can’t have *both as the same “object.”*

A rule in Flatland is a CIRCLE \neq A RECTANGLE. But (neener, neener) WE can! With just the extra dimension of depth, we can have... (drumroll, please) **THE CYLINDER!!!** - an object which is a circle and a rectangle at the same time!!! Try explaining THAT to FlatMan. You can’t. If you stick the cylinder - like a small can of Carnation Evaporated Milk® - into his Flatland he can feel around it and deduce a circle (blue). Turn the can around and stick it into his “world” the other way and he can feel around it and determine it is a rectangle (red). But tell him that the circle and the rectangle are *the same thing* and he’ll call you KooKoo in whatever language he speaks there. “It is either/or, but not both!!!” he may shout. But we can see that something impossible in two dimensions (e.g. *the cylinder*) is quite possible with just our extra dimension of depth. Why, it’s like a miracle! :)

Big Picture Alert! The claim by early Christians that God was one yet composed of three persons was a brave move. The Bible unabashedly speaks of both, but the concept is impossible for us humans, stuck in three dimensions of space, to conceive of. The Trinity is quite possible when we appeal to extra dimensions, of which there are puh-lenty. *Extra dimensions don’t prove the Trinity, but they support it.*

Will we ever fully “get” the Trinity? Not here in this universe! Maybe there - when we’ll no longer see through a glass dimly, but see Him face to face... (someone say “amen!”)

