A large, leafy tree stands on a grassy hill. The tree has a thick trunk and a wide, spreading canopy of green leaves. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a bright blue sky with sun rays and white contrails. The overall scene is bright and serene.

Image And Likeness Of God

Image and Likeness of God

- **Who is God?**
- **What is God's nature?**
- **Is God one Being?
Two? Three?**
- **Is God a family?**

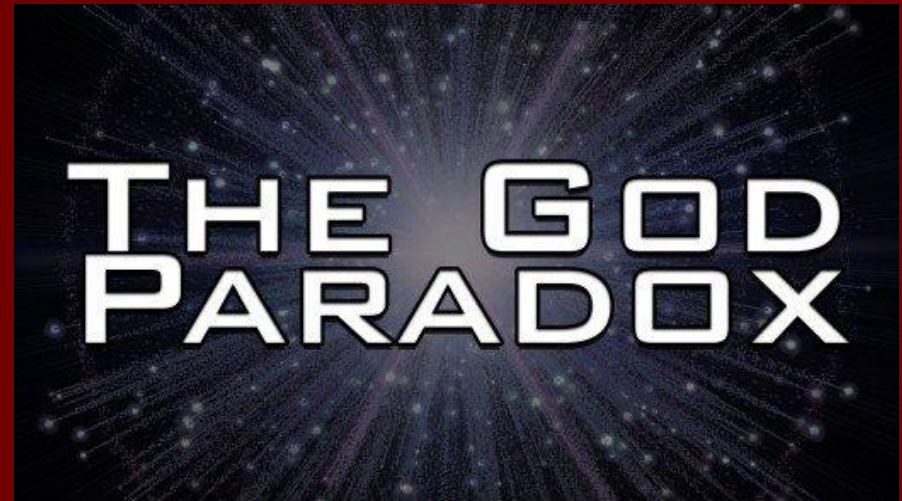


Image and Likeness of God

■ **II Corinthians 11:3**

– “the simplicity that is in Christ”

■ **Genesis 1:26**

– “...Our image...Our likeness”

- **Image includes such characteristics as “Righteousness and Holiness (Ephesians 4:24) and “Knowledge” (Colossians 3:10)**
- **We are to be “conformed to the image” of Christ (Romans 8:29)**
- **We will be someday be “like Him” (I John 3:2)**

Image and Likeness of God

- **Deuteronomy 29:29** “The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law”.
- **I Corinthians 2:10-11** “For God has revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things even the depths of God...the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.”

Image and Likeness of God

- **God does not hide Himself from those whom He has revealed Himself and His Son.**
- **John 6:44** “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...”
- **Matthew 11:25-27** “...You have hidden these things from the wise...revealed them to infants...”



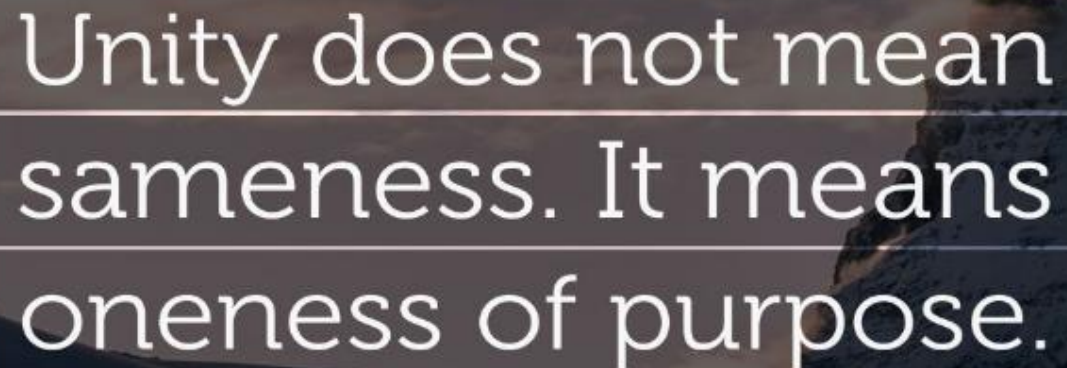
Image and Likeness of God

- Through God's revelation of Himself much about Him can be understood through the observation of His creation.
- **Romans 1:18-20**
"...Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made..."



Image and Likeness of God

- **Jesus' testimony shows He can to reveal the Father.**
- **John 14:5-10** "...He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?...the Father abiding Me does His works."

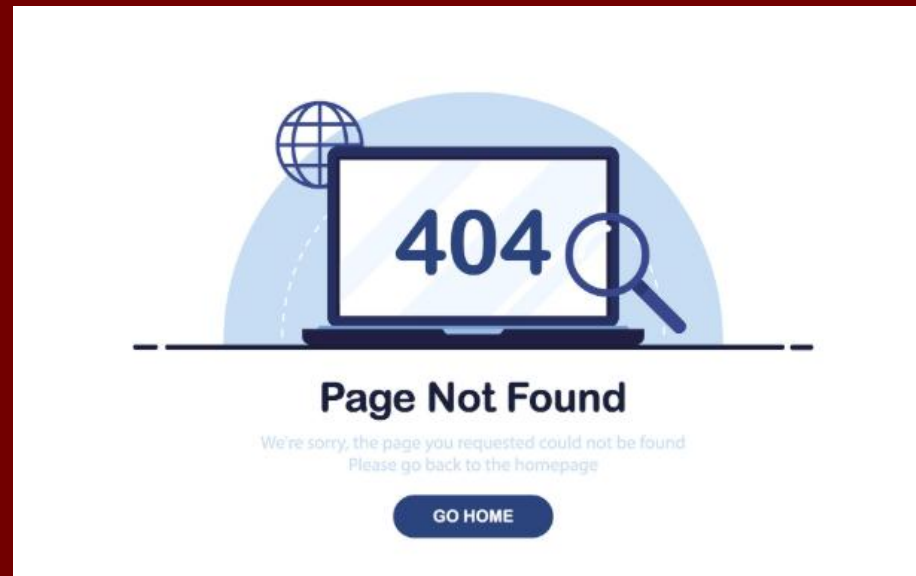


Unity does not mean
sameness. It means
oneness of purpose.

The Trinity Theory Mystery

- **Though 'trinity' is a second-century term found nowhere in the Bible, and the Scriptures present no finished trinitarian statement**

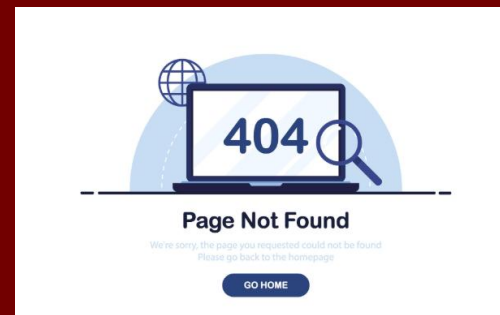
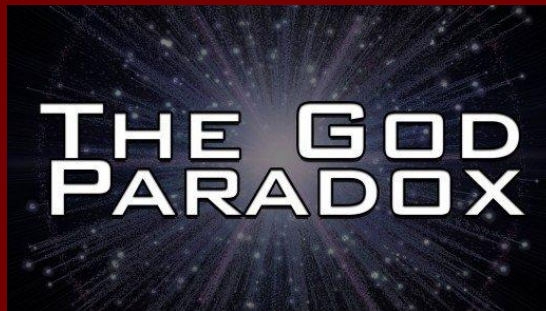
(The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, "Trinity," p. 914)



The Trinity Theory Mystery

- One does not find in the NT the trinitarian **paradox** of the coexistence of the Father, Son, and Spirit within a divine unity, the mystery of the three in one, yet one does find there the data that serve as the foundation of this later dogmatic formulation.

[The Anchor Bible Dictionary,
"God (NT)," p. 1055]



The Trinity Theory Mystery

- **As in philosophy, so now in theology, the easiest solution of the problem was the denial of one of its factors: and successively these efforts were made, until a solution was found in the doctrine of the Trinity, which satisfied both terms of the equation and became the fundamental creed of the church. Its moulds of thought are those of Greek philosophy, and into these were run the Jewish teachings. We have thus a peculiar combination—the religious doctrines of the Bible, as culminating in the person of Jesus, run through the forms of an alien philosophy.**

**(The Encyclopedia Britannica,
"Christianity," 11th ed., vol. 6, p. 284)**

Image and Likeness of God

■ Genesis 2:24

- Husband and Wife can be jointed and “become one flesh”

■ I Corinthians 6:17

- “But the one who joins himself to the Lord is one spirit with Him”
 - If a human can be one with God and remain entirely distinct, why cannot another spirit being a separate personality be one with Him?

Image and Likeness of God

■ Physical Parallels Spiritual

- Jesus consistently referred to God as "Father," Himself as "Son" and whoever does the will of God as "brother," "sister" or "mother" (Mark 3:35).
- Paul adds in Romans 8:14, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God," and in verses 16, 17 and 19, he alternates between "children" and "sons."

Image and Likeness of God

■ Physical Parallels Spiritual

- John says, "We are children of God; and . . . we shall be like Him" ([I John 3:2](#)), implying we will one day be more like Him than we are today, though even now we are in His image and likeness.



Image and Likeness of God

■ Physical Parallels Spiritual

- Many more scriptures show this family parallel, but Ephesians 3:14-15 plainly summarizes this truth: "For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

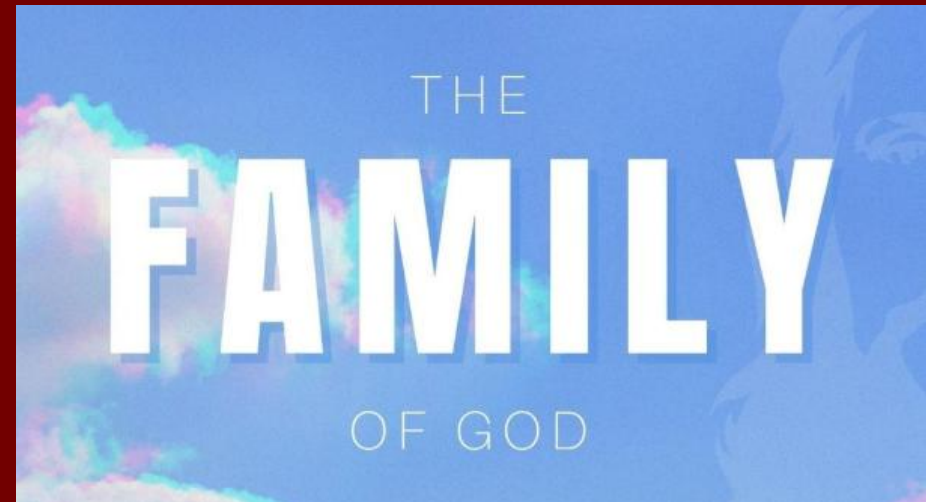


Image and Likeness of God

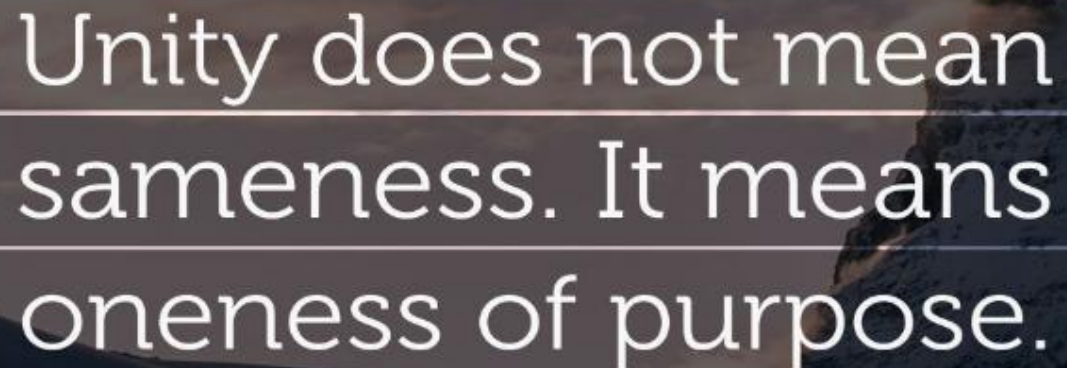
■ John 17:20-22

- Part of Jesus' prayer before His crucifixion, He prays that we would all be one with the Father as He and the Father are one.
- When He made the prayer, He and the Father were certainly distinct personalities, yet they were one.
- They are of one nature, one mind and one Family, in complete cooperation and harmony.

Image and Likeness of God

■ John 10:22-30

“...My sheep hear My voice...they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish...My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all...I and the Father are one”



Unity does not mean
sameness. It means
oneness of purpose.