

God is Light

April 27, 2008

CONFUSING CONCEPTS

Christianity presents some of the most difficult-to-understand, beliefs of any religion:

- A. The Bible alone presents a dual nature for its Savior; depicting Jesus simultaneously as fully man yet fully God.
- B. The Bible alone depicts a three-in-one trinity; a God who is simultaneously a singular one, and a plural three.
- C. The Bible alone describes God as being dead on a cross and simultaneously alive in Heaven waiting to resurrect Himself.

These are all seemingly contradictory statements!

Q: But then, wouldn't you expect *man-invented* theologies to be limited to human perception, perspective, and comprehension?

Q: If God is a transcendent Being, living in an incomprehensible eternal dimension, with unimaginable capacities, shouldn't descriptions and definitions tend to be a bit ... difficult?

It turns out, as science has advanced new light has been shed on these distinctly *Christian* difficulties.

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is **light** ... -
1 John 1:5 NIV

Light has long served (throughout scripture) as a metaphor for God. But, what if it's more than poetic imagery or analogy? What if all along, God intended the properties He created into light, to speak in a unique way to modern believers ... to *us*?! What *all* was the Spirit saying about God through the Psalmist?

He wraps himself in light as with a garment ... - *Psalm 104:2 NIV*

Q: What *all* were the disciples witnessing (on the Mount of Transfiguration) when Jesus' power and glory were displayed?

His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. - *Matthew 17:2 NIV*

WAVE-PARTICLE DUALITY

Let's begin with the dual nature of Jesus: He wasn't 50% divine and 50% human ... He was 100% of both.

Q: Have you ever heard of the "Wave-Particle Duality" in light?



Some things in the universe are *energy* and others are *matter*. Energy acts as waves and it is *not* affected by gravity. Matter acts as particles, and it is affected by gravity.



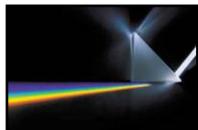
But light happens to be inexplicably, mysteriously both at the same time. It has a seemingly impossible wave-particle duality.

This is from a Newsweek article titled: "Science finds God".

Take the difficult Christian concept of Jesus as both fully divine and fully human. It turns out that this duality has a parallel in quantum physics. In the early years of this century, physicists discovered that entities thought of as particles, like electrons, can also act as waves. ... The orthodox interpretation of this strange situation is that light *is*, simultaneously, wave and particle. ... So, too, with Jesus, suggests physicist F. Russell Stannard of England's Open University. Jesus is not to be seen as really God in human guise, or as really human but acting divine, says Stannard: "He was fully both." Finding these parallels may make some people feel, says physicist John Polkinghorne, "that this is not just some deeply weird Christian idea." - *Newsweek* July 20, 1998, page 51

As light is both energy and matter, Christ was both man and God!

THE HOLY TRINITRON



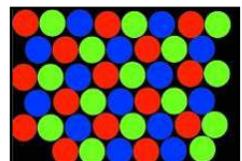
Have you ever made a rainbow by shining light through a prism? Light can be divided into its three primary colors: red, green, and blue.



Every color in our perceivable spectrum is produced by blending differing amounts of these three separate wavelengths of light.



This is the science behind the color TV screen. If you look really, really close, you'll see the Red, green, and blue phosphors that glow in different intensities to create all the colors.





But, do you know what happens when they all glow at 100%? (A prism in reverse), brilliant white light!

What we think of and perceive as uncorrupted, pure white light is actually the perfect combination of three separate primaries!

As light is both three and one, so are Father, Son, and Spirit. God in three persons: the Father distinct from the Son, and both unique and distinct from the Spirit; yet the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit make up the *one* pure God.



- A. In terms of *what* God is, He is one.
 - B. In terms of *who* God is, He's three.
- God is one "What" and three "Whos"



You might be thinking, "I've added colors together, and they don't make white ... they just make a mess." That's because *pigments* are "subtractive" in nature; the more you add the less *light* they reflect. They're very selfish; that's why we call them *pig*-ments! They must *empty* themselves to reflect pure, white light.

TIME DILATION



The speed of light is 186,282 miles-per-second. If you fired a rifle (with a "light-speed" bullet), the slug would circle the Earth over seven times before you could get your finger off the trigger!

Have you ever heard of "Time Dilation"?

Einstein, in his theory of relativity, brilliantly demonstrated that time is *relative* to motion: The faster you travel the more it's "compressed". And it's exponential as you approach the speed of light.

If you traveled through space at 87% the speed of light (that's 170,000 miles-per-second), your time would be half of everyone else's. You would age ten years while Earth aged twenty years. At 180,000 mps, twenty earth *years* compress into one rocket *day*!

Not only is time compressed, but mass is increased. Physical mass expands in size and weight the faster you go. A jet in flight is slightly larger and heavier than it is while sitting on the ground.

So, don't let anybody say, "You're overweight." just say, "Nope, just traveling too fast!"

It is theoretically impossible to travel at the speed of light, because if you did, two things would happen: Your mass would fill the universe (you'd be omnipresent). And time would compress into one eternal present, one "now".

[God] alone is immortal and ... lives in unapproachable light ... - 1 Timothy 6:15-16 NIV

For you time would continue, but you would be traveling within a timeless, eternal dimension. In the "eternal present", there is no "before" and "after"; time itself becomes three-dimensional and negotiable. The Bible tells us that this is the luxury that God has with time:

With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.
- 2 Peter 3:8 NIV

Q: Have you ever wondered how God listens to all those prayers?

Q: Wouldn't His lines get all "jammed" when a disaster strikes?



Let's try to comprehend three-dimensional time: We'll start with a basketball. Remove all the lines except for the equator. Turn that into a simple timeline running around the circumference, with a beginning and an end. Our experience of time is limited to advancing along the latitude of this one-dimensional time line. But God operates in three dimensions of time. He can maneuver however, wherever, and whenever He wants.

Let's put Him up at the top ... that's His "phone booth". From there He could drop a line to Adam's grandson while simultaneously dropping a line to the folks colonizing Mars. He could be with you the moment you were born, the moment you die, and every second in between. He wouldn't have to "divide" His time between us. He could spend as long as He wanted with what we'd see only as a split-second.

Imagine being simultaneously connected to *every* moment (every cherished, joyful moment, as well as every sad and painful moment), in everyone's life that has ever, or will ever live.

In three dimensions of time, God could insert Himself into our one-dimensional timeline, and still remain outside of it. That's why Jesus could say to the Pharisees:

Before Abraham was born, I am! - John 8:58 NIV

Everything is present tense in the eternal present. Jesus on the cross and us here today, may appear to be separated by 2000 years, but at the speed of light it's all relative.

Even as we commit the sin, He's on the cross, cleansing it!