

## Analysis Of Sensations Around the Trinity Doctrine in Indonesia

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**Abstract:** The purpose of writing this article is to examine the controversy over the doctrine of the Trinity Doctrine today, as well as to analyze the relevance of the urgency of liberation theology to this teaching today, using a descriptive qualitative method approach through literature analysis and data collection techniques through Bible sources, various books, and journals, as well as various documents related to the object of research. As a result, there is a massive effort to evoke Sabellianism in terms known as "Oneness Pentecostalism" today, especially in Indonesia. In conclusion, the Call for Liberation Theology and the controversy surrounding the Trinity Doctrine is not a sensation in a massive effort to evoke Sabellianism in terms known as "Oneness Pentecostalism" today, especially in Indonesia, so that the relevance of the urgency of the call for a liberation theology to the term and the Trinity teaching is not clear and has the same basis as in the past, even today it is still not strong because precisely the Trinity is not only a characteristic of Christian belief but also the only way of understanding the Living and perfect God YHWH insofar as He reveals Himself to His people and also in this world.

## INTRODUCTION

Controversy is defined as a debate or dispute, as well as opposition. Controversy is not only found in the world of politics, the world of artistry, or the world of education. But the so-called controversy exists in almost all aspects of life, including religion or theology. The doctrine of the Trinity is a doctrine that has always and from time to time been in the spotlight and debated because of its complexity. Joshua Tewuh firmly and openly rejects the Trinity Doctrine, which he calls a "hoax" and is also a product of paganism, so he calls for an overall reform related to the term to destroy what he calls the prison of Trinitarianism which is nothing but falsehood so that he describes it as a monster theology that should not be allowed there ((Youtube Words of Christ, April 10 and 22, 2019). (n.D.), 2019).

## **THEORETICAL REVIEW**

(Samarennna, 2017) related to the Trinity Doctrine holds that in terms of understanding the Bible, it has become a source of extraordinary polemic because of the questionable divinity of the worthiness of worshipping Christ Jesus. (Nova Saputro, 2021) Understanding the Trinity Doctrine affects the fall and rise of one's faith in Christianity. The doctrine of the Trinity, according to (Suryaningsih, 2019), is a core and essential teaching in Christian belief that has a relationship with the confession of faith in God.

On the other hand, (Kongguasa, n.d.) asserts that mistakes in understanding the Trinity Doctrine can lead to misguidance. According to (Messakh, 2019), the church today faces the danger of the constant emphasis found in the orthodox Jewish belief in the oneness of God that leads to a modalistic understanding, but also because of the emphasis that is too focused on plurality in the relationships that exist. intertwined between the individuals in the Godhead, thus ignoring God's substance (ousia), which has existed for eternity. (Kaseke, 2021) refers to Ichwei G. Indra said that according to several biblical records, there are indications that God is the one who One (Echad or One) introduces His Person as the Triune God, so the teaching of the Trinity for Christianity is of great importance. The doctrine of the Trinity or the Trinity is not easy teaching, so try to understand it as a human logic that, in essence, has limitations to fully and thoroughly understanding the infinite God and is often difficult to reach with limited human means. Thus, the author is in the same view as what Kaseke said that the Trinity Doctrine is a teaching that has essential and decisive value for Christianity because the invisible and unknown God reveals himself through the Trinity, which may still be a mystery to many people, but is also bright for those who receive revelation about the mystery.

So, based on the background of the problem that has been described, the author aims to examine the controversy over the doctrine of the Trinity Doctrine in the present, as well as to analyze the relevance of the urgency of liberation theology to the teaching today, is the call for urgency just a sensation?

## **METHODS**

The purpose of writing this article is to examine the controversy over the doctrine of the Trinity Doctrine, as well as to analyze the relevance of the urgency of liberation theology to the teaching today and whether the call for Liberation Theology against the Trinity Doctrine is just a sensation or is it an urgent need, using a descriptive qualitative method approach through analysis. Literature and techniques collect data through biblical sources, various books and journals, and various documents related to the research object. Bodgan said that qualitative research (H., 2020) is a research procedure that produces descriptive data such as speech and writing and personal behavior that is observed in a context and analyzed from a comprehensive and holistic perspective.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

(Joseph Paul Zhang, 2020) states that Jesus and the Father are one Person because Jesus said He and the Father are One, and also that whoever has seen Him has seen the Father according to John 10:30 and John 14:9. He added that what if the Father is the Holy Spirit based on John 4:23 which states that God is Spirit. Pastor Risuli Lubis related to the verses of John 16:25-26 and John 14:14, saying that Jesus, who previously spoke figuratively using the term sent by the Father, is the Father himself (Lubis., 2019). Samuel Siahaan, in the debate with Rudi Yohanes (Samuel Siahaan,

2021), said that the Father is Jesus and Jesus is the Father, the Father is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit, one Person who only differs in their roles.

Theologians (Jacobs, 2000), as Catholic theologians who are pluralist in Indonesia in their efforts to formulate teachings about Christ which are the views of Orthodox Christianity which believe that Jesus is only the second Person in the Trinity of God so that he is not only different from the Father, but He is also not equal with the Father who is the only God. Henri Tan Dianta also holds the view that the Trinity Doctrine does not come from the Bible because the word is not found in it, so it becomes the basis for his consideration of leaving the heretical doctrine, also because the treatment that adheres to it exalts the Father, even though Jesus is One God and the Father is not at all ever called Allah (Universe, 2021).

So it can be stated that the results obtained based on the statements and interpretations of Paul Zhang, Risuli Lubis, Samuel Siahaan, and Tom Jacobs, there is "Deja Vu" or, in other words, something that has been seen in the past. Hence, it looks like a massive effort to evoke Sabellianism in terms known as "Oneness Pentecostalism" today, especially in Indonesia, and on the other hand, subordinationism within the individuals of the Trinity.

### **A massive effort to evoke Sabellianism in terms known as "Oneness Pentecostalism" today and especially in Indonesia**

Oneness Pentecostalism uses Deuteronomy 6:4 as the basis for claiming the Oneness of God in the Person of Christ and rejects the Trinity. The same thing in the past characterizes the flow of Sabellianism to maintain its teaching, which states that God is only One Person who simply changes status and form depending on His role or function. The same thing can be seen from the Oneness Pentecostalism teaching, which considers Jesus as a manifestation representing both the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This opinion was confirmed by (Arianto Minanga et al., 2021), stating that the Oneness school of thought is contrary to the teachings and understanding of the Trinity doctrine because, in general, it believes that there is only One Person of God who manifests in three phases of work: namely as the Father, as the Son, and as the Son. as the Holy Spirit. Likewise (Hanny Setiawan & Joseph Christ Santo, 2020) are of the view that the Oneness teaching, calling God the Father, is related to the work of creation, the Son is related to the work of redemption, and the Spirit of God is related to emanation.

In connection with the call since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic on social media on a massive scale, many statements loudly proclaimed the need to return to pure and biblical teachings by eliminating or erasing the Trinity teaching and its terms from Christianity. Because it is a prison of Trinitarianism which is nothing but falsehood, it is described as a theology of a monster that should not be allowed to exist ((Youtube Words of Christ, n.d.). This understanding is also identified with the sect which is also called Jesus Only or Only Jesus so that in this understanding, it is believed that the Father is a picture of parents related to the status as one God, then the Son of God in dealing with God who is God incarnate as a human being, and the Spirit. The Holy Spirit, or God's Spirit, is related to God's work in the Spirit (Yushak Soesilo, 2012).

It is necessary to understand that speaking liberation theology stems from the desire to reject and eliminate injustice. Regarding liberation theology, Gustavo Gutierrez was a pioneer who initially fought for injustice in Latin America, so his struggle began to spread and be followed in other continents such as Africa and Asia. Thus, the struggle or appeal is not particularly new among Christians. Because in Asia, for example, there is a reconstruction of theological thinking based on

religious plurality and poverty so that the doctrine of the Trinity is considered sinful and misleading and becomes a stumbling block in and for Christianity as a product not found in the Bible.

Trinitarianism is considered polytheistic because it involves three worshipped Gods. It is also a view (Yudi, 2021) that the understanding of the population in Indonesia, the majority of whom believe in Islam, the One God described in three Persons, is more towards polytheism. However (Slick, 2021) believes that only those who vehemently reject the Trinity Doctrine have the assumption and conclusion that all adherents of this understanding have a tritheist understanding. God is One according to His own words in Deuteronomy 6:4, and there is no other God in the universe (Isaiah 45:5-7). But the Oneness of Allah does not negate the plurality in Him. Therefore, the Trinity is truth and divine mystery revealed by God through His word. So (Manintiro, 2019) is of the view that the teaching of the Trinity doctrine, regardless of its complexity, does not necessarily make the doctrine untrue because understanding and explaining the Trinity of God is not easy because of the complexity inherent in His being as God. The same is said. (Michael F Bird, 2013) that the doctrine is tricky, so its relevance and meaning are a struggle for everyone.

The doctrine of the Trinity is not a product produced by the church, even though Tertullian originally coined the term. Still, it is clear from the biblical record that the description and even the reality of God in His plurality are undeniable because if it is ignored, it can turn the truth of the Bible into a book. Sacred is questioned as well as doubt. How to explain Christ's death as God? How can death rule over God? How did God give His only Son? According to the record of John 3:16, what if He Jesus Christ who was given was God who gave?

(Erwin Tonius Zai, Parulian Hutasoit, 2019) Emphasized that the confession of faith in the Triune God is the foundation of the Christian life because it is a teaching that comes from the Bible and determines the maturity of faith. So what if it is related to his interests in the existence of the church and its unity? Constantine the Great, in his time, initiated the first Council to avoid conflicts that could harm the internal and mission of the church related to differences in theological views on matters relating to the "Divinity of Jesus." (Grace Son Nassa, 2020) related to Barth's point of view, who believes that the Trinity doctrine is a doctrine that becomes the benchmark and foundation of any other doctrine in the Christian faith, the church fathers fought for it because it is God's revelation.

In 1 John 5:7, Bible facts explain that the Father, the word, and the Holy Spirit are witnesses in the highest place or called heaven. Therefore, they are one in essence (1 John 5:7). The Bible shows explicitly in the New Testament a person who is not the same in God's Essence because there is a fact that Jesus as the Son of God spoke to the Father as a different person, as well as He referred to the Holy Spirit by the term "another Helper" which was separated from Himself. . The same thing is confirmed by (Letham, 2019) who holds that the Son is eternally different from the Person of the Father and the Person of the Holy Spirit, but in the same existence forever.

The doctrine of the Trinity is contrary to the views and teachings of Oneness Pentecostalism, which is trying to be ignited through digital media, which is a tool that is more widely used in the industrial era 4.0 so that congregations who are already familiar with the teachings of the Trinity doctrine and have just heard of the teaching experience doubts because they think that the teaching is new, even though the contents of its teachings are identical or the

same as the understanding of Sabellianism which a few centuries ago has also been horrendous but in the end, it has been identified as teaching that deviates from the overall contents of the Bible comprehensively so that it has been categorized as heretical by the previous Council. So efforts to revive the teaching are an effort to catch the wind because if in the past God had guarded the Trinity doctrine against century to century and from conflict to conflict, the same God was faithful to His word so that even today, He is still faithful to His Word. Therefore, dismantling the teachings with Sabellianism, which are only wrapped in other names as if they are new teachings and revelations from God.

So, this effort can be seen as a sensation because of the irrelevance of the call for liberation theology to the Trinity doctrine. It only uses certain verses deemed suitable to strengthen the arguments presented but ignores the records of Bible verses that emphasize the plurality of God. So concerning creation as one example (Soedarmo R., 2019), if we observe the word Kita in the first Book of Genesis and refer to pluralism, it can be drawn an understanding that in the Oneness of God, there are also individuals who, in togetherness "consult" to realize the creation of man as a tangible proof of the existence of the Triune God.

## **CONCLUSION**

The call for Liberation Theology and the controversy surrounding the Trinity Doctrine is not a sensation in a massive effort to evoke Sabellianism in terms known as "Oneness Pentecostalism" today, especially in Indonesia, so that the relevance of the urgency of the call for a liberation theology to terms and teachings. The Trinity is unclear and the same as in the past, even today it is still not strong because precisely the Trinity is not only a hallmark of Christian belief but also the only way of understanding the Living and perfect God YHWH insofar as He reveals Himself to His people. Him and also in this world.

This research is not perfect because it is limited to literature data; given the importance of the topic being studied: namely, the doctrine of the Trinity, which is very central in Christian faith beliefs, the author suggests strengthening and multiplying the teachings of the Trinity to maintain and keep God's congregation or church away from the teachings of God. Deviant teachings such as the understanding of Oneness Pentecostalism or Jesus Only are old teaching of Sabellianism and threaten the congregation's understanding and faith. To explore how far the understanding of Oneness Pentecostalism has spread and affects the church today, the authors plan further research in the field in the form of interviews and surveys with the title "The Influence of Oneness Pentecostalism on the faith of the congregation since the Covid-19 pandemic at the Bethel Church of Indonesia Parakletos Taman Palm Lestari Cengkareng, West Jakarta".

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