

**OUR UNITARIAN FAITH
FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE, 6 SUNDEY
MORNING DISCOURSES**

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Our Unitarian faith for young people, 6 Sundeay morning discourses by J. Towle Marriott

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J. TOWLE MARRIOTT

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FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE, 6 SUNDEY
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OUR UNITARIAN FAITH FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE.

SIX SUNDAY MORNING DISCOURSES.

PREACHED AT

STRANGWAYS UNITARIAN FREE CHURCH,
MANCHESTER,

BY

J. TOWLE MARRIOTT, MINISTER.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

Our freedom does not mean that we have no definite teaching. We are bound to provide an answer to the question: What do you, as Unitarians, believe? I am one of those who feel it specially useful to set before young persons growing up in our churches some outline of our Unitarian doctrine; and because we are so much distinguished for the lack of such things, I venture to commit to the press these six discourses, almost as I preached them in my church. Nobody will see their imperfection more clearly than I do myself; yet I am not without hope that they may meet a real want in our body, and prove useful to some readers, as I think they have done to a few hearers.

J. T. M.

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Can you find a Trinity in the New Testament.

"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." Eph. iv. 6.

THE question I desire to ask you this morning, my young friends, is whether you can find the doctrine of the Trinity in the New Testament? I ask this question in all seriousness, and in the hope that you will each look for yourselves, and see if the answer I am going to give is the true answer. But before we open the New Testament for our search, let us consider this doctrine first a moment; let us consider what is meant by it. The word Trinity is rather difficult to

understand. The first part of it, 'Tri,' means three, and the other part, 'Unity,' means one ; so that the whole, Tri-Unity, shortened into Trinity, means one in three, or three in one. Most Christian people imagine (they do not think much on the subject, but thoughtlessly believe just what is told them in church or chapel) that they must apply this word to their belief in God ; they worship Him as if He who is one had somehow three parts in His nature, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They imagine that there is some good to be got by regarding God in this manner. The hymns they sing often have the idea in the last verse ; and at marriage and baptism, and in all their ceremonies, they bring it in, so as to keep well in mind God's threeness, as if it were a doctrine of very great importance. Now, we are met together this morning in our Unitarian Church, in a church, that is, in which that doctrine is not believed ; in a church where God is thought of always as One person, One and not three. I am going to show you this morning and next Sunday morning, why we think that God is not Trinity, but Unity. And I have asked you now if you can find the Trinity in the New

Testament, because, as you know, it is to the New Testament that nearly all Christian people look first for what they ought to believe. If you were to go into almost any place of worship to-day, and ask where the worshippers get their Christianity, you would be told that they get it from the New Testament. Very well, then, I say, let us see if the New Testament really teaches the Trinity. Let us test the question if that book sets forth the threefold nature of God, as they seem to think. On the other hand, you will find that the general teaching of page after page is that God is just the One who is Almighty, and who is the Father of all. But I must not beg the question; let me try and prove what I have said.

My first statement is that if you will search the New Testament from the beginning of Matthew to the end of Revelation, you will find that the *word* Trinity is not once made use of. That is worth remembering—the word Trinity is not to be once met with in the New Testament. Still, perhaps it is argued, the *idea* may be there without the word. So we will look at any passage that may seem to carry in it the idea of God as three persons in One