

# The Doctrine of the Trinity



## 1st - One God

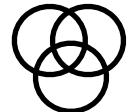
### Absolute monotheism

“Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!”

- Deuteronomy 6:4

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.”

- Isaiah 43:10



## 2nd - Three Persons

Within the one true God there are three divine persons who are distinguished from one another: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Father is not the Son - the Son is not the Spirit, and the Spirit is not the Father.

“And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

- John 17:5

What we see in John 17 is two persons speaking — Jesus is describing a time in eternity past when He and the Father existed within company to one another.

### Great Commission

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the **name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

- Matthew 28:19

**name:** ὄνομα (on'-am-ah')

- noun - accusative, neuter, singular

The one name is encompassed by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit



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## Jesus' Baptism

"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- Matthew 3:16-17

Once again we have the three persons identified here in the story of Jesus' baptism.

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## **3rd - Equality of the Persons**

Equality does not equal sameness

The Father, Son, and Spirit clearly do different things from one another, and yet are all called Yahweh-God.

Being vs. Person

Being = what something is

Person = who someone is

**"This is the universal faith: that we worship one God in Trinity and trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence. One God encompassed by three coequal, coeternal persons: The Father, The Son, and the Spirit."**

- Athanasian Creed



## **HANDS**

**H**onours

**A**ttributes

**N**ames

**D**eeds

**S**eat

All three Persons of the Trinity - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are given the honours, attributes, names, deeds, and seat of Yahweh-God.

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## God is Love

### Philosophical Problem of Love

Love requires both an object and a subject (a lover and a lovee)

- A deity who is one in its being and one in its person must create in order to experience love.
- A unitarian deity would then be contingent or dependent on their creation to understand or experience love.

“Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

- 1 John 4:8<sup>1</sup>

What we see with the doctrine of the Trinity is that God has existed in a set of living-loving relationships. The Father, the Son, and the Spirit exist coequally and coeternally in relationship with one another as love.

- The Doctrine of the Trinity solves the Philosophical problem of love.
- It also shows us that God did not *need* to create, either to experience love or out of some sort of obligation — rather, he does so *out of his love*. God’s creation is an outpouring of the love that he experiences inter-relationally within the Trinity.



### Book Recommendations:

Lay-Level: *Shared Life: The Trinity and the Fellowship of God’s People* by Donald MacLoud; *The Forgotten Trinity* by James R. White; *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity Changes Everything* by Fred Sanders

Intermediate: *Putting Jesus in His Place: The Case for the Deity of Christ* by Rob Bowman & Ed Komoszewski

Advanced: *The Essential Trinity: New Testament Foundations ad Practical Relevance* by Brandon Crowe & Carl Truman



### Video Links:

Long: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_ptwb4L\\_Sb4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ptwb4L_Sb4)

Short: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-JmA0rlX5A>

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<sup>1</sup> Exodus 33:19, 34:6; Psalm 86:15, 103:8, 116:5, 145:8-9; Joel 2:13; Nehemiah 9:17; Isaiah 63:7; 2 Chronicles 30:9;

