

The Doctrine of the Trinity



1st - One God

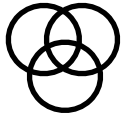
Absolute monotheism

“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



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.



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

Honours

Attributes

Names

Deeds

Seat

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.





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 4:8¹

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 and Practical Relevance* by Brandon Crowe & Carl Truman



Video Links:

Long: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_ptwb4L_Sb4

Short: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-JmA0rIX5A>

¹ 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;

