



Presented by Abu Zakariya

# Agenda

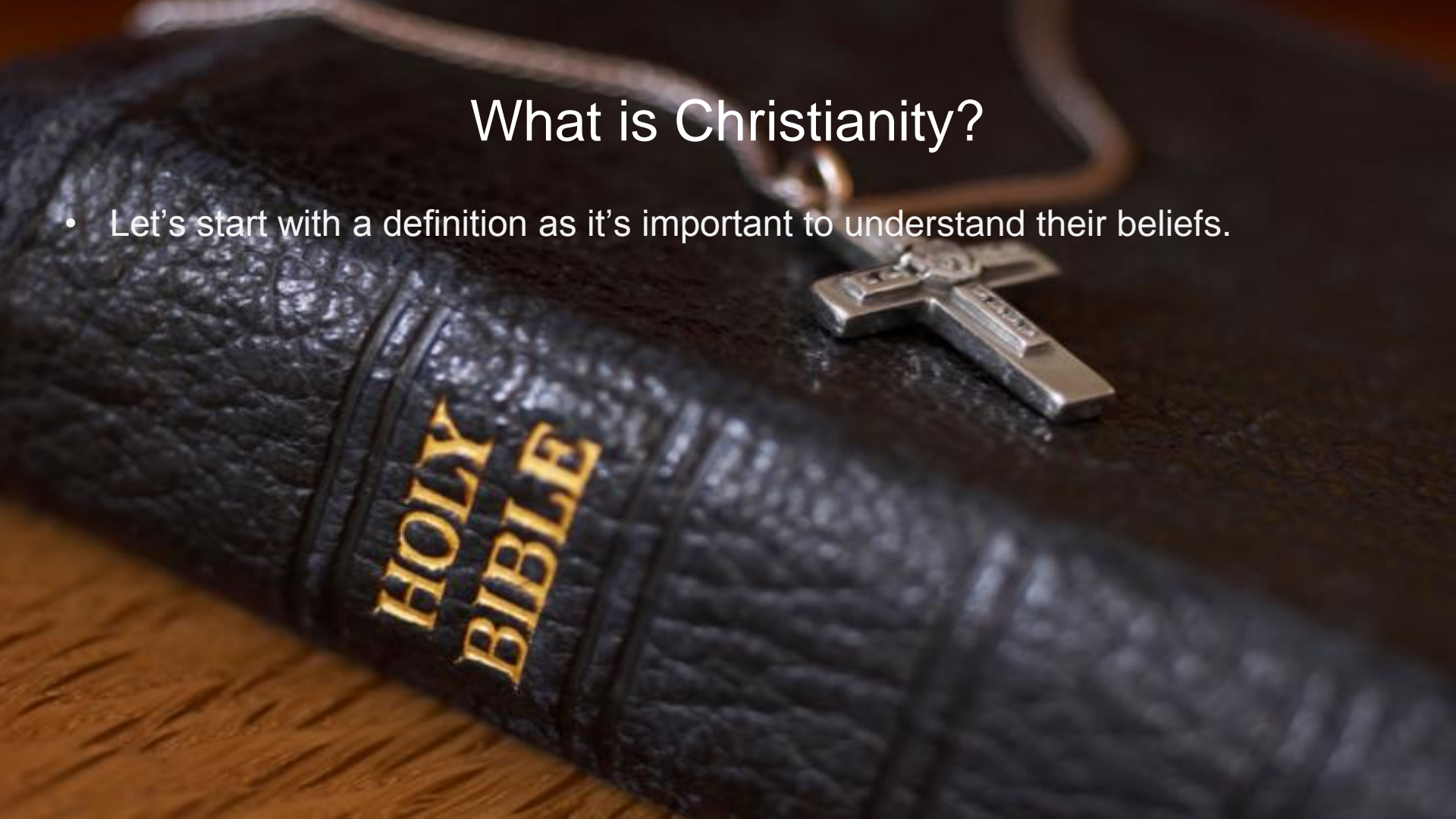
1. Some Important Definitions

2. Dawah Strategy

- Why Jesus is Not God
- Why Jesus is Not the Son of God
- Why Jesus is a Servant of God

# What is Christianity?

- Let's start with a definition as it's important to understand their beliefs.

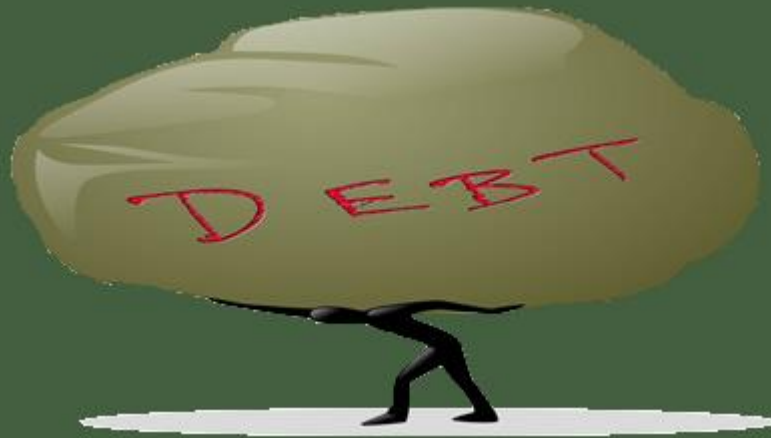




God

**Sin Separates**

Sin is like debt, it can't just be forgiven by God.



God sent His son, Jesus, to die for mankind and settle the debt.

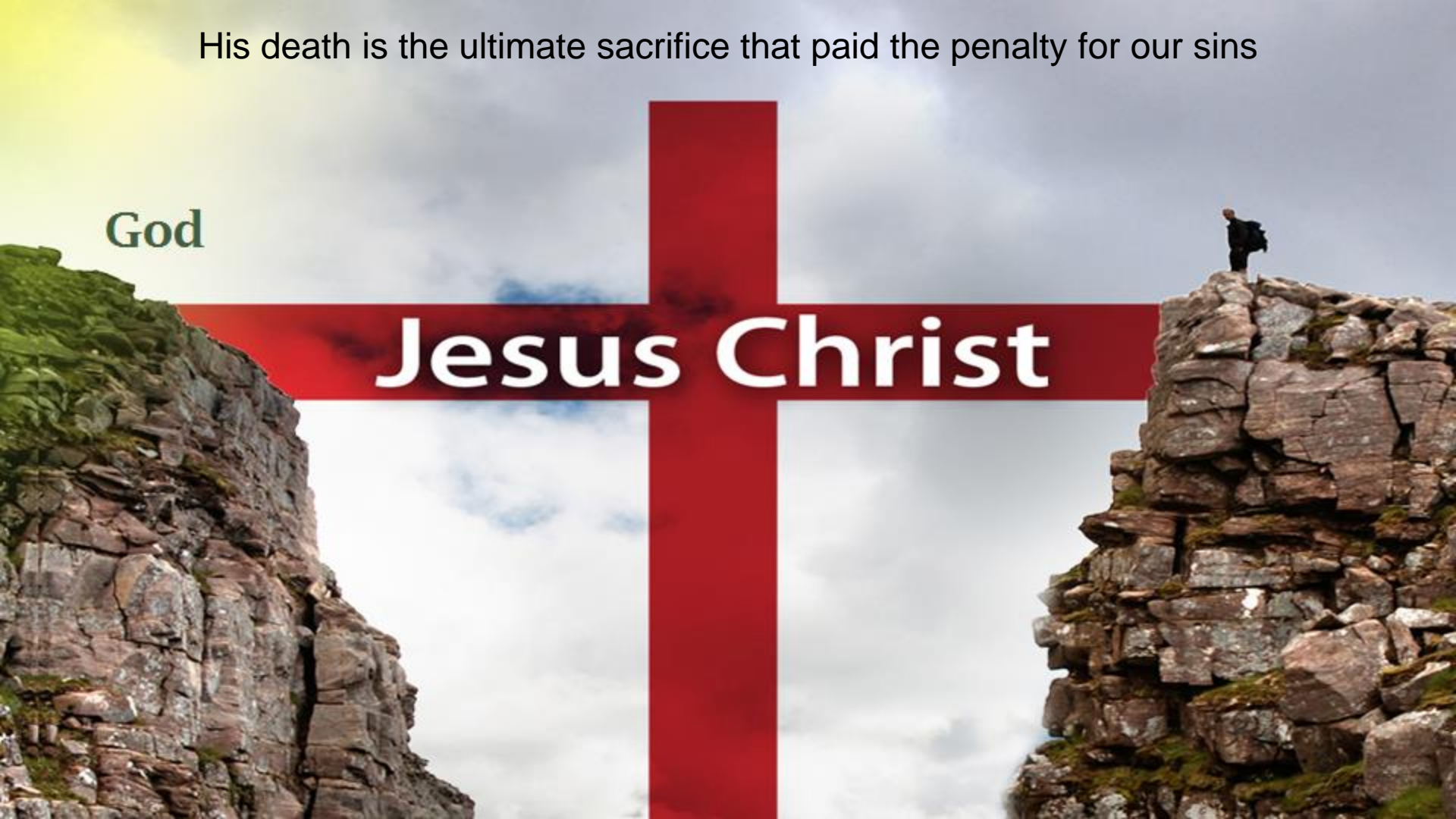




His death is the ultimate sacrifice that paid the penalty for our sins

God

Jesus Christ



# Summary of Christian Belief

***“Salvation is based on a belief of the deity of  
Jesus and his death and resurrection.”***



# Our Focus

- We will focus on the deity of Jesus as this is the biggest obstacle to Tawheed.

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ

# The Trinity

- The deity of Jesus is part of a doctrine known as the Trinity.

# The Trinity

- The vast majority of Christians in the world are Trinitarians by denomination.

# What is the Trinity?

- How would you explain the doctrine of the Trinity in a few short sentences?

# What is the Trinity?

- The doctrine of the Trinity defines God as one being who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

# What is the Trinity?

- Put simply, “one God in three persons”.



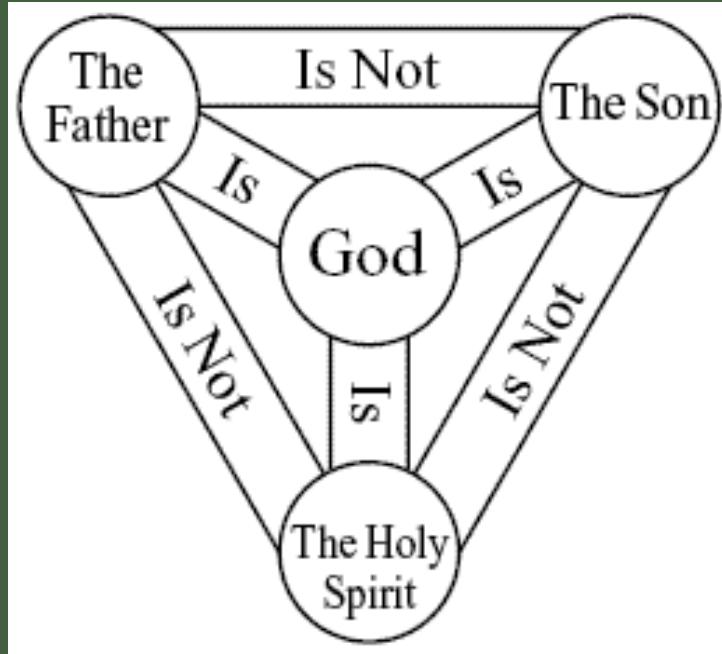
# What is the Trinity?

- All three Persons of the Trinity are said to be co-equal and co-eternal, and “each is God, whole and entire”.

# What is the Trinity?

- One “What” – God.
- Three “Who’s” – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

# What is the Trinity?



# What is the Trinity?

- Although co-equal, each Person in the Trinity is believed to have a distinct role:

**Father – Creates**



**Son – Redeems**



**Holy Spirit – Inspires**



# The Incarnation of Jesus

- A very important element of the Trinity is the Incarnation.

# The Incarnation of Jesus

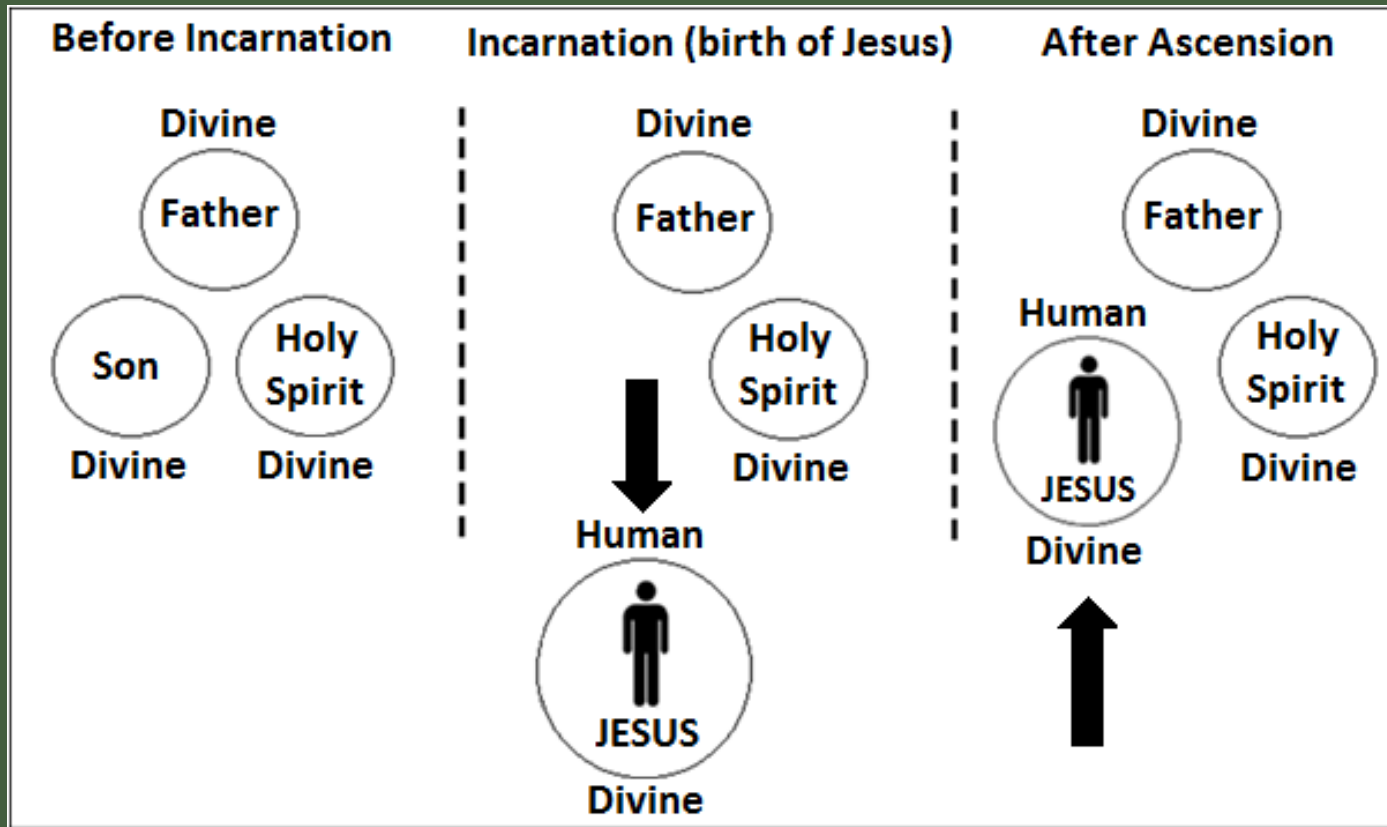
- This teaches that the second person of the Trinity, the Son, took on bodily form as Jesus.



# The Incarnation of Jesus

- When Mary gave birth to Jesus, God is alleged to have entered into the creation as a human being.

# The Incarnation of Jesus



# The Incarnation of Jesus

- Thus the Son, Jesus, is now the god-man, he has two natures – one divine, one human.

# The Incarnation of Jesus

- The Son will forever have an inseparable divine and human nature. Thus humanity has been permanently incorporated into God's nature.

# Trinity is a Majority Belief

- These are the core beliefs of the Catholic, Protestant, Orthodox and Oriental Churches, representing more than 95% of Christians worldwide.

# The Trinity Confusion

- Confused? So are the majority of Christians.

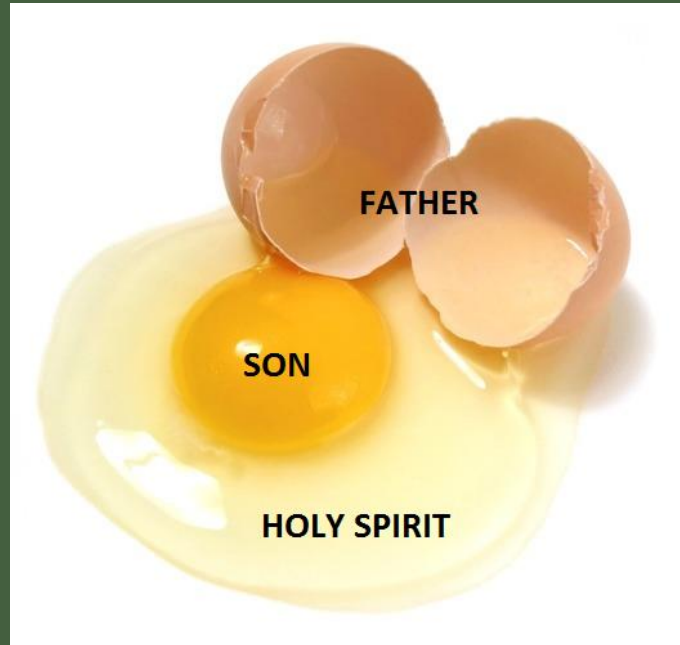


# The Trinity Confusion

- This becomes apparent when you discuss the doctrine with lay Christians and they try to use elaborate analogies to rationalise it:

# The Egg Analogy

“The Trinity is like the three parts of an egg: the shell, the white and the yolk”



# The Egg Analogy

- Does this analogy work for the Trinity?

# The Egg Analogy

- Does this analogy work for the Trinity?
- The egg analogy doesn't work because the doctrine of the Trinity states that each person (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is fully God. One wouldn't say that the shell is fully an egg, the white is fully an egg or that the yolk is fully an egg. It is only the totality of the three parts (shell, white and yolk) that make a complete egg.

# The Water Analogy

“The Trinity is like three forms of water: ice, liquid and vapour”



# The Water Analogy

- Does this analogy work for the Trinity?

# The Water Analogy

- Does this analogy work for the Trinity?
- The water analogy doesn't work either, because it implies that God first manifested Himself as Father, then as the Son and then as the Holy Spirit. These 'forms' are temporary and never co-exist, thus violating the principle of the doctrine that the persons eternally co-exist.

# The Man Analogy

“The Trinity is like a man who can exist as a father, a son and a husband, all at the same time”





# The Man Analogy

- Does this analogy work for the Trinity?

# The Man Analogy

- Does this analogy work for the Trinity?
- The man analogy also fails to encompass the doctrine of the Trinity. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit aren't simply three functions or roles of God, they are said to be three distinct *persons*.

# The Mystery of the Trinity

- All such analogies are problematic. The fact is that it's a mystery that defies rationalisation and must be accepted on blind faith.

# Strategy

- Now that we have a grounding in their beliefs about God we can move onto strategies for tackling them.

# Strategy

- In practical terms, how can we go about taking them from a belief in the Trinity to Tawheed?

## With a Question...

“Do you believe Jesus is...

God?

The Son of God?

Or a Servant of God?”

With a Question...

God?



The Son of God?



Or a Servant of God?

# Benefits

- Focuses on what is most important, Tawheed.



# Benefits

- Bring them closer to Islam in small steps, insha'Allah.

# Benefits

- Simple. Vast majority of Christians you engage with will know very little about the Bible so why complicate things unnecessarily?

# Benefits

- Control. Avoid wasted time and side tracking by steering the conversation toward Tawheed from the outset.

# Benefits

- Flexible enough to be applied to virtually any Christian sect.

# God, Son of God or Servant of God?

- Let's go through some techniques for each scenario.

God?

# God's Attributes

- One very effective technique is to get them to agree on the attributes of God:

***“Would you agree that God is All Knowing and All Powerful?”***

# God's Attributes

- Then proceed to show them that Jesus had neither of these attributes.



# God's Attributes

- According to the Bible, Jesus was not All Knowing as he lacked knowledge of the Hour:

***“But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.”***

***[Matthew 24:36]***

# God's Attributes

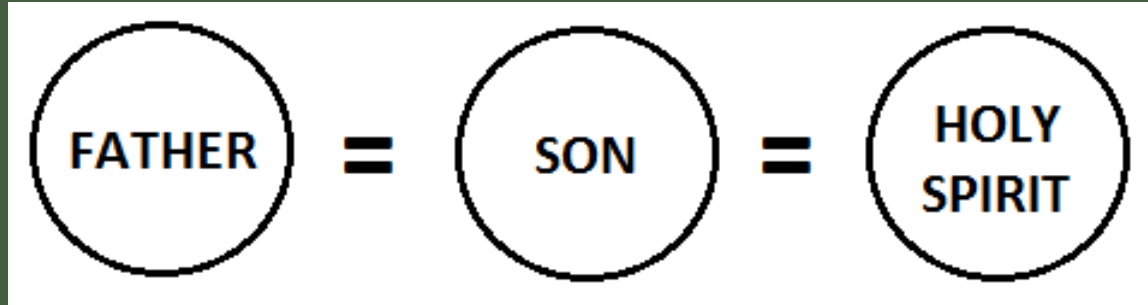
- According to the Bible, Jesus was not All Powerful as authority was given to him:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”*

*[Matthew 28:18]*

# God's Attributes

- Recall the definition of the Trinity: all persons are “co-equal”



# God's Attributes

- Since Jesus lack's the Father's attributes, he can't be God.

# God's Nature

- Another technique is to get them to agree on the nature of God:

***“Would you agree that God is eternal and unchanging?”***

# God's Nature

- Bible describes God's nature as eternal and unchanging:

*Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting.*

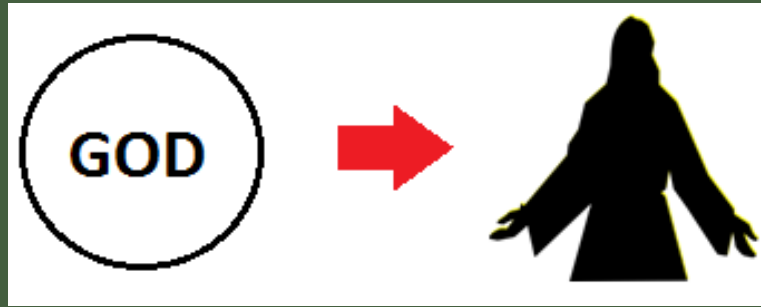
*[Psalm 93:2]*

*Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

*[James 1:17]*

# God's Nature

- Recall that Trinitarians claim that at the Incarnation, God The Son became flesh.



# God's Nature

- The implication is that in becoming man, the nature of God changed.



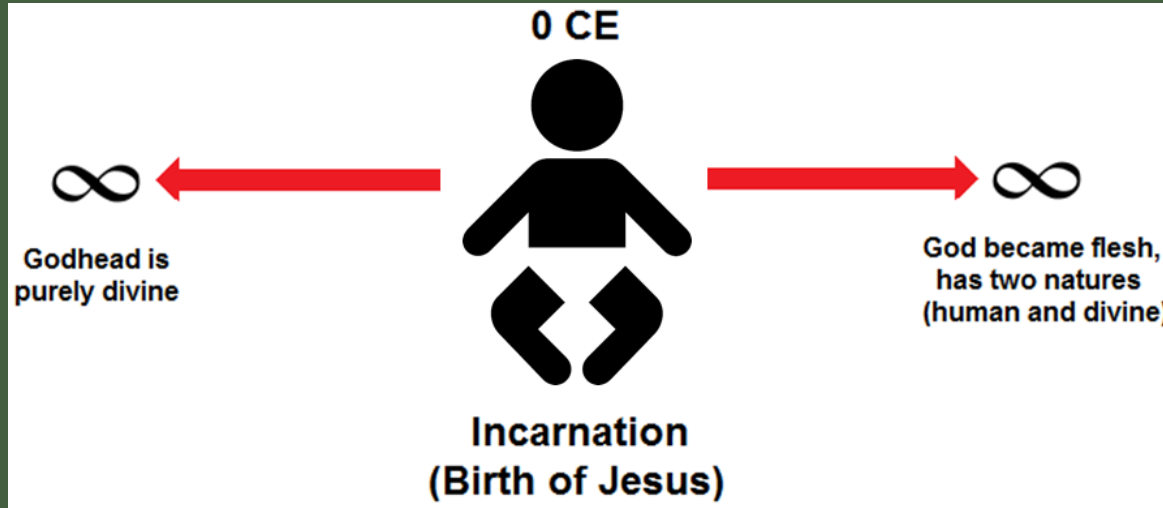
# God's Nature

- Conclude that a belief in the Trinity conflicts with the Bible's portrayal of God's eternal and unchanging nature.

# God's Nature

- Another question:

*“Was God’s nature more perfect before or after the incarnation?”*



# God's Nature

- You can see that the doctrine of the Incarnation puts Trinitarians in a blasphemous predicament.

# Jesus Affirms Monotheism

- There is an interesting conversation between Jesus and a Jewish teacher of the Law...

# Jesus Affirms Monotheism



One of the teachers of the law  
asked Jesus:

"Of all the commandments,  
which is the most important?"

"You are right in saying that God is  
one...  
and to love your neighbor as  
yourself is more important than all  
burnt offerings and sacrifices."



The most important one is this:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one...  
The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.  
There is no commandment greater than these."

When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he  
said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of  
God."

**Mark 12:28-34**

# Jesus Affirms Monotheism

- This incident was the perfect opportunity for Jesus to teach the Trinity.
- Exact opposite is the case; Jesus affirms the teacher's Jewish understanding of God which is purely monotheistic.
- Not only is the Jewish teacher's wisdom about God acknowledged, but Jesus goes so far as to compliment him, saying that he is close to the kingdom of God.

# The Prophets of the Old Testament

- The reason why Jewish people do not believe in a Triune God is that He is never presented as such in the Old Testament.
- The Prophets of the Old Testament, such as Abraham, Noah and Moses, never preached that God is a Trinity.

# The Prophets of the Old Testament

- Does it make sense that God sent countless Prophets, over a span of thousands of years, with a consistent message of pure monotheism, and then all of a sudden reveals that He is a Trinity, a radically different message which contradicts His previous Prophets' teachings?



# Dealing with Challenges

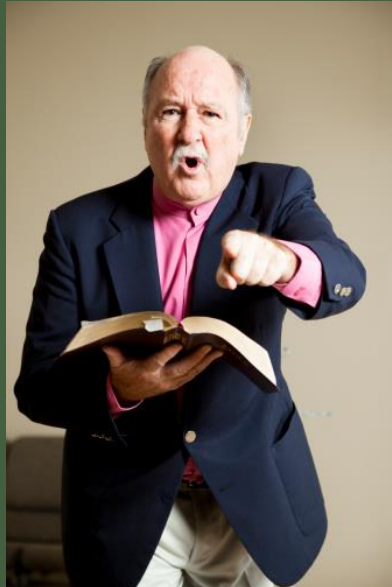


# Dealing with Challenges

- So far we have assumed that the Christian doesn't have deep knowledge of their Bible. This is the case for the vast majority you will encounter.

# Dealing with Challenges

- What about that rare Christian who quotes from the Bible to try and prove that Jesus is God?



# Dealing with Challenges

Here are some common examples. What do you think, are these valid proofs for the Trinity:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [John 1:1]*

*For in him [Jesus] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. [Colossians 2:9]*

*Therefore go 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]*

# Dealing with Challenges

- You may find this prospect intimidating, but there's no need to worry.

# Dealing with Challenges

- There are some simple techniques you can use to refute any verse they bring.

# Refuting Trinity “Proof Texts”

1. Show another quote by the same author which challenges the Trinity.
2. Point out that their quote is inadequate in supporting the Trinity as it is believed in today.

# Refuting Trinity “Proof Texts”

- Let's apply the techniques to each of the so-called proof texts.



# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

So-called proof text from John:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [John 1:1]*

# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

- Our response:

*After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father... Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. [John 17:1-3]*

*Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” [John 20:17]*

Conclusion: Is John concrete evidence for the Trinity? No.

# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

- So-called proof text from Paul:

*For in him [Jesus] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.  
[Colossians 2:9]*

# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

- Our response:

*But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. [1 Corinthians 11:3]*

*"One God and Father of all, who [is] over all, and through all, and in all."  
[Ephesians 4:6]*

Conclusion: Is Paul concrete evidence for the Trinity? No.

# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

- So-called proof text from Matthew:

*“Therefore go 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]*

# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

- Our response:

*Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” [Matthew 28:18]*

*"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. [Matthew 24:36]*

Conclusion: Is Matthew concrete evidence for the Trinity? No.

# 1. Fighting Quotes With Quotes

- You don't need to memorise every single proof text and its refutation, just one strong example from each of the five main books of the New Testament (Mark, Matthew, Luke, John and Paul). This is sufficient knowledge to respond to any verse they bring.

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

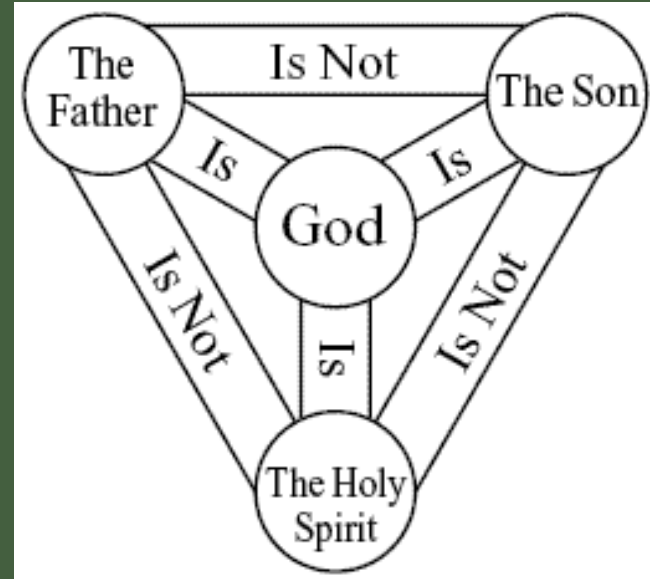
- This involves pointing out that their so-called proof texts fall short of supporting their beliefs about the Trinity:

***“One God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all co-equal and co-eternal”***



## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

- Since the Trinity is a fundamental belief in Christianity, it's not unreasonable for us to request a clear statement from the Bible that comprehensively defines the doctrine of the Trinity as it is believed in today.

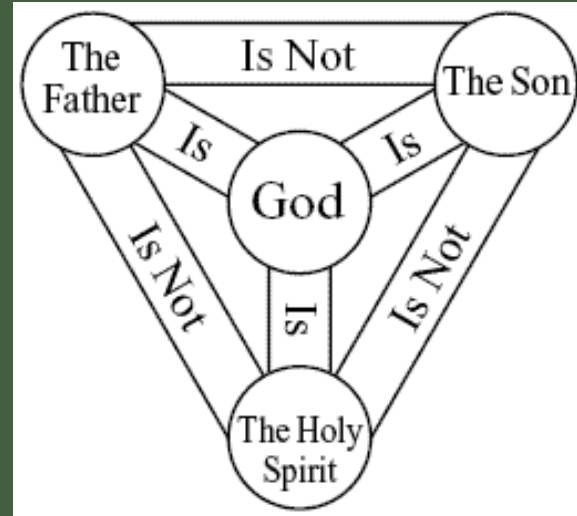


## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

Does:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [John 1:1]*

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?

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

It does not:

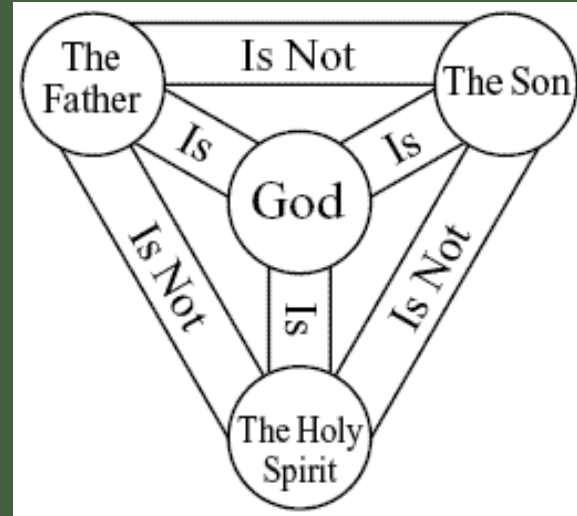
- There is no mention of the Holy Spirit.
- It says the Word (Jesus) was with God. If Jesus is a Person of the Trinity along with the Father and Holy Spirit, then it would have said “the Word was with the Father and Holy Spirit, and they were God”.
- Pantheistic religions believe that all reality is divine. Ourselves, nature, the Sun and Moon, all are God. So this proves Pantheism just as much as it ‘proves’ Christian Trinitarianism.

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

Does:

*For in him [Jesus] dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.  
[Colossians 2:9]*

=



?

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

It does not:

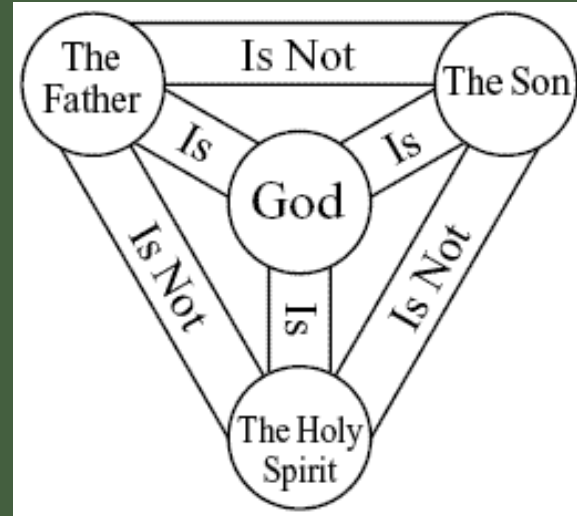
- There is no mention of the Holy Spirit.
- 'Godhead' is mentioned, which is a plurality, but it does not limit God to three. Godhead could mean four, five etc.
- No mention of Jesus being equal to God, just that God dwells within Jesus, whatever that means. Hindus also believe that God pervades the whole universe, and also believe that God is present in every person. So this proves Hinduism just as much as it 'proves' Christian Trinitarianism.

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

Does:

*Therefore go 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]*

=



?

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

It does not:

- While the three individuals of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are mentioned collectively, it does not tell us they are equal to God.
- It tells us nothing about their relationships with one another. It does not say that they are all co-equal and co-eternal, as the Trinity teaches.

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

- You can apply this simple technique to virtually any verse of the Bible that they bring.



## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

- The simple fact is that nowhere in the Bible is there any clear mention of a Trinitarian formula, the concept that God is three persons that are co-equal and co-eternal.

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

- The Oxford Companion to the Bible, which has entries from over 260 Bible scholars and academics from leading biblical institutes and universities, states:

***“... the developed concept of three co-equal partners in the Godhead found in later creedal formulations cannot be clearly detected within the confines of the canon [books of the Bible].” [pp. 782 – 783]***

## 2. Inadequate Proof Texts

- By understanding what the Trinity is, we are able to correct them if they attempt to use proof texts that fall short of supporting their beliefs.

# Progress

~~God?~~

The Son of God?

Or a Servant of God?

Son of God?

# Son of God?

- It is true that Jesus is referred to as “Son of God” in the Bible.

# Son of God?

- But then so are many others:

*the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God. [Luke 3:38]*

*I [David] will proclaim the LORD's decree: He said to me, "You are my son; today I have become your father. [Psalm 2:7]*

*Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. [Job 1:6]*

# Son of God?

- So, not THE Son of God but A Son!



# Son of God?

- Moreover, many individuals are referred to as “God” throughout the Bible.

# Son of God?

Here God is alleged to have called Moses 'God':

*Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have made you like God to Pharaoh, and your brother Aaron will be your prophet."*

*[Exodus7:1]*

# Son of God?

Even Satan is referred to as 'God':

*“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers...”*

*[2 Corinthians 4:4]*

# Son of God?

- Clearly such exalted language is employed metaphorically.

# Son of God?

- We can conclude that the term “Son of God” denotes righteousness and is not meant literally.

# Son of God?

- Notice the inconsistency of Trinitarians, why interpret any such references to Jesus literally and all others (David, Moses, Angels etc.) as a metaphor?

# Progress

~~God?~~

~~The Son of God?~~

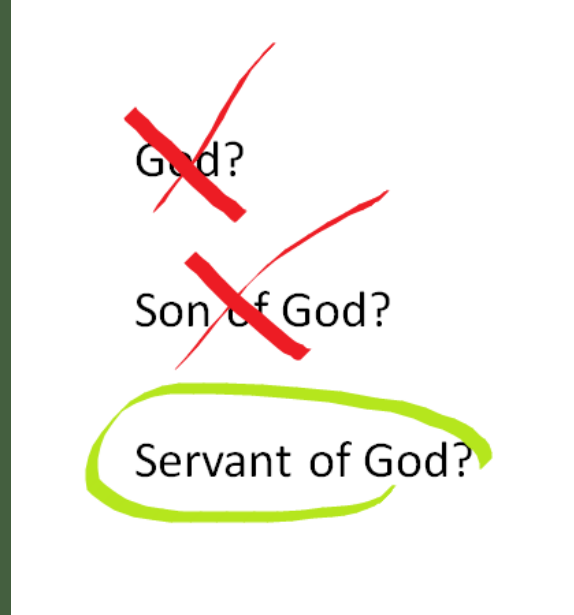
Or a Servant of God?

Servant of God!



# Servant of God!

- If Jesus is not God, nor the literal Son of God, then that leaves servant of God.





Planting the Seed

# Planting the Seed

- Leave them with this thought:

***“Your beliefs about God and Jesus are closer to Islam than Christianity”***

# Further Reading

- New iERA publication:  
**“Jesus: Man, Messenger, Messiah”**
- Get your free copy: [www.iera.org/jesus](http://www.iera.org/jesus)

