

On the Trinity



Father, Son, & Holy Spirit

Why Should We Care?

Because the Trinity is who God is and always has been. If we get our understanding of God - *Theology* - wrong we risk errors in doctrine that can separate us from God, temporarily or eternally.



The Trinity IS...

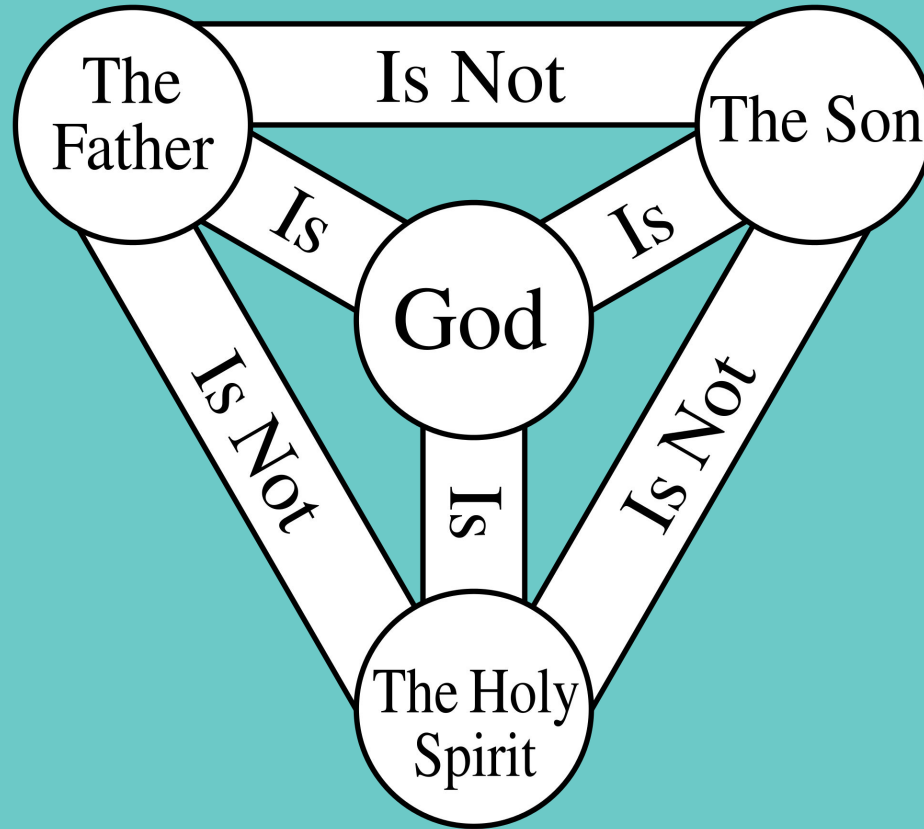
God is one God, but three *consubstantial* persons or *hypostases* - the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. The three persons are distinct yet equal and share one substance, essence, or nature (*homoousios*).



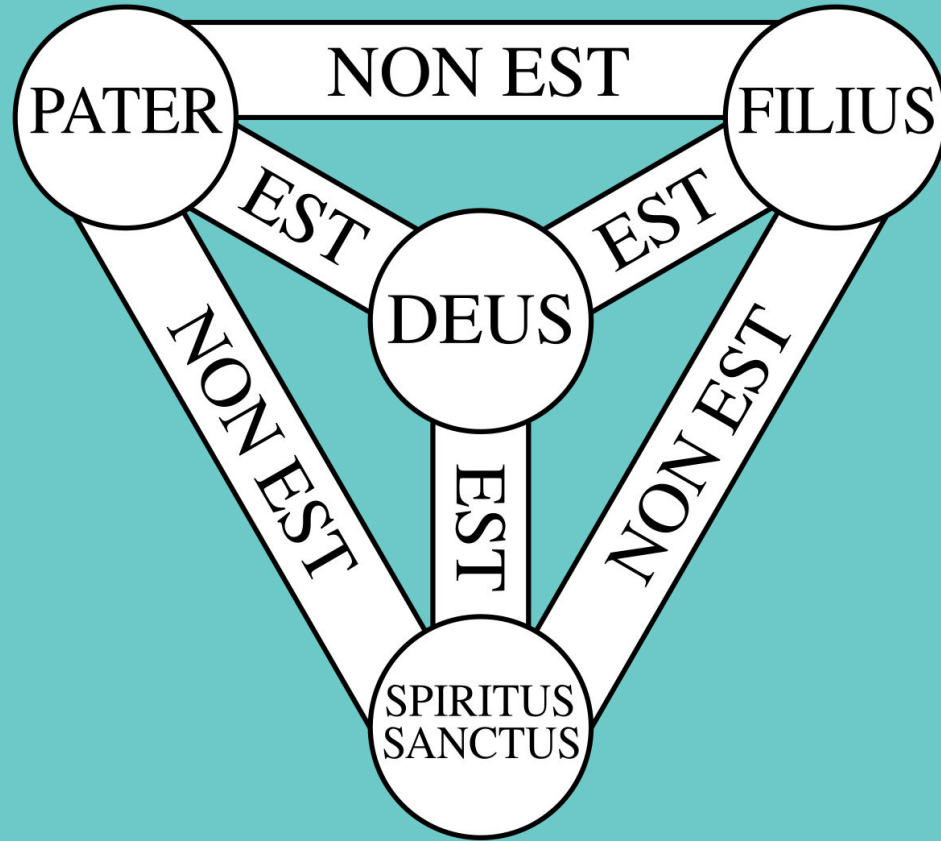
The Trinity IS...

One God who *exists eternally* as **three distinct persons** - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - with **three distinct roles** and each person of the Godhead is **equal** to the others and in **eternal relation** with the others.





Trinity Schematic



Trinity Schematic - Latin

What the Trinity is NOT...

Modalism - God is successively Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- God the Father became...
- God the Son became...
- God the Holy Spirit.

Think of an Ice Cube



What the Trinity is NOT...

Arianism - Based on the teachings of Arius of Alexandria, contends that Jesus was the **highest being** created by God, but was NOT God.

- Condemned as heresy at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D.



What the Trinity is NOT...

Tri-Theism - The Trinity is composed of *three equal, independent, and autonomous* beings, and each one is *divine*.

Think of an egg - Shell, White, & Yolk



ONLY ONE TRUE GOD!

- Genesis 1:1
- Deut 4:35 & 39; 6:4-5
- Isaiah 43:10; 45:5; 46:9
- etc...



Biblical Trinity Sightings

We see the Trinity expressed in both the Old Testament and the New Testament.



*In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.*



Genesis 1:1-2

Christ at the Beginning...

- The word beginning in Genesis 1:1 is *re'shit* (pronounced *ray-sheeth'*)
- Rabbis translating the Hebrew Bible into Aramaic 200 years before Jesus did a word study and found...
- *Re'shit* is used in synonymous parallelism with *bekor*, the Hebrew word for “firstborn”
- Their translation looks like...



*In the beginning, by the **firstborn**,
God created the heavens and the earth.
The earth was without form and void,
and darkness was over the face of the
deep. And the **Spirit of God** was
hovering over the face of the waters.*



Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.



John 1:1-3 - Parallels Genesis 1:1-2

*Then God said, “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness;”
... God created man in **His** own image,
in the image of God **He** created him;
male and female he created them.*



Genesis 1:26-27

*The **Spirit of the Lord God** is upon me,
because the **Lord** has anointed me to
bring good news to the afflicted; **He**
has sent me to bind up the
brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to
captives and freedom to prisoners; to
proclaim the favorable year of the Lord*



Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Anointed One

*The angel [Gabriel] answered and said to her [Mary], “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the **Most High** will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the **Son of God**.”*



Luke 1:35 - Trinity in the Immaculate Conception

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 coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven [**God the Father**] said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”



Matthew 3:16-17



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



Matthew 28:19 - Trinity in the Great Commission

*Blessed be the God and **Father** of our
Lord **Jesus Christ** ... In Him [**Jesus**],
you also, after listening to the message
of truth, the gospel of your salvation -
having also believed, you were sealed
in Him [**Jesus**] with the **Holy Spirit** of
promise.*



Ephesians 1:3-14 - The Trinity in Salvation

Jesus' Expresses the Trinity

John 13-17 - The Last Supper

- Jesus is in the Father
- The Father is in Jesus
- Jesus was with the Father before the world was
- The Holy Spirit [Helper] is sent by the Father in the name of Jesus



Roles Within the Godhead

The Father is the **Revealer or Begetter**

The Son is the **Revealed or Begotten**

The Holy Spirit is the “**Revealedness**” or
“**Begottenness**”



*The angel [Gabriel] answered and said to her [Mary], “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the **Most High** will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the **Son of God**.”*



Luke 1:35 - Roles within the Godhead

Analogy for Godhead Roles

Recall that we are created in God's image
(*Imago Dei*)

If we look deeply at ourselves perhaps we can
get a better understanding of the Trinity



Analogy for Godhead Roles

Thoughts - That which is not seen and cannot be seen (Father)

Words (Communication) - That which is revealed by what is unseen (Son)

Influence - Power manifested in reality by what is unseen (Spirit)



Why Should We Care?

*The Trinity is the **first** community and the **ideal** for all communities. That community alone has not been stained by the selfishness of sin. Therefore, in the diversity of God the Father, Son, and Spirit is **perfect unity** as one God that communicates truthfully, loves unreservedly, lives connectedly, serves humbly, interacts peaceably, and serves selflessly.*

- from "Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe" by M. Driscoll and G. Breshears

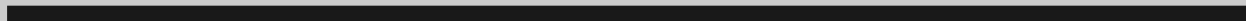
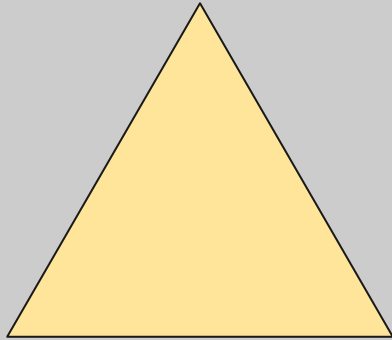


End

Trinity Don't Make No Sense!



Trinity Don't Make No Sense!



Trinity Don't Make No Sense!

