

The Trinity

The Trinity is a defining theological doctrine of Christianity. It is not stated outright in Scripture but rather the product of deduction. It is the truth about the persons of the Godhead. It reconciles God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. It states that **God is one being, yet three distinct, equal persons**. That would be a good definite to memorize.

There is an element of mystery about the Trinity that can't be fully explained. But this is true about God in other ways as well. There are many things about God that are taken by faith to be true, but, at the same time, are not completely understood. (Isaiah 55:8,9)

Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! For who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? (Romans 11:33,34)

*"Even with all the discussion and delineation that we attempt in relation to the Trinity, we must acknowledge that it is, in the final analysis, a mystery. We accept all the data as truth even though they go beyond our understanding."*¹

The oneness of God is referenced in both the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 6:4) and New Testament (1 Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:6, James 2:19).

The plurality of the Godhead is seen in the Old Testament in the plural use of pronouns (Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7, Isaiah 6:8) and the plural form of the name of God (*Elohim*).

The triune nature of the Godhead is seen in the New Testament in the singular use of the term "*name*" in reference to all three persons of the Godhead in Matthew 28:19.

"Other passages like Matthew 3:16,17 and 2 Corinthians 13:14 associate equally the three persons, but do not contain the strong emphasis on unity as does Matthew 28:19."

2

*"God the Father is God the **author**—the originator of all that exists. It was in His mind, first, that all took shape. God the Son, our Savior, is God the artisan—the **artist**, the Creator of all that exists. He brought into being all that had been originally formulated in His Father's mind. God the Holy Spirit is God the **agent** who presents these facts to both my mind and my spiritual understanding so that they become both real and relative to me as an individual."*³

¹ Ryrie, Charles C. (1999-01-11). Basic Theology: A Popular Systematic Guide to Understanding Biblical Truth (pp. 62-63). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition.

² Ibid. Page 61.

³ Keller, Phillip. A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23, Page 16, Zondervan Publishing, 1974.

1. 1 Peter 1:2

The Father is God. The Father is the guiding authority over the Son (Jesus Christ) (Romans 15:6) and speaks and acts through him (John 6:27). He is the origin of all created things (1 Corinthians 8:6), the final “owner” of the Kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:24), the source of mercy and comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3), worthy of everlasting praise (2 Corinthians 11:31), and the one who raised Jesus from the dead. (Galatians 1:1) He is the source of all our blessings (Ephesians 1:3), object of our thanks (Ephesians 5:20) and the one who enables us to love faithfully. (Ephesians 6:23) He is the ultimate recipient of all our adoration. (Philippians 2:11) He is the One to whom all the redeemed belong. (1 Thessalonians 1:1) He approves of those who care for orphans and widows in distress and keep themselves pure (James 1:27). He predestines, selects (1 Peter 1:3) loves, and preserves believers (Jude 1:1). He gave honor and glory to Jesus during the transfiguration (2 Peter 1:16-18). He is worthy of living for (1 Corinthians 8:6).

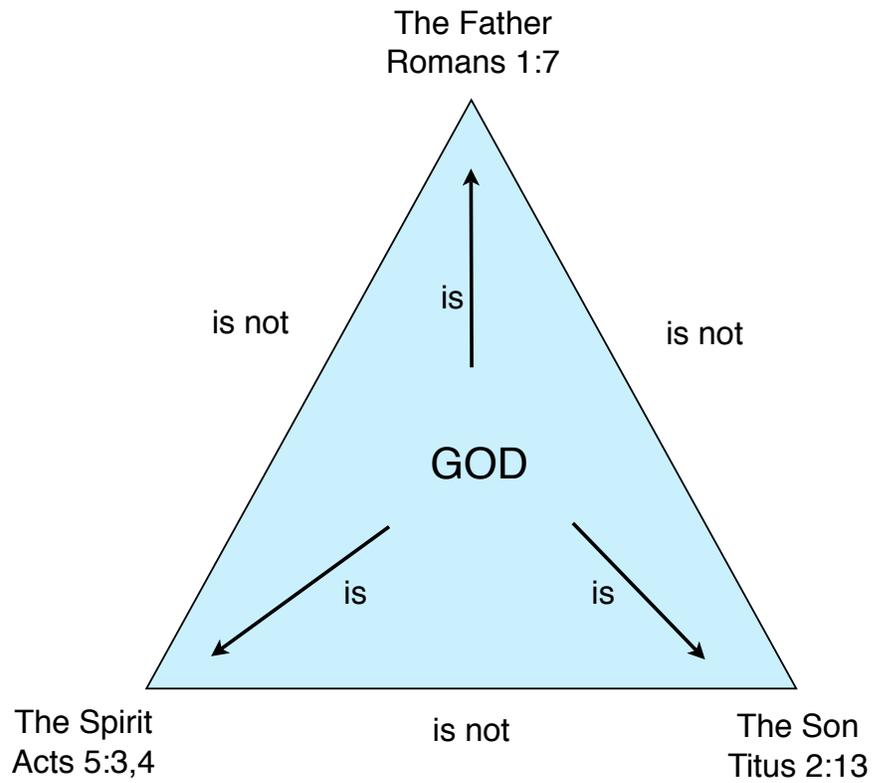
2. Titus 2:13

The Son (Jesus) is God. He is referenced as God (John 1:1, 5:18, 10:33, Philippians 2:6) He did things only God can do. He forgave sins (Mark 2:7), raised the dead (John 12:9), upholds all things (Colossians 1:17), helped in creation (John 1:3) and is the future judge (John 5:27).

Jesus Christ is the human expression of God (Colossians 1:15, 19, 2:9, 2 Corinthians 4:4, Hebrews 1:3). His existence reveals God. (John 1:18) He is eternally preexistent (Colossians 1:15, John 1:1) He demonstrates the nature of God in his association with creation because he is both the reason and agent of all that exists. (Colossians 1:16) He has power over it (Matthew 11:4,5), is the sustainer of it (Hebrews 1:3) and has all authority over it. (Colossians 1:15)

3. Acts 5:3,4

The Holy Spirit is God. He has the same nature as God. (John 4:24) He is the author of revelation. (Mark 12:36, 2 Peter 1:21) He gives people eternal life (John 3:6), enabled people to speak in different languages at Pentecost (Acts 2:4), and raised Jesus from the dead. (Romans 1:4) He is the foretaste of future glory. (Romans 8:23) He convicts (John 16:8) and converts. (Titus 3:5) He regenerates and transforms. (1 Corinthians 6:11) He guides and empowers (Galatians 5:16). He affirms the truthfulness of Scripture (1 Thessalonians 1:5).



God is one being yet three distinct, equal persons