

The Trinity

What is the Trinity?

The word "Trinity" is used by Christians to explain the mystery we see in the Bible about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Although the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible, this is a very important doctrine about God. The Bible warns us that Satan wants us to believe wrongly about God. It is hard for our human minds to understand the great mysteries of God, but we must try to read all that the Bible says about God and try to understand it so that we do not fall to Satan's lies. (Isaiah 55:6-9)

What does the Bible say about One God?

God is One. There is no other god but God in heaven.

[+] Listen, Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! (Deut 6:4)

[+] This is what the LORD, Israel's king, says, their protector, the LORD who commands armies: I am the first and I am the last, there is no God but Me. (Isa 44:6)

[+] Is there any God but Me? There is no other sheltering rock; I know of none. (Isa 44:8 b)

[+] Now to the eternal king, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen. (1Tim 1:17)

[+] ...we know that "an idol in this world is nothing," and that "there is no God but one." (1Cor 8:4 b)

[+] For there is one God and one intermediary between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, Himself human (1Tim 2:5)

[+] You believe that God is one; well and good. Even the demons believe that – and tremble with fear. (Jas 2:19)

What does the Bible say about three Persons in the Godhead?

The Bible describes God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. By studying God's attributes, we see there are many things that only God can do that the Son and Holy Spirit can also do, but men and angels cannot do. This helps us to see that God is not one Person, but that there are three Persons in one Godhead. There are many verses for each attribute. Only one or two are listed here.

Attributes	God the Father	God the Son	God the Holy Spirit
Eternal	[+] Before the mountains were born, before You gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, You are God. (Ps 90:2)	[+] When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. He laid His right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last, (Rev 1:17) [+] Jesus said to them, "I assure you: Before Abraham was, I AM." (John 8:58)	[+] how much more will the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:14)
Creator of all	[+] Acknowledge that Yahweh is God. He made us, and we are His — His people, the sheep of His pasture. (Ps 100:3)	[+] For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:16)	[+] When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created, and You renew the face of the ground. (Ps 104:30)
Omnipresent (All places)	[+] Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. (Jer 23:24)	[+] And He put all things under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all. (Eph 1:22-23)	[+] Where shall I go from Your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from Your presence? (Ps 139:7)
Omniscient (All Knowing)	[+] for whenever our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and He knows everything. (1John 3:20)	[+] He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to Him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. (John 21:17)	[+] these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (1Cor 2:10)
Wills and acts Miraculously	[+] He predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, (Eph 1:5)	[+] Reaching out His hand He touched him, saying, "I am willing; be made clean." Immediately his disease was healed. (Matt 8:3)	[+] All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills. (1Cor 12:11)

Gives Life	<i>[+] For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will. (John 5:21)</i>	<i>[+] In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. (John 1:4)</i>	<i>[+] If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (Rom 8:11)</i>
Strengthens Believers	<i>[+] On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased. (Ps 138:3)</i>	<i>[+] I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Phil 4:13)</i>	<i>[+] I pray that He may grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power in the inner man through His Spirit, (Eph 3:16)</i>
Holy	<i>[+] Lord, who will not fear and glorify Your name? Because You alone are holy, for all the nations will come and worship before You because Your righteous acts have been revealed. (Rev 15:4)</i>	<i>[+] But you denied the Holy and Righteous One [Christ] and asked to have a murderer given to you. (Acts 3:14)</i>	<i>[+] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)</i>
Truth	<i>[+] As He was teaching in the temple complex, Jesus cried out, "You know Me and you know where I am from. Yet I have not come on My own, but the One who sent Me is true. You don't know Him; (John 7:28)</i>	<i>[+] "Write to the angel of the church in Philadelphia: "The Holy One, the True One, the One who has the key of David, who opens and no one will close, and closes and no one opens ... (Rev 3:7)</i>	<i>[+] Jesus Christ — He is the One who came by water and blood, not by water only, but by water and by blood. And the Spirit is the One who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. (1John 5:6)</i>
Created World	<i>[+] Long ago You established the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. (Ps 102:25)</i>	<i>[+] For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:16)</i>	<i>[+] Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness covered the surface of the watery depths, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. (Gen 1:2) [+]By his Spirit the heavens are garnished. His hand has pierced the swift serpent. (Job 26:13)</i>
Created Man	<i>[+] Then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils, and the man became a living being. (Gen 2:7)</i>	<i>[+] For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. (Col 1:16)</i>	<i>[+] The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4)</i>
Baptism of Christ	<i>[+] And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him! (Matt 3:17)</i>	<i>[+] After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. (Matt 3:16)</i>	<i>[+] After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. (Matt 3:16)</i>
Death of Christ	<i>[+] how much more will the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:14)</i>	<i>[+] how much more will the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:14)</i>	<i>[+] how much more will the blood of the Messiah, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb 9:14)</i>

Where does the Bible show all three Persons of the Trinity?

There are many places in the Bible where all three Persons of the Trinity are mentioned.

[+] After Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. And there came a voice from heaven: This is My beloved Son. I take delight in Him! (Matt 3:16-17)

[+] 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, (Matt 28:19)

[+] The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2Cor 13:14)

[+] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:4-6)

[+] For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. (John 3:34-35)

Here are more verses about all three Persons in the Trinity:

John 3:34-35; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:13-15; Rom 14:17-18; Rom 15:13-17; Rom 15:30; 1 Cor 6:11; 1 Cor 6:17-19; 1 Cor 12:4-6; 2 Cor 1:21-22; 2 Cor 3:4-6; Gal 2:21-3:2; Gal 4:6; Eph 2:18; Eph 3:11-17; Eph 5:18-20; Col 1:6-8; 1 Thess 1:1-5; 1 Thess 4:2,8; 1 Thess 5:18-19; 2 Thess 3:5; Heb 9:14; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 3:23-24; Titus 3:4-6; 1 John 4:13-14; Jude 1:20-21

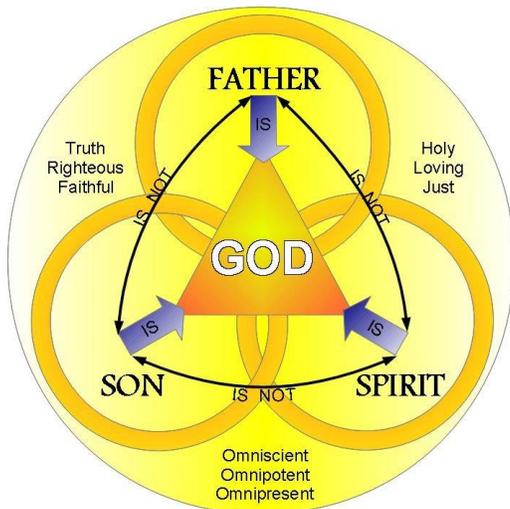
False teachings about the Trinity

There are many false teachers who change things of the Bible to teach lies. God is against these false teachers. We must study the Bible so that we can know how to see the lies from Satan (called "heresies") and reject them. Many men, ancient and modern, wrote letters to the churches to teach them to reject heresies and see the truth in the Bible (Ex: Ireneaus, "Against Heresies", 180 AD):

FALSE DOCTRINE	TRUE DOCTRINE
<p><u>There are three Gods</u> This heresy is called "Trithiesm" and "Polytheism".</p>	<p>There is only one God. (Deut 6:4-9; Is 44:6-8) Jesus said He was the "I AM", same as God, yet God was His Father (John 8:49-58). The Gospels say that Jesus was with God and was God (John 1:1-3)</p>
<p><u>God is only one Person.</u> This heresy is called "Sabellianism".</p>	<p>God is Three Persons in One. Each Person of the Trinity has a different role:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Father sends the Son (Gal 4:4; 1 John 4:14); • The Father sends the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; Gal 4:6); • The Son speaks not for Himself, but what the Father tells Him (John 8:28; 12:49); • The Spirit speaks not for Himself, but for Jesus (John 16:13-15); • The Father and Son are two witnesses, not one (John 5:31-37; 8:16-18); • The Father loves the Son and the Son loves the Father (John 3:35; 5:20; 14:31); • The Father glorifies the Son and the Son glorifies the Father (John 17:1-5), and the Spirit glorifies the Son (John 16:14); • Jesus is not the Father, but the Son of the Father (2 John 3) • The Son dies on the cross, not the Father (2 Cor 5:18-21)
<p><u>The Father in the OT; Jesus in the Gospels; Holy Spirit in the New Testament</u> This heresy is called "Modalism" and "Sabellianism".</p>	<p>God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit exist together in One essence from eternity past to eternity future. This is true in the Old Testament, Gospels (Jesus' baptism) and the New Testament. (There are many examples in the chart above.)</p>
<p><u>Jesus is not in the Old Testament.</u> This is the heresy called "Modalism".</p>	<p>The Son is in the Old Testament in many, many places. Often He is called the "Angel of the Lord," "Redeemer", "mediator," the "Son," etc. (Gen 16; Gen 18; Gen 19:24; Gen 22; Exod 3:2-6; Job 19:25-26; Job 33:23-24; Psalms 2;).</p>
<p><u>Jesus was created</u> This is the heresy called "Arianism".</p>	<p>Jesus existed with God in eternity past. Begotten does not mean 'born', it means that Jesus is the same essence of God. Jesus cannot be created because is eternal (John 1:1-3; John 17; Rev 1:17).</p>
<p><u>Jesus is not fully man</u> This heresy is called "Docetism."</p>	<p>Jesus is both fully God AND fully man. Although the Son of God existed in eternity past, He also became both fully God and fully man when He was was born of a woman. He grew in knowledge, He ate, slept, became tired. He was hungry and thirsty. He bled and died. After He rose, He ate food and His body and scars could be touched. This is how we know He was fully human AND fully God. (John 1:1-3; Luke 2:40,52; Matt 4:2; 8:24; Luke 22:44; John 4:6-7; 19:28-42; Luke 24:39-43; Jn 20:27-29; Acts 10:41)</p>
<p><u>The Father suffered on the Cross</u> This heresy is called "Patripassinism".</p>	<p>The Father was not on the cross. He sent the Son to the cross and punished the Son on the cross. The Father did not punish Himself. (Is 53:10-12; 2 Cor 5:18-20)</p>
<p><u>Jesus is not fully God</u> This heresy is called "Nestorianism".</p>	<p>Jesus shares all divine attributes with God the Father (see chart). Jesus taught that He was one with God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jesus forgave sins. Only God can forgive sins. (Mark 2:5-12; Luke 5:21) ○ Jesus performed special miracles that only God can do: control weather (Matt 8:23-27; 14:22,33), gives life to whom He pleases (John 5:19-23; Matt 11:27) ○ Jesus accepted worship. Only God can accept worship. (Matt 14:33; 28:17-18; John 5:22-23; 9:38; 17:5) ○ Jesus teaches us He is the divine Son of God, making Himself equal to God (John 5:17-18; John 10:30-33; John 19:7)

A Trinity Diagram

This diagram can help us understand the Trinity. This is not a full explanation of the Trinity. The full Bible is the best explanation of the Trinity.



There is one God. He is holy, loving, just, truth, righteous, faithful, all-knowing, all-powerful. He is Lord over all and has no equal. He does not share His glory with anyone.

The Father is God (First Person of the Trinity)
The Son is God (Second Person of the Trinity)
The Holy Spirit is God (Third Person of the Trinity)

The Father is not the Son
The Son is not the Holy Spirit
The Holy Spirit is not the Father

The Son is submissive to the Father
The Spirit is submissive to the Father

The Father is not submissive to the Son or the Spirit

The Father, Son and Spirit exist in perfect union in the attributes of God (Truth, Righteousness, Faithfulness, Holiness, Love, Justice, Omniscience, Omnipotence and Omnipresence, etc) from eternity to eternity.

Who are some early Christians who taught the Trinity?

Some people say that the doctrine of the Trinity is new. This is not true. Many of the early Christians also believed in the Trinity and taught it to their churches.

90-100 AD	The Teachings of the Twelve Apostles (The Didache)
90 AD	Ignatius, bishop of Antioch
96 AD	Clement, the third bishop of Rome
168 AD	Justin Martyr, Christian author
177 AD	Athenagoras, Christian theologian
180 AD	Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons
197 AD	Tertullian, early Church leader
264 AD	Gregory Thaumaturgus, early Church leader

Why must we believe properly about the Trinity?

- God is pure Truth. You cannot worship Him with a lie.
 - [+] The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies Me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!" (Ps 50:23)
 - [+] But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24)
- Satan wants us to believe lies. We must study and fight to reject his lies.
 - [+] Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. (Jas 4:7-8)
 - [+] Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (1Pet 5:8-9)
 - [+] Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ... Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, (Eph 6:10-18)
- If we deny the Trinity, we are liars and antichrists.
 - [+] Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son. (1John 2:22)

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