

# The Trinity Revealed

## Eternal Fellowship ... Unspeakable Glory

Greg Reed, November 26, 2023, *The Trinity: Knowing and Delighting in God Series*

**John 17:24-26:** “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”

**Introduction:** The revelation of the Trinity was never designed to simply be an exercise that would stay in your head. No, knowing and beholding God’s glory in His triune being is designed to effect every area of your Christian life, your worship, your love for God, your ministry.

*Disregard the study of God, and you sentence yourself to stumble and blunder through life blindfolded, as it were, with no sense of direction and no understanding of what surrounds you. This way you can waste your life and lose your soul ... If our theology does not quicken the conscience and soften the heart, it actually hardens both; if it does not encourage the commitment of faith, it reinforces the detachment of unbelief; if it fails to promote humility, it inevitably feeds pride.* **J.I. Packer**

## I. What Does it Mean?

### A. God’s Self-Revelation of Himself as Triune Preserves Three Fundamental Truths

#### 1. THERE IS ONE GOD AND ONLY ONE.

- OT: Exodus 20:1-4; Deut. 6:4-5
- NT: Mark 12:29, Romans 3:30; 1 Cor. 8:4

#### 2. THIS GOD NOT ONLY EXISTS (SUBSISTS), BUT EXISTS ETERNALLY IN THREE DISTINCT PERSONS

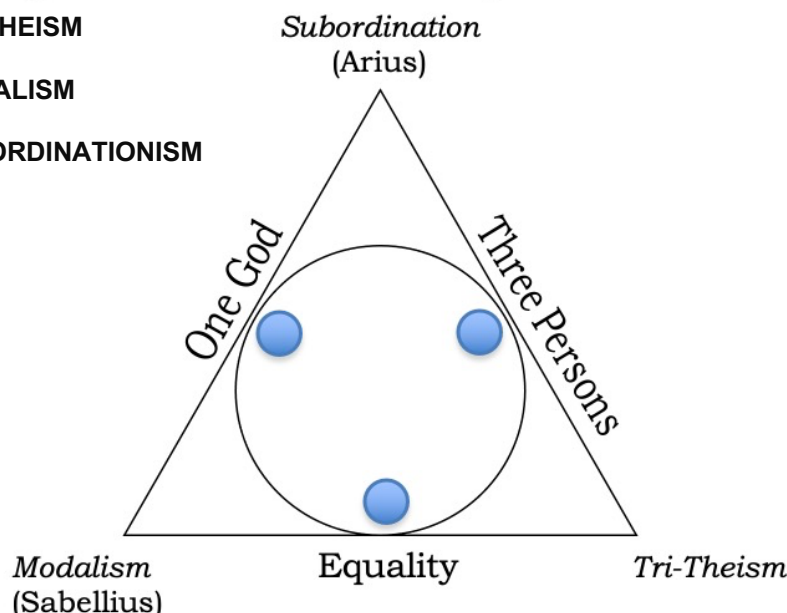
- OT: Isaiah 63:7-14
- NT: John 1:1-14

#### 3. THE THREE PERSONS ARE EQUALLY DIVINE IN ESSENCE AND ATTRIBUTES

### B. Doctrinal Errors to Avoid: Tri-theism, Modalism, and Subordinationism

Errors always arise when two truths are affirmed to the exclusion of one clearly revealed truth. That is, every cult or heresy will arise when it denies one of the truths of God’s Triune nature.

1. TRI-THEISM
2. MODALISM
3. SUBORDINATIONISM



## II. Why Does it Matter?

### A. To rightly understand and believe God's triune nature is fundamental to understanding God's climactic revelation of Himself through His Son.

John 17:25-26: O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

1. FOUNDATIONAL TO THE GOSPEL (JOHN 17:25-26)
2. FOUNDATIONAL TO GOD'S DESIGN TO GLORIFY HIS SON IN PROPHETIC REVELATION (HEB. 1:1-2)

### B. To rightly understand and believe God's triune nature is fundamental to true worship and prayer.

John 4:22-24: "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

1. THE FATHER SEEKS TRUE WORSHIPERS (JOHN 4:24)
2. A RIGHT VIEW OF THE TRINITY LEADS TO TRUE PRAYER (ROMANS 8:26)

### C. To to rightly understand and believe God's triune Nature is fundamental to receiving eternal life

John 17:1-3: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

*Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the catholic (that is the universal orthodox church's) faith, which faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the catholic faith is this: that we worship one God in Trinity, and trinity in unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the divine being. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Spirit is still another. But the deity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory, coeternal in majesty." Athanasian Creed*

*In normal Christian prayer, we join in with the fellowship of the Father, Son, and Spirit already enjoying it. That is, the Son, who is already interceding for us with His Father—brings us to be with Him before His Father. Think of the high priest going into the presence of the Lord in the holy of holies: just so the Son takes us before His Father—and there the Spirit help us (Rom 8:26). And so the Spirit supports us, the Son brings us, and the Father—who always delights to hear the prayers of His Son—hears us with joy. With the Son, secure in Him, enabled as He is by the Spirit, we pray to our Father.*

*Reeves, **Delighting in Trinity**, pg. 98*

## III. Conclusion

*We have seen through the Scriptures that the profound revelation of the Trinity reminds us that who God was before creation is fundamentally a God whose glory was equally shared among all three members of the Godhead. And by grace, in salvation, we are given a glorious manifestation of this triune love as the Word became flesh in order to reveal the glory of the triune God: Here, we behold the Father's commitment to glorify His Son, the Son's commitment to glorify the Father, and the Spirit's commitment to share this glory with His adopted sons and daughters. Oh, may our triune God draw us ever more into loving fellowship with Him and one another!*