

The Triune God

Sunday, February 5, 2023 - Ephesians 1:1-2

The doctrine of the Trinity is foundational to Christianity.

We do not come up with doctrines, they are understood through the study of scripture.

Exegesis vs. Eisegesis

Trinity: One God in Three, co-equal persons; The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit.

- The Father is God
- The Son is God
- The Spirit is God
- There is only one God

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!

Like pointing a telescope up to the night sky, you discover more about the universe but in no way do you discover EVERYTHING about the universe.

*As you read through Scripture, learn and discover more and more about who God is, you can see and know what you are able to see and know but that **does not mean that you will see and know ALL that there is to see and know about the Lord.***

1 Corinthians 13:12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

“TRINITY” is not a word found in Scripture, just like the word “Bible” is not in there either.

- While the word does not exist in Scripture, its concept, teachings, and truth do.
- The teaching of the triune God or, one God in three persons, has been there for the longest time.
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An archbishop of Alexandria in the fourth century AD:

“We worship one God in trinity and the 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. . . . And in this Trinity, no one is before or after, greater or less than the other; but all three persons are in themselves, coeternal and coequal; and so we must worship the Trinity in unity and the one God in three persons.”

Not only as early as 4th century but the foundation of Scripture

Singular Plurality – indescribable

Isaiah 45:5 I am the Lord and there is no other

Isaiah 45:18 There is no God besides Me

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!”

Elohim

ELOHIM: A plural title of God, used 2500 times in the OT.

EI = Singular God

Him = They

They (plural) are God (singular)

Genesis 1:26a Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness

Isaiah 6:8b Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?”...

Marriage - mystery

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!

(Interestingly, the singular *Yahweh* is coupled with the plural *Elohim* in this verse.)

The word translated “one” is *ehad*, which means “one” or “unity”; however, the word is also used in other contexts to suggest a *plurality within unity*.

For example, the word *ehad* also appears in **Genesis 2:24**, which considers two persons as one: **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one (*ehad*) flesh.**

Obviously, the husband and wife are distinct persons, but they are called “one”— *there is diversity within the unity*.

John 14:26 “But the Helper, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the **Father** will send in **My name**, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 5:19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

Ontological Trinity vs. Economic Trinity

Ontological Trinity: reference to the nature of God and the sameness of the persons of the Trinity. This refers to the *being* or *nature* of each member of the Trinity.

In *nature*, essence, and attributes, each Person of the Trinity is equal. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share the same divine nature.

The teaching of the ontological Trinity says that all three Persons of the Godhead are equal in power, glory, wisdom, etc. **(Marriage, a husband and wife are equal but fill different roles)**

Economic Trinity:

Is the term that focuses on the relationships within the Trinity and each Person’s role in creation and salvation.

- The term *ontological* Trinity focuses on who God *is*;
- The term *economic* Trinity focuses on what God *does*.

Who God is... what God does.

THREE IN ONE VERSES

Ephesians 2:18 For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 4:4-6 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

1 Peter 1:2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Matthew 3:16-17 Baptism Account of Jesus

FATHER

Father = source or cause of the universe, Salvation, and who initiated the works of Christ.

Initiator of Jesus' human works

Cause of Salvation

John 3:16-17 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

THE SON

In no way do the terms *first*, *second*, and *third*, applied to the Persons of the Trinity, suggest levels of importance or significance. It is heretical to believe that there are different natures or attributes within the trinity - Co-equal, co-existing,

The Son is not inferior to the Father, but the Son did submit to the Father's will. Jesus is called the second Person of the Trinity because He was the one who, although coexistent and co-eternal with the Father, voluntarily submitted Himself to take on human nature.

Philippians 2:6-7 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

The Son is the agent through whom the Father does the following works

John 1:3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Colossians 1:16c – 17 ... All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Jesus is the exalted One

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, ***He will testify of Me.***

John 16:13-14 “He will glorify ***Me***, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you.

Because: in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. If you have seen Him you have seen the Father. Because He is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father but by Him.

HOLY SPIRIT

John 6:8 “And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Convicts the world of sin, illuminates our understanding as to who Christ is, sanctifies and seals us, as well as empowers us to live a Christ-honoring life.

Salvation

- Father sent The Son
- Son died for our sins
- The Spirit raised Christ from the dead

Who points to who?

The Spirit glorifies the Son
The Son glorified the Father

One God in three persons. The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. Co-equal and co-existing. Having the same nature yet different roles.

God's existence

TIMELESS < SPACELESS < IMMATERIAL

God is not an algorithm, format, or idea that if you put in the code correctly, like a vending machine, out comes what you want. **Nor is He a detached being** who either does not care or cares only enough to judge. He is deeply and intimately acquainted with all your ways.

If all you walk out of here with is an understanding that the magnitude of who God is, is beyond our complete understanding, we have done well.

God is bigger than us in every way.

We are like Him but He is not like us

Statue vs. Reality

EPHESIANS 1:2

Grace to you and peace

Grace: the unmerited favor of God which affords joy, delight, pleasure

Story of a little league team and the boy who had never hit or caught the ball.

Peace: a state of tranquility, harmony, security

Jonah tried to find peace by throwing things overboard.

Tower of Babel tried to build invincibility

Peace that Jesus gives is not the absence of trouble, but is rather the confidence that He is there with you always.

Consider how much we know of the universe... and how much we do not know.

The Mariana Trench, so deep that if you sank Mount Everest to the bottom of it, there would still be a mile of water between the ocean's surface and the top of the mountain.

Creation is more discoverable than the limitless, infinite realities of God and His attributes.

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

APPLICATION: REST IN HIM!