

The Trinity

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RCC Statement of Faith: God is Triune

There is one God: infinite, eternal, almighty and perfect in holiness, truth and love. In the unity of the Godhead, there are three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-existent, co-equal and co-eternal. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Holy Spirit, yet each is truly Deity. There is one God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit – and this is the foundation of Christian faith.

Scripture to support there is one God: the Lord is one

- Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. b You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- 1 Kings 8:60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.
- Isaiah 45: 5–6 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- Isaiah 45:21-22 Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.
- 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,
- Romans 3:30 since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- James 2:19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

OT examples of the Trinity: God is an “our” or “us”....plural

- Genesis 1:26 -Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
- Genesis 3:22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil.
- Genesis 11:7 Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.”
- Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the LORD saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
- Psalm 45:6–7 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;
 - Two separate people are called God
- Psalm 110:1 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”
 - In Matthew 22:41-46, Jesus understands that David is referring to two separate persons.
- Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.
 - The one speaking (the LORD of hosts) distinguishes himself from the Lord whom you seek, suggesting two separate persons, both of whom can be called Lord.
 - Notice the difference in capitalization of LORD (YHWH) and Lord (Adonai)

NT examples of the Trinity: 3 separate persons mentioned

- Matthew 3:16-17 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 and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, d with whom I am well pleased.”
- Matthew 28:19 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
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Ephesians 4:4–6 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.
- 1 Peter 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood
- Jude 20-21 But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Scriptures that support the Father is God

- 2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort
- Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,
- Colossians 1:3 We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you

Scriptures that support the Son is God

- Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Isaiah 44:6 Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
- Isaiah 54:5 For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.
- John 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.
- Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature
- Titus 2:13 waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- 2 Peter 1:1 Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ
- Romans 9:5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all
- Colossians 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily

Scriptures that support the Holy Spirit is God

- Acts 5:3–4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God."
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
- Psalm 139:7–8 Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

Each person of the Trinity has different functions though equal in attributes

- While the persons of the Trinity are equal in all their attributes (co-eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, etc), they differ in their relationships to the creation and each other.

The names are important

- The names Father and Son have been chosen for the members of the Trinity because of their functional relationship in redemption. This somewhat parallels a father and son relationship.
 - There is no nature of being in which one member of the Trinity is subordinate to another, but there is a voluntary functional subordination of the Son to the Father in the work of redemption.
 - John 6:38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.
 - Luke 22:42 "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."
 - 1 Corinthians 15:28 When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.
- He is called the Holy Spirit because of his function in which he gives life (John 3:5-8), convicts us of sin (John 16:8), and sanctifies believers (2 Thessalonians 2:13)

The Trinity in 3 statements

- There is one God
- God is three persons
- Each person is fully God

Heresies

- Arianism - The Son was created
- Modalism - God has different names for the same person who acts differently at different times

Love cannot be understood outside the Trinity

- John 17:23: I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.
- If God were not triune then who would he have loved before he created things? The Trinity loved each other.