

Twenty Things Every Christian Should Know



Objectives:

Identify the most commonly accepted beliefs about the Christian Faith and how they interact to ground our faith



Why study in this order?

Knowing the Bible

↳ Allows us to know God

↳ Who is Triune

↳ And was responsible for Creation

Therefore, we need to pray to Him

Understanding that there are Angels & Demons

That God created Man

However, Man Sinned

So God sent Christ

To offer an Atonement



What is the Trinity?

- The idea (concept) of three persons and only one God is difficult to understand completely.
- Even so, it is one of the most important ideas (concepts) of the Christian Faith.
- It was DERIVED from Scripture and formally defined at the Council of Nicaea in 325AD.
- It was not added or invented later.



What is the Trinity?

Basic Definition:

Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three co-equal and co-eternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.



What is the Trinity?

Personhood is traditionally understood as one who has:

- Intellect
- Emotions (Feelings)
- Will

All three members of the Trinity possess the power to think, feel, and choose.

The Bible affirms that within the nature of the one God, there are three distinct persons.



THE MEANING OF THE TRINITY

Because God has three distinct persons the Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son.



Remember, however, that we cannot comprehend everything about God or His ways:

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways are!

Romans 11:33

For now we see in a mirror dimly but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. **Isaiah 55: 8-9**



The Father is God

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: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

1 Peter 1:2

For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," 2 Peter 1:17

And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. John 17:3



The Son is God

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the ***Word was God.*** John 1:1

Because, if you confess with your mouth that **Jesus is Lord** and believe in your heart that ***God raised him from the dead,*** you will be saved. Romans 10:9

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:11

Therefore, I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit". 1 Corinthians 12:3



The Holy Spirit is God

But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. 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?"

Acts 5:1-3

In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:22

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16



JESUS SHARES ATTRIBUTES OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

God's Glory

Of God, Isaiah 42:8

I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor
my praise to carved idols.

Of Jesus, John 17:5

And now, Father, glorify me in your
own presence with the glory that I had
with you before the world existed.

Savior alone

Of God, Isaiah 43:11

I, I am the LORD, and besides me
there is no savior

Of Jesus, Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else,
for there is no other name under
heaven given among men by which we
must be saved.



JESUS SHARES ATTRIBUTES OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

Creator Alone

Of God, Isaiah 44:24

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself"

Of Jesus, Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him

Every Knee Shall Bow

Of God, Isaiah 45:22

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."

Of Jesus, Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father



JESUS SHARES ATTRIBUTES OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

Laid the Foundation of the world

Of God, Psalm 102:25

Of old you laid the foundation of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands

Of Jesus, Hebrews 1:10

And, “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth
in the beginning, and the heavens are the work
of your hands”

The Alpha and Omega

Of God, Revelation 1:8, 2:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the
Lord God, “who is and who was and who is
to come, the Almighty.” 1:8

And to the angel of the church in Smyrna
write: “The words of the first and the last,
who died and came to life” 2:8

Of Jesus, 1 Cor 15:45, Revelation 1:17

Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a
living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving
spirit. 15:45

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.
But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear
not, I am the first and the last”, 1:17



DISTINCT ROLES OF THE TRINITY

Creation

The Father instituted creation

The Holy Spirit was present during creation

The Son initiated and maintains creation

Salvation

The Father sent the Son

The Son died for the sins of the World

The Holy Spirit was sent to support and complete the salvation plan

Redemption

Within redemption, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all have distinct roles. This is NOT a hierarchy. Neither are subordinate to the other and all three are active simultaneously.



INCORRECT MODELS OF THE TRINITY

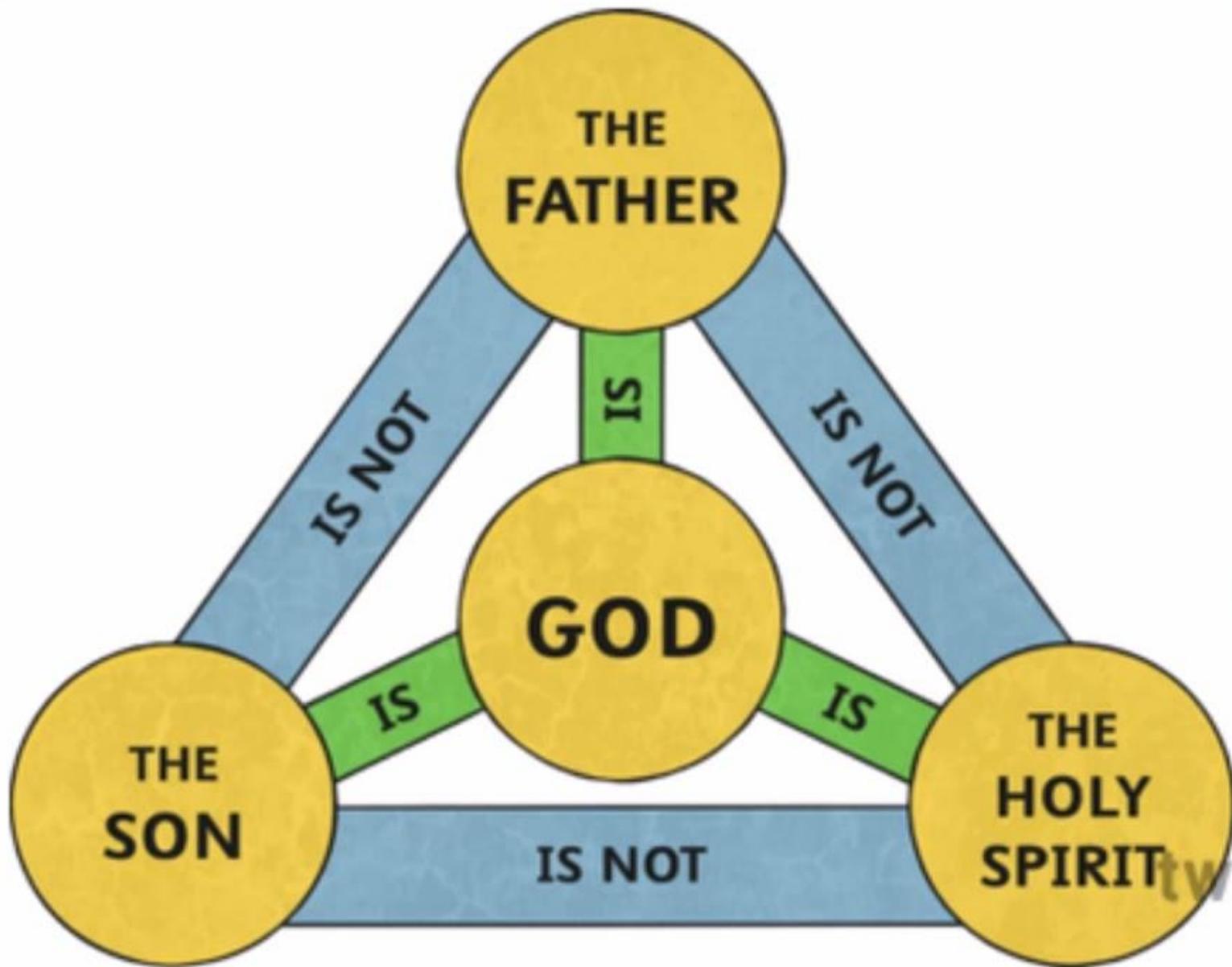
Modalism – God appears as Father, Son, OR the Holy Spirit

- ICE – Liquid – Steam
- Father -Husband-Employee

Arianism – God is God, who created the Son and the Holy Spirit
The Son and Holy Spirit are subordinate to the Father.

Binitariansim – the Father and Son are divine, the Holy Spirit is a shared power, not a person.





**The
Trinity**

**One
God
In
Three
Persons**

What is Creation?

Why, how, and when did God create the universe?

Definition: *God created the entire universe out of nothing; it was originally very good; and he created it to glorify himself.*

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*



What is Creation?

Science says:

- Before the Big Bang, there was neither time, space, nor matter.
- At the Big Bang, all matter in the universe came into being. Therefore, whatever caused the universe to come into being had to have a desire to do so, the power to do so and had to be timeless and immaterial.
- Science has no explanation that fits THEIR facts.



The Distinct but Dependent Creation:

Creation is distinct from God yet always dependent upon God.

- a. **God is transcendent**, far “above” creation in the sense that he is greater than creation and independent of it.

One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:6

- b. **God is immanent**, very much involved in creation, for it is continually dependent upon him for its existence and functioning.

In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

Job 12:10

Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

Acts 17:25

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Hebrews 1:3



The Glory Giving Creation

God's entire creation is intended to testify of His greatness

Everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” Isaiah 43:7
(Also, Psalms 19:1-2, Revelation 4:11)

a. Creation shows God's great power and wisdom, far above anything that could be imagined by any creature.

It is he who made the earth by his power, who established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding stretched out the heavens. Jeremiah 10:12

Not like these is he who is the portion of Jacob, for he is the one who formed all things, and Israel is the tribe of his inheritance; the LORD of hosts is his name. Jeremiah 10:16

b. God did not need to create the universe—it was a totally free act of God. (Revelation 4:11)

c. God created the universe to take delight in his creation, especially to the extent that it shows forth various aspects of His character. (Psalm 19:1)

c. This explains human creativity (art, music, or literary skills, etc.). We enjoy imitating, in a creaturely way, His creative work.



The Good Creation

If God created the universe to show his glory, we would expect that the universe would fulfill its purpose. At end of each stage of creation, God saw what he had done was “good”

- At the end of the six days of creation, “God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” Genesis. 1:31
- Even though sin is now in the world, the material creation is still good in God’s sight and should be seen as “good” by us as well. 1Timothy 4:4-5
- This frees us from false asceticism that sees the use and enjoyment of the material creation as wrong. 1Timothy 4:1-3
- Though the material creation can be misused, we must not let the danger of abusing God’s creation keep us from positive, thankful, joyful use of it. 1Timothy 6:9-10
- As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, 1Timothy 6:17-18

Next Week:

❖ **What is Prayer**

❖ **What are Angels & Demons**

