

BIG QUESTIONS

WHAT WE BELIEVE
AND WHY IT MATTERS

Our God, Our Hope [Doctrine of The Trinity] Mark 12:28-29

Big Idea: God is one in essence and three in persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—equal in glory, united in will, and working together in creation, redemption, and renewal.

So, why is the Doctrine of the Trinity vital to Our faith? Because, it speaks to the unity of God

I. Biblical Evidence for the Trinity

OT: Genesis 1:26, 3:22, Isaiah 48:16b

NT: Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, Ephesians 4:4-6

The Trinity is revealed progressively throughout Scripture.

II. Attributes of Three Persons of the Trinity

A. The Father [Source, Creator, and Planner]

[John 6:57, 1 Corinthians 8:6]

B. The Son [Word became flesh, Redeemer]

[John 1:14, Colossians 1:15-17]

C. The Spirit [Helper, Sustainer, Empowerer]

[John 14:16-17, Acts 1:8]

III. Why the Trinity Matters

A. Salvation:

The Father sends, the Son saves, the Spirit seals.

[John 3:16]

B. Prayer and Worship

We pray to the Father, through the Son, in the Spirit.

[Ephesians 2:17-18, Jude 1:20]

C. Unity & Love [Word made flesh, Redeemer]

The Trinity models perfect unity and love.

[John 17:20-21, 13:34-35]

D. Mission [Empowers the witness of the church]

[Matthew 28:19]

The doctrine of the Trinity is not abstract – it shapes how we live, love, and worship.

[Mark 12:28-29] One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?"²⁹ Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.'"

[Malachi 3:6] For I the Lord do not change . . . [immutability]

[Hebrews 13:8] Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

[James 1:17] Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.

[Genesis 1:26] . . . God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

[Genesis 3:22] When the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil"

[Isaiah 48:16b] And now the Lord God has sent me, and his Spirit.

[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, 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, . . .

[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.

[more verses on the back of the page]

Study Questions and Prayer

[1] Unity of God - Why is it essential to affirm that God is one in essence, even while confessing three persons? How does this protect us from misunderstandings like tritheism or modalism?

[2] Biblical Evidence - What passages from the Old and New Testaments most clearly show us the reality of the Trinity, and how does God reveal Himself progressively through Scripture?

[3] Roles of the Trinity - How do the distinct roles of the Father (Sender/Creator), the Son (Redeemer), and the Spirit (Helper/Sealer) show both their unity and diversity in God's work of salvation?

[4] Practical Impact - How does the Trinity shape the way we pray, worship, and experience God's presence in daily life?

[5] Model for Unity & Mission - In what ways does the love and unity of the Trinity challenge the church to live in unity and carry out its mission in the world?

[6] Pray that truth about the Trinity will shape our worship, deepen our prayers, strengthen our unity, and send us out with boldness to make disciples in Your name as the body of Christ.

God is One in Essence and Three in Person

The Greek word *ousia*, . . . is translated into English as “essence.” The essence of something is that which makes it what it is, the attributes that define a particular entity.

Human essence, made up of things such as mind, will, soul, and a physical body that make human beings human beings.

There is a dog essence that is made up of things such as body and a canine mind, but a dog essence is different from a human essence.

Multiple human beings exist – Bob’s essence and Jim’s essence and Susan’s essence are all fully human, but Bob and Jim and Susan do not possess the same mind, will, or body even though each person has a human mind, a human will, and a human body.

God has an essence as well – the divine essence.

The key attributes of the divine essence, include:

[1] Uniqueness: God is the only divine being, and His essence is unique.

[2] Unity of Attributes: God's mind, will, power, and other attributes are not separate; they are unified within His essence.

[3] Shared Essence: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit share the same divine essence fully and equally.

[4] Identical Divine Attributes: The Father, Son, and Spirit are "of the same essence," meaning they possess identical divine attributes.

[Essence and Person, Ligonier Ministries]

[**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—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

[**1 Corinthians 8:6**] . . . 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.

[**John 1:1,14**] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

[**Colossians 1:15-17**] He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

[**John 14:16-17**] Jesus said, And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

[**Acts 1:8**] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

[**John 3:16**] For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

[**Ephesians 1:13-14**] In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[**Ephesians 2:17-18**] Jesus . . . came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

[**Jude 1:20**] You, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, . . .

[**John 17:20-21**] I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

[**John 13:34-35**] A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”