

DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE
THE DOCTRINE OF GOD
THE TRINITY-PART 1

Introduction

We need to realize up front that a **perfect understanding** of this **infinite** and **wonderful** theme is **not possible to us** in our present, finite state.

The **modes of existence** and the **operations of God** can never be fully apprehended by mere mortal human beings such as ourselves.

However, just because we cannot fully grasp or understand **the concept of God or the Trinity** does not mean that we should doubt the truths of them.

In all ways, **God is infinitely greater than man, and therefore there is much about Him that our searching cannot reveal.** I believe when we get to heaven **we will be learning of God for all eternity for He is infinite!**

While the term **“Trinity”** is not found in the Bible, the truth of it is scattered across its sacred pages. The word itself is derived from the Latin, **Trinitas**, from the adjective **Trinus** meaning **“threefold,”** or **“three in one.”** The word arose from the need to express the doctrine in short order. So it properly means **“threefoldness,”** that is, **God’s threefold manifestation.**

Dr. C. C. Ryrie writes this about the Trinity:

“There is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence.”

There are two serious errors about the doctrine of the Trinity.

a. The error of tri-theism.

This says that the Trinity consists of three separate (but cooperating) Gods.

b. The error of modalism.

According to this view there is but one God who simply reveals himself through three different modes, or roles. For example, a particular man could be considered a husband to his wife, a father to his children, and an employee to his boss.

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I. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD!—THE UNITY OF THE GODHEAD.

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

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God.”

1 Corinthians 8:4 “Therefore as concerning the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.”

1 Timothy 2:5 “For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”

II. THIS ONE GOD IS A PLURALITY OF PERSONS!

A. Plural Pronouns Are Used Of God.

Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping animal that creepeth upon the earth.”

Genesis 3:22 “And the LORD God said, Behold, the man hath become as one of us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he should put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:”

Genesis 11:7 “Come, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.”

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Isaiah 6:8 “Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.”

B. The First Name Of God In Scripture Is Plural In Form. (Genesis 1:1)

The Hebrew word “*Elohim*” is a plural name. However, when used in reference to the one true God, it is constantly joined with verbs and adjectives in the singular.

When used with reference to heathen deities it is translated “*gods.*”

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

The same plural name is used when referring to the one true God, as in *Deuteronomy 6:4—“The Lord our God is one Lord.”*

III. THE PERSONS IN THE GODHEAD ARE LIMITED TO THREE!

To only three Persons are the titles and qualities of Deity ascribed: The Father, The Son (Jesus Christ), and The Holy Spirit.

These three together, and they alone compose the Godhead. Several times in Scripture they are mentioned together:

(Isaiah 63:7-10; Luke 1:35; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; John 14:16, 26; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 5:7)

IV. EACH PERSON OF THE TRINITY IS GOD!

There are not three Gods, but rather the THREE are ONE God!

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A. Each One Is Called God!

1. **Father** – (*John 6:44-46; 8:54; 20:17; Romans 1:7; 1 Peter 1:2*)
2. **Son** – (*Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1; 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8*)
3. **Holy Spirit** – (*Acts 5:3-4*)

B. Each One Has The Attributes Of God!

Each one is **eternal**, **omnipotent** (*almighty*), **omniscient** (*all-wise*), and **omnipresent** (*everywhere present*).

1. **Father** – (*2 Timothy 1:9; Mark 14:36; Matthew 24:36; Acts 17:27*)
2. **Son** – (*Hebrews 13:8; Matthew 28:18; Colossians 2:3; Matthew 18:20*)
3. **Holy Spirit** – (*Hebrews 9:14; Romans 15:19; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Psalm 139:7-10*)

C. Each One Performs The Works Of God!

1. **In Creation.**
 - a. **Father** – (*Revelation 4:11*)
 - b. **Son** – (*Colossians 1:16*)
 - c. **Holy Spirit** – (*Job 33:4*)
2. **In Redemption.**
 - a. **Father** – (*1 John 4:14*)
 - b. **Son** – (*Galatians 3:13*)
 - c. **Holy Spirit** – (*Hebrews 9:14*)