

The Trinity

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What is the trinity?

The word “Trinity” is the term that is used to express the notion that there is only one God and three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) who share the same infinite, eternal, immutable essence.

Does the word “Trinity” appear in the Bible?

The word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible.

How can the doctrine of the Trinity be true when it is not in the Bible?

Assertions can be true even if they are not in the Bible. For example, “Max is teaching concerning the Trinity” is a true assertion even if it is not in the Bible.



Is there a Biblical Basis for the Trinity?

Yes.

There is only one God

- (Isa 43:10) “Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be non after me.”
- (Deu 6:4) “Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one”
- (1 Ti 2:5) “For there is one God and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
- (Isa 45:5) “Besides Me there is no God”

The Father is God.

- (John 6:27) “On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.”
- (Rom 1:7) “Grace and peace to you from God our Father”
- (John 20:17) “I ascend to my Father and your Father, and My God and your God.”

The Holy Spirit is God.

- (Acts 5:1 -4) “... Filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit . . . You have not lied to men but to God.”

Is there a Biblical Basis for the Trinity?

Jesus is God.

God shares His glory with Jesus, but states that He will not share his glory with another. (John 17:25, Isa 42:8)

- God and Jesus both called the beginning and the end (Rev 1:7; Isa 42:8)
- Jesus forgives sin and only God can forgive sins (Mark 2:5ff)
- Only God give life, and Jesus gives life (John 5:21; 1 Sam 2:6, Deu 32:39)
- Old Testament forbids the worship of anyone but God (Ex 20:1-5; Deut 5:6-9). Jesus accepts worship (Matt 8:2, Matt 9:18, Matt 14:33, John 9:38, John 20:28)
- Jesus claimed
- The disciples claim that Jesus is God (John 20:28)

All Three Members of the Godhead are people.

A person is a living being that has the powers of intellect, will, and emotion.

- Robots are not people for they lack, intellect, will, and emotion.
- Non-Rational animals are not people for they lack intellect.

The Father is a person.

- The Father has intellect (Matt 6:2)
- The Father has emotion (Gen 6:6)
- The Father has will (Matt 6:9-10)

The Son is a person.

- The Son has intellect (Jon 2:25)
- The Son has emotion (Jon 11:35)
- The Son has will (John 6:38)

The Holy Spirit is a person.

- The Holy Spirit has intellect (John 14:26)
- The Holy Spirit has will (1 Cor 12:11)
- The Holy Spirit has emotion (Eph 4:30)
- The Holy Spirit is referred to as a He (John 16:13)

Function Within the Trinity

The Father is the first person of the trinity is presented as the Source, Sender and Planner of Salvation.

The Son is the Means, the Sent One, and the Achiever of Salvation. The son is eternally “begotten” or “generated” from the Father, but the Father is never said to be “begotten” or “generated” from anyone.

The Holy Spirit is said to “proceed” from the Father, but the Father never proceeds from the Holy Spirit. In Western theology, the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (John 15:26). In Eastern theology (the Greek orthodox church), it is denied that the Son has the authority to send the Holy Spirit.

The Son is eternally the Son. (Prov 30:4, Heb 1:3)

The Son is eternally submitted to the Father. (1 Cor 15:24,28)

Subjugation in role does not mean subjugation in Deity.

Biblical Presentation of the Trinity

Attribute	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Eternality	Ps 90:2	John 1:2	Heb 9:14
Power	1 Peter 1:5	2 Cor 12:9	Rom 15:19
Omniscience	Jer 17:10	Rev 2:23	1 Cor 2:11
Omnipresence	Jer 23:24	Matt 18:20	Ps 139:7
Holiness	Rev 15:4	Acts 3:14	Acts 1:8
Truth	John 7:28	Rev 3:7	1 John 5:6
Benevolence	Rom 2:4	Eph 5:25	Neh 9:20
Create the world	Ps 102:25	Col 1:16	Job 26:13
Create Man	Gen 2:7	Col 1:16	Job 33:4
Baptism of Christ	Matt 3:17	Matt 3:16	Matt 3:16
Death of Christ	Heb 9:14	Heb 9:14	Heb 9:14

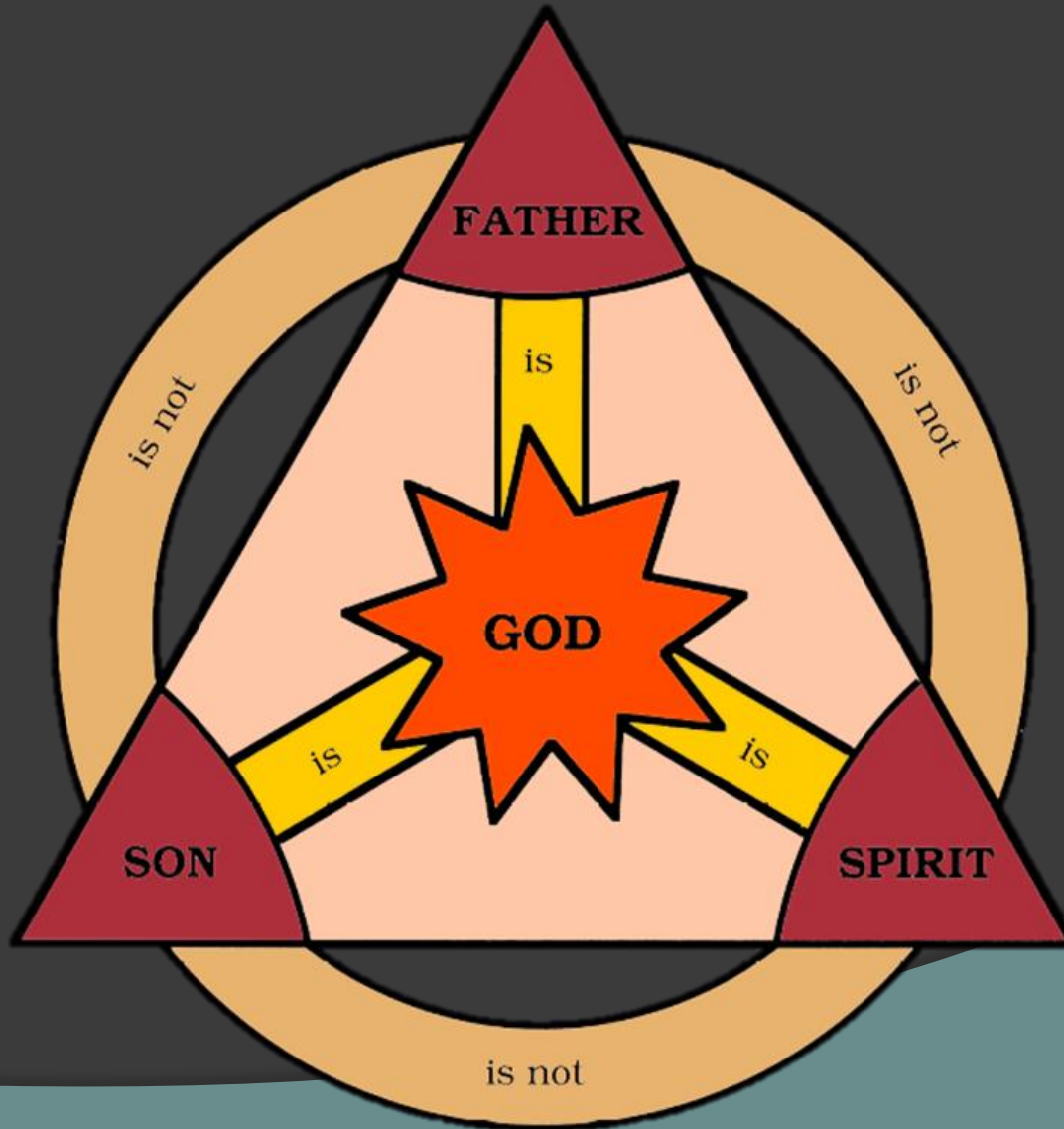
Athanasian Creed – 4th Century

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith. Which Faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled; without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinites, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighty; but one Almighty. So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity; to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord; So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion; to say, There are three Gods, or three Lords. The Father is made of none; neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity.

Athanasian Creed

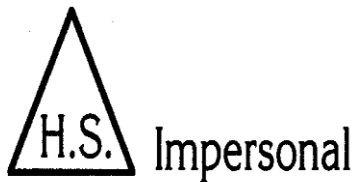
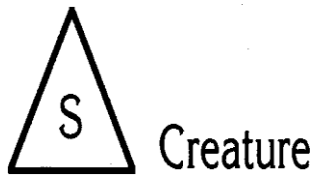
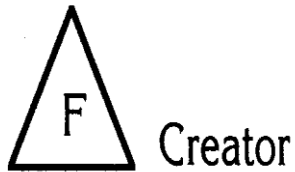
Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation; that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess; that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the Essence of the Father; begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the Essence of his Mother, born in the world. Perfect God; and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father as touching his Manhood. Who although he is God and Man; yet he is not two, but one Christ. One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh; but by assumption of the Manhood into God. One altogether; not by confusion of Essence; but by unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man; so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell; rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the God the Father Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the quick and the dead. At whose coming all men will rise again with their bodies; And shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire. **This is the Catholic Faith;** which except a man believe truly and firmly, he cannot be saved.

Trinity View

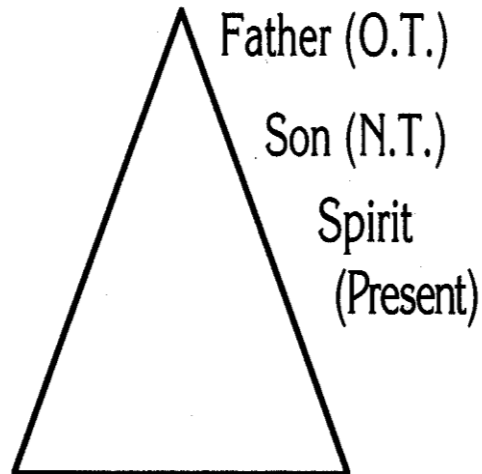


False Trinity View

Unitarianism

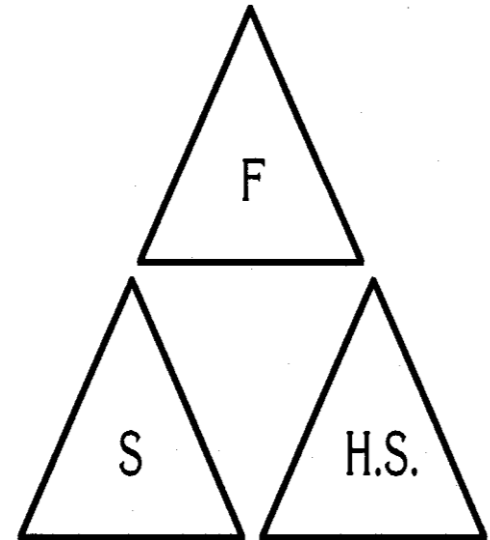


Sabellianism



Modalistic Trinity

Tritheism



Three gods

False Views

Jehovah's Witness (unitarianism) – The Holy Spirit is the power of God. The son is a creature through whom God created all things.

Mormonism (Tritheism) – The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate beings.