

**TRINITY:**

**GOD IS**

**Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning, God created...

**Atheism** is wrong - There is a God

Atheism comes from the negative a-, which means “no,” “not,” or “without,” and theos, which means “god”.

Atheism is the belief that there is no God, no devil, no supernatural realm and nothing beyond the material world.

**Problem:** Atheism must prove that God does not exist; this requires to have complete knowledge; which is impossible.

**Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning, God created...

**Polytheism** is wrong - There is only one God (not gods)

Polytheism comes from **poly**, which means “many,” and **theism**, which means “god.” (The belief of many gods).

Polytheism includes Hinduism and Mormonism.

**Problem:** It is impossible for multiple, completely equal, created gods to exist without a superior uncreated God to rule as their Creator and overseer.

**Genesis 1:1** - In the beginning, God created...

**Agnosticism** is wrong - God speaks and can be known

Agnosticism comes from a-, meaning “without,” and  
Gnosticism or gnosis, meaning “knowledge.”

Agnosticism says that while we can examine the physical world, we have no access to the spiritual world and therefore can never know if a God or gods exist.

Jesus came down from heaven and revealed God to us so that we can see and know God clearly.

# What is the Trinity?

**Definition:** The Trinity is one God who eternally exists as three distinct persons; Father, Son, and Spirit; who are each fully and equally God.

The Trinity does not have a human body, but each are living beings that think, feel, act, speak, love, and relate.

They are equally God and share all divine attributes

## **What is the history of the doctrine of the Trinity?**

The term Trinity was used by Tertullian, an early church father in AD 200 – 220.

Three major councils of church leaders developed the doctrine of the Trinity.

These councils discussed major theological questions to recognize what the church believed and to respond to false teachings.

# **What is the doctrine of the Trinity?**

## **Council of Nicaea (AD 325)**

Three hundred bishops gathered to resolve the debate over **Arianism**; the false teaching that Christ is a created being, an angel who was the highest created being, but not God. The council agreed that Jesus is fully and eternally God.

## **Council of Constantinople (AD 381)**

Agreed that the Holy Spirit is fully and eternally God. Constantinople officially condemned Arianism.

## **Council of Chalcedon (AD 451)**

Agreed that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human.

## **There is only One God:**

**Deuteronomy 4:35;** ...the Lord is God; there is no other besides Him.

**Deuteronomy 32:39;** ...there is no God besides Me...

**Psalms 86:10;** ...You alone are God.

**Isaiah 43:10;** Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.

## **There is only One God:**

**Isaiah 45:5;** I am the LORD, and there is no other, there is no God besides Me...

**1 Timothy 1:17;** To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory forever and ever.

**1 Timothy 2:5;** For there is one God...

## **There are many demonic false gods:**

**John 17:3;** ...the only true God...

**1 Corinthians 10:20;** ...what pagans sacrifice, they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons.

**2 Thessalonians 2:9 – 10;** The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, and with all wicked deception...

## **Three heresies (false teachings) about the Trinity:**

1. There is more than one God
2. There are three divine manifestations, not Persons
3. There is one God but not in three Persons

## **The Father is God:**

**John 6:27;** ...God the Father...

**1 Corinthians 8:6;** ...there is one God, the Father...

**John 14:9;** “Whoever has seen Me [Jesus] has seen the Father.”

**Colossians 1:15;** He is the image of the invisible God...

## **The Son is God:**

**John 1:1 - 4, 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...

**John 8:58;** “Truly, truly, I [Jesus] say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”

**John 20:28;** Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

## **The Son is God:**

**Romans 9:5;** ...Christ, who is God over all...

**Titus 2:13;** ...our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ...

**1 John 5:20;** ...Jesus Christ. He is the true God...

## **The Spirit is God:**

**2 Corinthians 3:17 – 18;** Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**Acts 5:3 – 4;** 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? You have not lied to men but to God.”

## Does the Trinity appear in the Old Testament?

**Genesis 1:1 – 2;** In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.

**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**...”

**Genesis 11:6 – 7;** “And the LORD said...Come, let Us...”

**Deuteronomy 6:4 – 5;** “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God...”

**Isaiah 48:16;** ...And now the Lord GOD [Father] has sent Me [Jesus] and his Spirit.

**Isaiah 61:1;** The Spirit of the Lord GOD [Father] is upon Me [Jesus], because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor...

## Does the Trinity Appear in the New Testament?

**Luke 1:35**; And the angel answered her, “The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the power of the **Most High** [Father] will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy - the **Son of God** [Jesus].”

## Does the Trinity appear in the New Testament?

**Matthew 3:16 – 17**; ...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.

## How Does the Trinity Work Together?

**1 Peter 1:2**; ...the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood...

**Father** foreknew the future of sin; planned to send Jesus  
Father, Son and Spirit agreed to this plan

**Holy Spirit** takes the finished work of **Jesus** on cross and apply it to you so that you can be set apart as a child of God

The Trinity is always working together

## **God is Love:**

**1 John 4:8; ...God is love**

**John 3:35; The Father loves the Son...**

**John 14:31; ...I [Jesus] love the Father...**

1. God is relational with perfect relationships; we look to God for healthy relationship.
2. God is loving with perfect love; we look to God for holy love.
3. God is like a community; we look to God for healthy community.
4. God is like a family; we look to God for healthy family.