

Lesson 3**The Doctrine of God****The Trinity***Jason_loy@hotmail.com***Last lesson summary**

1. God is Living
2. God is The Creator
3. God is Spirit
4. God has Personhood
5. God is One



If we truly know God, then can we worship the true God



If we truly know God, then can we build a relationship with the true God



If we truly know God, then can share the true God with others



What is Trinity?

Is there One God or Three Gods?

What does the bible teach about Trinity?



One and only source

How do we know that God is Trinity?

The Trinity is an unmistakable doctrine in the Scripture; for God has revealed Himself – **One God** eternally existing in **Three Persons**



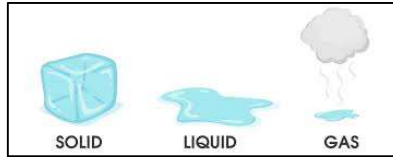
Jonathan Edwards
(1703-1758)

"I think [**the doctrine of the Trinity**] to be the highest and deepest of all Divine mysteries"

The Trinity is unfathomable – its fullness is far beyond human comprehension

Do Not try to use material things to explain Trinity

H₂O



Bad analogy

God is **NOT** 'like anything'; and **nothing** in the world is 'like God'

God cannot be described using **created matter**

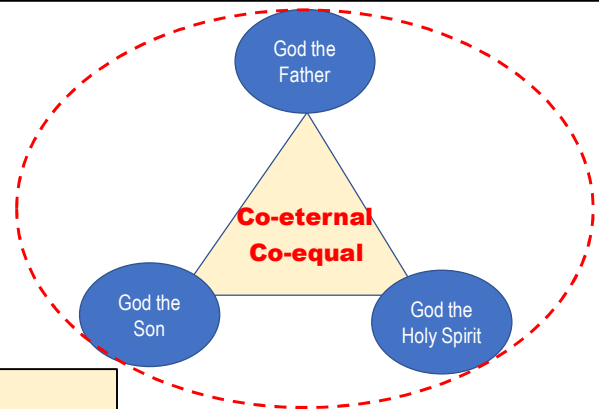
Athanasian Creed (6 AD)

That we worship **one God in trinity** and **the trinity in unity**,
neither blending their persons
nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is **a distinct person**,
the person of the Son **is another**,
and that of the Holy Spirit **still another**.
But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one,
their glory **equal**, their majesty **coeternal**.

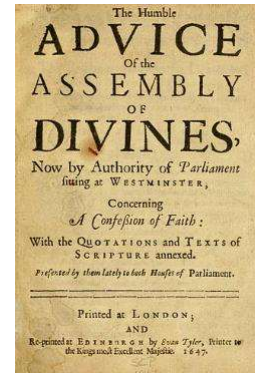
Thus the Father is God,
the Son is God,
the Holy Spirit is God.
Yet there are **not three gods**;
there is **but one God**.

Nothing in this trinity is before or after,
nothing is greater or smaller;
in their entirety the three persons
are coeternal and coequal with each other.





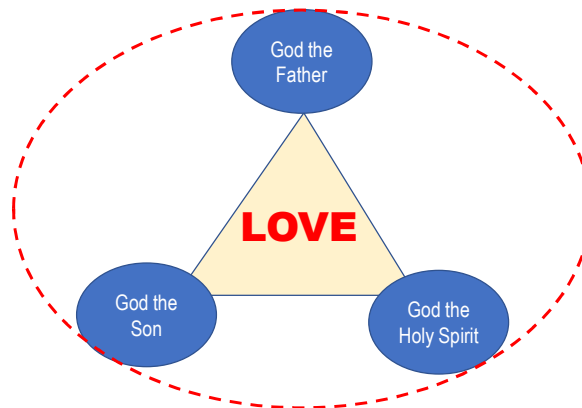
121 Puritan clergymen in Year 1646



Westminster Confession of Faith

In the unity of the Godhead there be **three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity**: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Fellowship,
Communion,



Co-existing,
Co-eternal,
Co-equal

Trinity



There is One God. One Godhead.
God eternally exists in Three Persons.

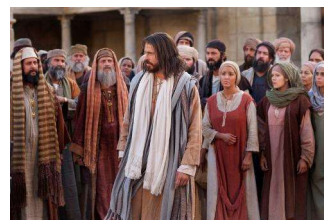
The Deity of Three

Heretical Teaching 1

Jesus is NOT God

Jesus is just human

Jesus is a created being



Jesus is God



*Jesus healed an invalid
man of 38 years*

¹⁶ And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. ¹⁷ But Jesus answered them, **“My Father is working until now, and I am working.”**

¹⁸ This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.** (John 5:16-18)

Jesus is equal with God in person

Jesus is God



*Jesus healed an invalid
man of 38 years*

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. **For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.** (John 5:19)

Jesus is equal with God in His works

Jesus is God



¹⁸ I am the one who bears witness about myself, and **the Father who sent me bears witness about me.** ¹⁹They said to him therefore, “Where is your Father?” Jesus answered, “You know neither me nor my Father. **If you knew me, you would know my Father also.**” (John 8:19)

Knowing Jesus is equal with knowing God



So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple. (John 8:59)

The Jews understood that Jesus claimed to be God and that was why they wanted to stone him for blasphemy

Jesus Himself consciously assert and acknowledge His deity

Jesus is God



“I and the Father are one.”

³¹ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. ³² Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” ³³ The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, **make yourself God.**” (John 10:30-33)

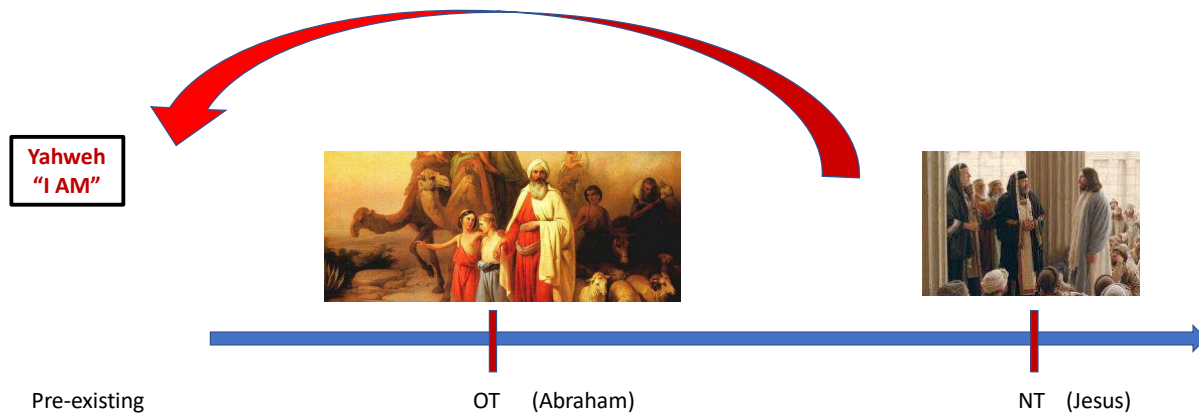
¹³ Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” ¹⁴ God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”(Ex 3:13-14)



I AM : self existing and eternity

Jesus is God

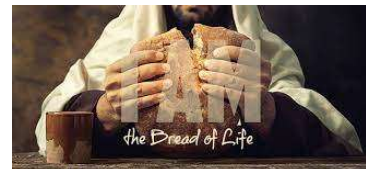
Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I am**."
(John 8:58)



Jesus Himself declares He is 'I AM'

7 "I AM" Statements

1. "I am the bread of life" John 6:35
2. "I am the light of the world" John 8:12
3. "I am the door for the sheep" John 10:7, 9
4. "I am the good shepherd" John 10:11, 14
5. "I am the resurrection and the life" John 11:25
6. "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" John 14:6
7. "I am the true vine" John 15:1, 5



Jesus is God

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was **in the form of God**, did not count **equality with God** a thing to be grasped, (Phi 2:5-6)

Morphe (Grk) – the genuine nature of a thing

Jesus is God



*Jesus is God and radiates
His own essential glory*

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ **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, (Heb 1:2-3)

God speaking about the Son

But **of the Son** he says,
 “Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever,
 the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.
⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
 therefore **God, your God**, has anointed you
 with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”
¹⁰ And,
 “**You, Lord**, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning,
 and the heavens are the work of your hands; (Heb 1:8-10)

Jesus' own words

Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the **angels of God** over one sinner who repents.” (Luke 15:10)

The **Son of Man** will send **his angels**, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, (Mat 13:41)

Angels of God = Angels of Jesus Christ



Jesus is God

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Mat 12:28)

kingdom of God = kingdom of Jesus Christ



(Jesus said) that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. (Luke 22:30)

Jesus is God

And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” (Mark 2:5)

(*Jewish Scribes*) “Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7)



(Jesus) But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins—he said to the paralytic— (Mark 2:10)

Only God can forgive sin = Jesus Christ forgives sin

Jesus is God

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “**My Lord and my God!**” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (John 20:28-29)



Jesus did not refute

OT, God declared

Only God can say this

I, the Lord, **the first,**
and with the last; I am he. (Isa 41:4)

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
“**I am the first and I am the last;** besides me there is no god. (Isa 44:6)

“Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called!
I am he; **I am the first, and I am the last.** (Isa 48:12)

"Fear not, **I am the first and the last**, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. (Rev 1:17b-18)



Jesus declares He is the first and the last,
Jesus is God

Jesus is God

Omniscience

Omnipresence

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "**who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.**" (Rev 1:8)

Omnipotence



*First and last letter of the
Greek alphabets*

Jesus is God

¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. ¹³ **I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Rev 22:13)



³ 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? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man **but to God.**” (Acts 5:3-4)



Holy Spirit is God

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷ If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (1 Cor 3:16-17)

God's temple = temple of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit is God

Implication

To deny the
Trinity

=

Do not
understand the
*deity of Jesus
Christ*

=

Wrong
understand
of the gospel

The incarnation of Christ, or God in human flesh, is an essential component of the biblical gospel (John 1:1-14)



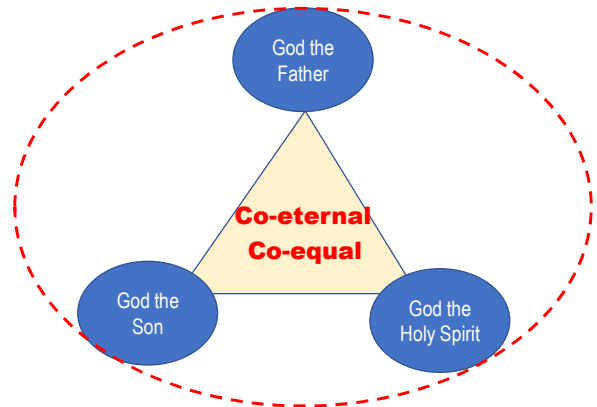
⁸ But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, **let him be accursed**. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, **let him be accursed**. (Gal 1:8-9)

Let him be damned



The Oneness of Three

Oneness



"I and the Father are one." (John 10:30)

Oneness

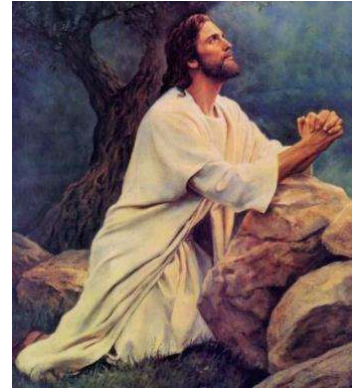
⁸ Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." ⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me?** The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I **am in the Father and the Father is in me**, or else believe on account of the works themselves. (John 14:8-11)

The Father and The Son are One

Oneness

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one **even as we are one**, (John 17:22)

The Father and The Son are one.



Oneness

⁹ You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the **Spirit of God dwells in you**. Anyone who does not have the **Spirit of Christ** does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if **Christ is in you**, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If **the Spirit** of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells **in you**, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **his Spirit** who dwells **in you**. (Rom 8:9-11)

Christ in you

The Spirit in you

The Son and The Spirit are One

The Spirit

¹⁶ 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.**

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

The Father and Jesus

Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and **my Father** will love him, and **we will come to him and make our home with him.** (John 10:23)

The Father, The Son and The Spirit are One

Heretical Teaching 2

Modalism: One divine person switches among three difference manifestation



God



Jesus



Holy Spirit



*God does not appear in separate timings or periods? **WRONG** teaching*

Distinctiveness between Father and Son and Spirit

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; ¹⁷ and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Mat 3:16-17)



The three members of the Godhead appeared at the same time:

Distinctiveness between Father and Son

"me" – Jesus Christ (2nd member of the Trinity)

I will tell of the decree:
The Lord said to me, "You are my Son;
 today I have begotten you. (Psalm 2:7)

The Lord: God the Father (1st member of the Trinity)

The inter-Trinitarian relationship between Father and Son

Distinctiveness between Father and Son

The Father speaks to the Son

The LORD says to my Lord:

“Sit at my right hand,
until I make your enemies your footstool.” (Psalm 110:1)

Inter-Trinitarian relationship and communication

Distinctiveness between Father and Son and Spirit

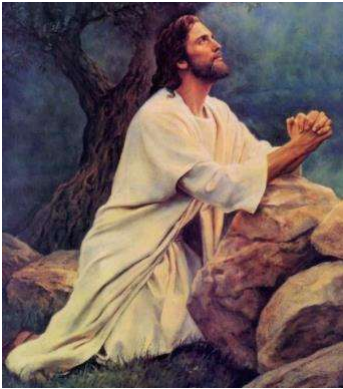
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, (John 14:16-17a)



The three members of the
Godhead were mentioned

Distinctiveness between Father and Son

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:5)



Jesus was with the Father through all eternity

Distinctiveness between Father and Son

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Heb 7:25)

Jesus praying to the Father for us



Distinctiveness between Father and Spirit

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the **Spirit himself intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words. (Rom 8:26)

The Spirit praying to God on our behalf



Summary

There is only One God; One Godhead

The Deity of Three: All Three Persons are God

The Oneness of Three: Unity in Trinity

The Distinctiveness of The Trinity



The Trinity

Biblical Reference

The Trinity in Creation

God the Father

God the Spirit

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ² 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.

³ And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. (Gen 1:1-3)

The Word

The Three members of the Trinity were present and active in creation

The Divine executive committee; the council in the Godhead

The Trinity in Creation

In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word was with God**, and the .² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

God the Father – the 1st member of the Trinity was present in creation

The Word, Jesus Christ – the 2nd member of the Trinity was present in creation

Jesus was with God at creation and is Himself God

The Trinity in Creation

Then God said, “**Let us** make man in our image, after **our** likeness. (Gen 1:26)

‘us’, ‘our’ – plurality of relationships in the Godhead

There is communion and consultation among the members of the Trinity

There is perfect agreement and a clear purpose

The Trinity in Genesis

Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." (Gen 11:7)

'us' = God in Three Persons



The tower of Babel

Angel's message

relating to the Trinity reference

And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God."

(Luke 1:35)

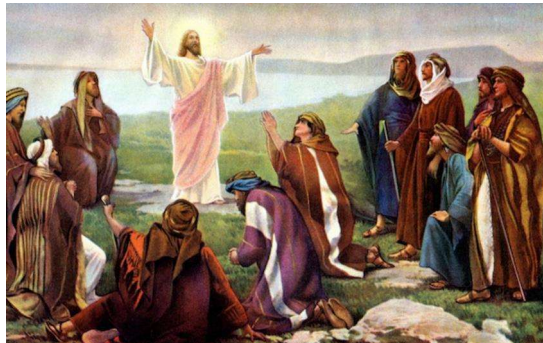
The three members of the Godhead were mentioned



Jesus' own words

relating to Trinity reference

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, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”(Mat 28:19-20)



Jesus' own words

relating to Trinity reference

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (John 15:26)

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned:

Jesus' own words

relating to Trinity reference

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:13-15)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned:

to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15:16)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned:

¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; (Rom 15:17-19)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned:

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. (1 Cor 12:4-6)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (1 Cor 1:21-22)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Gal 4:6)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned:

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Eph 2:18)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

¹⁶ that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph 3:16-19)

Paul's words

relating to Trinity reference

But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth. (2 The 2:13)

Peter's words

relating to Trinity reference

This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand **of God**, and having received from the Father the promise of **the Holy Spirit**, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. (Acts 2:32-33)

Peter's words

relating to Trinity reference

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38-39)

Peter's words

relating to Trinity reference

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned:

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 Pet 1:2)

John's words

relating to Trinity reference

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (John 20:21-22)

John's words

relating to Trinity reference

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, (1 John 14:2)

John's words

relating to Trinity reference

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of **his Spirit**. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that **the Father** has sent **his Son** to be the Savior of the world. (1 John 14:13-14)

Jude's words

relating to Trinity reference

But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the **Holy Spirit**, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of **God**, waiting for the mercy of our **Lord Jesus Christ** that leads to eternal life. (Jude 20-21)

Last book

relating to Trinity reference

And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "**Holy, holy, holy**, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"(Rev 4:8)

OT -Isaiah

relating to Trinity reference

And one called to another and said: "**Holy, holy, holy** is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"(Isa 6:3)

Benediction**relating to Trinity reference**

The LORD bless you and keep you;
²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.
 (Numbers 6:24-26)

God gave the benediction to Moses allude to the Trinity

The threefold 'The Lord'

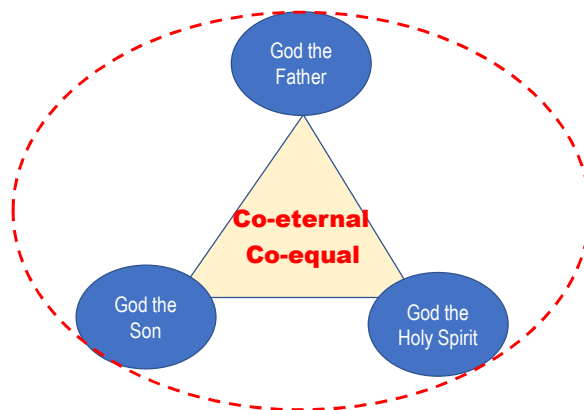
Benediction**relating to Trinity reference**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14)

The three members of the Godhead were mentioned

Conclusion

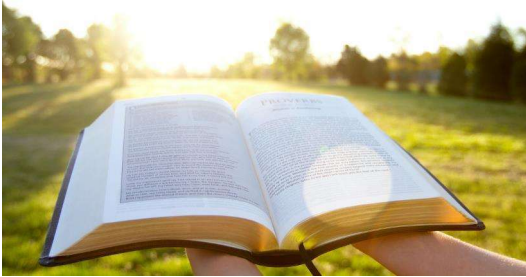
Summary



1. God is One
2. God is Three Persons
3. The Trinity: Co-equal, Co-existing, Co-eternal

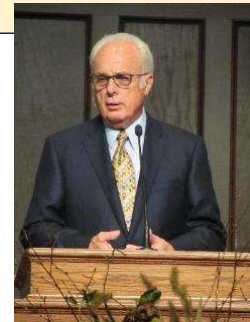
The Trinity may be hard to grasp

God allows us to have a glimpse of it, but we cannot expect to understand it in its fullness



We believe by faith

In the final analysis, the Trinity is incomprehensible. We cannot fully understand its mystery. When someday we see God, we shall see him as he is, and understand him better than we do now. Yet even then we will not totally comprehend him. Because he is the unlimited God and we are limited in our capacity to know and understand, he will always exceed our knowledge and understanding. We will always be human beings, even though perfected human beings. We will never become God. Those aspects of God that we will never fully comprehend should be regarded as mysteries exceeding our reason rather than as paradoxes that conflict with reason.



Pastor John MacArthur

Application :

We must know the true God of the Bible, The Trinity

We must worship the true God of the Bible, The Trinity

We must love God and obey His commands

We must share the true God of the Bible

