



THE TRIUNE GOD

The Doctrine of the Trinity

❖ What it is

- One God in three Persons
- “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deut. 6:4).
- “I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God” (Isa. 45:5).
- “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” (Gen. 1:26).

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❖ What it is

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

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❖ What it isn't

- Modalism: *like water can be solid, liquid, or vapor*
 - Matthew 3:16-17
- Partialism: *like an egg that is made up of yolk, white, and shell*
 - Colossians 1:19; John 17:21
- Unitarianism: *like one man who is a father, son, and husband*
 - John 14:16-17
- Polytheism: *like three men who are a father, a son, and a husband*
 - Acts 17:24; 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 4:6

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❖ Why it matters

- It helps us understand how we relate to God, and how God relates to us.
- “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Corinthians 13:14).
- “according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ...” (1 Peter 1:2)

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❖ Why it matters

- Ephesians 1:3-14
 - vv. 3-6 describe our relationship with the Father
 - vv. 7-12 describe our relationship with the Son
 - vv. 13-14 describe our relationship with the Spirit
- Each is “God,” worthy of praise and glory.
- Each has distinct roles in our salvation.

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❖ What it means

- “God is love” (1 John 4:8).
- John 17:1-5
- Genesis 1:26-27
- We were created to glorify, honor, and delight in God.
- We were created to *be* glorified, honored, and delighted in *by* God.

²⁰ “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. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

John 17:20-26