

Matthew 3:13-17: Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, & do you come to me?" ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when **Jesus** was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, & behold, the heavens were opened to him, & he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove & coming to rest on him; & behold, a voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son,** with whom I am well pleased."

Intro: John 17:3: this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, & Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Lamentations this week: Lam 1:6: all her majesty is departed
Isa 53:2: He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him
* **Lam 1:11:** for I am despised
Isa 53: He was despised and rejected by men
* **Lam 1:12:** Look and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow
Isa 53:3: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief
* **Lam 5:20:** why do You forsake us for so many days?
Matt 27:46: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

GOSPEL! Know your triune God, trust your triune God, delight in your triune God!

1. There Is Only One God

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-5:** Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.
- **Isaiah 44:6:** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel & his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god."
- **1 Timothy 2:5:** For there is one God
- **Ephesians 4:5-6:** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God (We are monotheists)

2. The Father Is God

- **2 Cor 1:3:** Blessed be the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies & God of all comfort
- **John 6:27:** For on him God the Father has set his seal.
- **John 20:17:** I am ascending to my Father & your Father, to my God & your God.
- **Rom 1:7:** Grace to you & peace from God our Father & the Lord Jesus Christ. (You have a good, good Father!)

3. The Son Is God (Jesus is God!)

- **John 8:58:** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."
- **John 20:28:** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"
- **Titus 2:13:** our great God and Savior Jesus Christ
- **Hebrews 1:8:** But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever" (You have a loving Savior!)

4. The Holy Spirit Is God

- **Genesis 1:2:** the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- **Isaiah 40:13:** Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD
- **Acts 5:3-4:** Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit & to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 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 men but to God."
- **Heb 10:15-17:** the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,"
- What the Holy Spirit says in these verses is said by the LORD: **Jer 31:33:** But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. (God dwells in you by His Spirit! The Spirit guides, teaches, & empowers you for ministry!)

5. The Father, The Son, And The Holy Spirit Are Distinct

The Father is not the Son; the Father is not the Holy Spirit; the Son is not the Father; the Son is not Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is not the Father; and the Holy Spirit is not the Son. (God is love! He's loved Himself forever!)

6. The Trinity

Trinity or Triune basically means Tri=3 plus Unity=1; So three in one, & one in three. There is only one God Who has always existed in three distinct, co-equal, co-eternal Persons: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.

a. Modalist Objection: Cooper: Modalism says that there are no personal distinctions within God. Instead, God has three different "masks" which He puts on, depending on whether He is operating as Father, Son, or Holy Spirit.

Modalists object: The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, so therefore, the Trinity is false teaching about God, & it does not exist. This is like if the Sadducees told Jesus the word "resurrection" is not in the Hebrew Scriptures, so therefore, the resurrection is a false teaching, & it does not exist.

But Jesus actually proves the doctrine of the resurrection by using a Scripture passage THAT DOES NOT use the word "resurrection"! The concept of "resurrection" is there in the text, even though the word is not there. Nowhere in the Hebrew Scriptures will you find the word "resurrection" used, yet Jesus says to the Sadducees:

- **Matthew 22:29-32:** You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: "I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob"? He is not God of the dead, but of the living.

Though the word "resurrection" is not found in the Hebrew Old Testament or in the words Jesus chose to teach the doctrine of the resurrection, the concept is there all over the place.

Another example: the terms, "omniscience", "omnipresence", and "omnipotence" are not found in the Bible, but the Bible teaches that God is all-knowing, present everywhere, and all-powerful. These terms simply describe what is true according to God's Word about God.

b. The Persons of the Trinity: The Father, the Son, & the Holy Spirit – each Person is truly God!

- **Kevin DeYoung:** a particular individual distinct from the others.

- **David VanDrunen:** A distinct, self-conscious agent of action or a self-conscious moral actor. We can say that one Person did something that the others didn't: e.g., only the Father sent the Son, only the Son made atonement, only the Spirit is a seal of our inheritance.

c. These Persons of the Trinity dwell in one another: Perichoresis: The word perichoresis comes from two Greek words, peri, which means "around," and chorein, which means "to give way" or "to make room/space." It could be translated "rotation" or "a going around." . . . it refers to the mutual intersecting, interpenetration, or indwelling of the three Persons of the Godhead.

- **John 14:10-11:** Do you not believe that I am in the Father & 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 & the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

- **Colossians 1:19:** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

Kevin DeYoung: The Father indwells the Son; the Son indwells the Spirit; the Spirit indwells the Father (& you could reverse the order in each pair). The Greek term used to describe the eternal mutual indwelling of the persons of the Trinity is perichoresis. The word circulatio is also sometimes used as a way of metaphorically describing the unceasing circulation of the divine essence, such that each person is in the other two, while the others are in each one. At the risk

of putting things in physical terms, perichoresis means that “all three persons occupy the same divine ‘space.’” In other words, we cannot see God without seeing all three persons at the same time. The mutual indwelling of perichoresis means two things. First, the three persons of the Trinity are all fully in one another. And second, each person of the Trinity is in full possession of the divine essence. To be sure, the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Spirit, & the Spirit is not the Father. Perichoresis does not deny any of this. What perichoresis maintains is that you cannot have one person of the Trinity without having the other two, & you cannot have any person of the Trinity without having the fullness of God. The inter-communion of the persons is reciprocal, & their operations are inseparable. As Augustine put it: “Each are in each, and all in each, and each in all, and all are one.”

d. Confessions: WCF: In the unity of the Godhead there be three Persons of one substance, power, & eternity: God the Father, God the Son, & 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 & the Son.

NHC: We believe that there is one, & only one, living & true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker & Supreme Ruler of Heaven & earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, & worthy of all possible honor, confidence, & love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, & the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, & executing distinct & harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

7. The Trinity In Action

a. Who Created The World? The Trinity!

- 1) God The Father: **Hebrews 1:1-2:** 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.
- 2) God The Son: **Colossians 1:16:** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things were created through Him and for Him.
- 3) God The Holy Spirit: **Psalms 104:30:** When You send forth Your Spirit, they are created (Genesis 1:2 also)
- 4) One God: **Genesis 1:1:** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

b. Who Accomplished A Great Salvation For Israel In The Exodus? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **Ex 4:22-23:** you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the LORD, 'Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, Let my son go that he may serve me. If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.'"
- 2) God the Son: **Jude 1:5:** Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.
- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Isaiah 63:10-14:** But they rebelled & grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, & himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses & his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them his Holy Spirit, who caused his glorious arm to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD gave them rest. So you led your people, to make for yourself a glorious name.
- 4) One God: **Exodus 15:1-4:** Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea."

c. How Did The Prophets Speak Of The God Who Would Finally Redeem A People For Himself Forever? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **Isaiah 63:16:** For you are our Father, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from of old is your name.
- 2) God the Son: **Isaiah 9:6:** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Ezekiel 36:26-27**: I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- 4) One God: **Isaiah 53:4-5, 10**: we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities . . . Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him

d. Who Accomplished The Mystery Of The Incarnation? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **Galatians 4:4-5**: But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.
- 2) God the Son: **Matthew 1:21**: She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Luke 1:31-35**: And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 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."
- 4) One God: **Luke 1:68-69**: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David

e. Who Accomplished Redemption For God's People At The Cross? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **Romans 8:32**: He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all . . .
- 2) God the Son: **Matthew 27:46**: Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Hebrews 9:14**: how much more will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (All 3!)
- 4) One God: **Isaiah 53:10**: Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush Him . . .

f. Who Raised Jesus From The Dead? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **Galatians 1:1**: God the Father, who raised him from the dead
- 2) God the Son: **John 2:19**: Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."
- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Romans 8:11**: 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.
- 4) One God: **Acts 13:30**: But God raised him from the dead . . .

g. Who Will Bring About The Consummation Of All Things On Judgment Day? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **1 Peter 1:17**: if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds
- 2) God the Son: **John 5:25-27**: Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.
- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Ephesians 1:13-14**: In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
- 4) One God: **2 Peter 3:11-13**: Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

h. Who gets all the glory in everything? The Trinity!

- 1) God the Father: **Ephesians 1:17**: the Father of glory

- 2) God the Son: **1 Corinthians 2:8**: crucified the Lord of glory
- 3) God the Holy Spirit: **Peter 4:14**: the Spirit of glory
- 4) One God: **Psalm 29:3**: The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders

8. More Arguments Against Modalism

a. Modalists deny that God the Son has existed forever: Modalists wrongly claim that the Son of God came into existence when He came into the world through the virgin birth. This is actually a denial of the deity of the Son. God doesn't have a beginning, yet modalists claim they believe Jesus is God. If Jesus is God, then He never had a beginning. Jesus says: "I am the Alpha & the Omega, the first & the last, the beginning & the end." (Rev 22:13)

God the Son is co-equal & co-eternal with the Father & the Holy Spirit, & He was sent down from heaven by the Father:

- **John 1:1**: In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, & the Word was God.
- **John 17:5**: Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.
- **1 Corinthians 8:6**: yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
- **John 6:38, 41**: For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me . . . So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven."
- **John 6:51, 57-58, 62**: I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh . . . As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me . . . This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever . . . Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?
- **Appearances of the pre-incarnate Christ in the O. T.:** Jacob Wrestling; Angel of the LORD; Burning Bush; The book of Judges; 4th man in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: **Daniel 3:25**: the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.

b. We see the distinct Persons of the Trinity in action at Jesus' baptism:

- 1) God the Father is speaking: **Matt 3:17**: behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
- 2) God the Son is baptized: **Matt 3:16**: when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water
- 3) God the Holy Spirit is descending like a dove: **Matt 3:16**: the heavens were opened to him, & he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him

c. We see the Father is distinct from the Son in that only the Father knows the time of the Son's return:

Matt 24:36: concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.

d. We see the Father is distinct from the Son in the garden of Gethsemane:

Matthew 26:39: And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will."

e. We see the Father is distinct from the Son because the Son says there are two witnesses:

John 8:16-18: Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me. In your Law it is written that the testimony of two men is true. I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.

f. Jesus often speaks of Himself and His Father as two, distinct Persons:

- **Matthew 20:23**: He said to them, "You will drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father."
- **John 5:17**: But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."
- **John 5:20**: For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.

- **John 5:22-23:** The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.
- **John 14:28:** You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

g. We see the Trinitarian names all together in Scripture:

- **Matt 28:19:** Go therefore & make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit
- **2 Cor 13:14:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ & the love of God & the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all
- **Jude 20-21:** But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.
- **1 Peter 1:1-2:** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 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.
- **Hebrews 9:14:** how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.
- **Ephesians 3:14-19:** For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven & on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted & grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth & length & height & depth, & to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Know your triune God, trust your triune God, delight in your triune God!

Christ Is The Son Who's One Of Three
 Persons In The God-Head We
 Confess As Truth, The Creeds Agree
 One God, Three Persons Is The Key
 To Understand The Trinity
 Who Always Works In Unity
 The Father Choosing Those Who'd Be
 Born By The Spirit: Guarantee
 And Be God's Sons, Each Adoptee
 Christ Died For Them, So They Would Flee
 To Him By Faith Alone Set Free
 The Son's Generated Eternally
 Begotten Not Made The "I AM" He
 Son And Father, Distinct They Be
 From Them The Spirit's Breathed Out See
 The Father, Son, And Spirit Three
 One God Of Glory Who'd Decree
 The Son To Die Upon That Tree
 He Bore God's Wrath For You And Me
 Then Rose Alive, So All Agree
 There's Nothing Like The Trinity
 Who Casts Our Sins Into The Sea
 Bow To Our God On Bended Knee
 He Fills Your Heart With Joy And Glee
 So Worship God! The One In Three!