

Theme: Christians believe in the Trinity - the one true God eternally exists as one God in Three Persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct Persons, but are one in being, power, and glory.

## I. Intro - The Unique Belief in the Trinity

A. The ancient world was polytheistic, except for Israel

B. The Nicene Creed said Christians were Trinitarian

We believe in **one God**,  
the Father almighty...

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God...

of the same essence as the Father...

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
and with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified.

1. We believe in **one God** - Monotheist!

2. The One God is the Father, Son, and Spirit!

C. Why would they say this? Does it really matter?

## II. We Believe - There Is Only One God

A. Christians believe there is only one God

1. God revealed to Israel that there is only one God

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, **the LORD is one**. Deuteronomy 6:4

Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. **Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.** Isaiah 44:8

a. This was unheard of in the ancient world!

b. Israel alone proclaimed there is only one God!

2. Jesus said this is the central command!

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

<sup>29</sup> **"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.'**" Mark 12:28-29

a. This is the preface to the most important command

b. It was repeated by Jews every day - only one God!

3. This was repeated by the apostles - only one God!

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that **an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one.** <sup>5</sup> For **even if there are so-called gods**, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup> **yet for us there is but one God...** 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

a. The early church was surrounded by many "gods"

b. But they proclaimed there is only one real God!

c. This brought the church into great conflict with the culture and the government of their day

B. We still believe there is only one God!

1. This has become an issue again today, for we are pressured to act as if there are many gods, and to not offend by denying the gods of other religions.

2. There is pressure from the culture to speak of many truths, many ways, many gods, but Christians must say, "We Believe - There Is Only One God!"

### III. We Believe - In the Trinity!

#### A. The one God is the Father, Son, and Spirit!

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.

<sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord.

<sup>6</sup>There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

1. Spirit, Lord (Jesus), God (the Father) - all the same
2. The One God - Father, Son, and Spirit - works in many ways!

#### B. The Trinity in the Old Testament

##### 1. The Trinity in creation - Father, Son, and Spirit

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. Genesis 1:1-3

By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, their starry host by the breath of his mouth. Ps 33:6

- a. Genesis 1:1-3 - Father creates through His Word, and the Spirit hovers, forms, and fashions creation
  - b. Psalm 33 includes Yahweh, His Word, and His Spirit/breath as the agents of creation.
2. Humanity is created in the image of the Trinity (see Genesis 1:26-27 and note the singular and plural)
  3. Father, Son, Spirit in the work of redemption  
Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom ... Isa 61:1

- a. The Messiah is the Servant in Isaiah, is somehow one with Yahweh, and yet He is sent by Yahweh and anointed by the Spirit to bring redemption.
- b. Redemption is the work of the Father, Son, and Spirit - the Trinity.
- c. This language is used at Jesus' baptism

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16-17

1. We see the Father, Son, Spirit at the same moment
2. The Father speaks from the Servant Songs of Isaiah as the Son is anointed with the Spirit for His mission.

#### C. The Trinity in the New Testament

1. The NT expands this to show that the Christian life is Trinitarian in every aspect
  - a. Salvation is Trinitarian (Ephesians 1:3-14; Galatians 4:4-6)
  - b. Prayer is Trinitarian (John 16:23; Romans 8:26)
  - c. Gifts and ministry are Trinitarian (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)
  - d. The Church itself is Trinitarian (Ephesians 2:19-22)
  - e. Our eternal existence is Trinitarian (Romans 8:11)

2. This is why the Nicene Creed - and all of the Creeds - are Trinitarian in structure. Scripture and our experience of life and salvation can not be explained apart from the Trinity.

#### IV. Applying the Word

##### A. Word of encouragement to those who don't understand

1. You may be struggling to understand this!
2. You are not alone - no one can fully grasp it!
3. God is always beyond our comprehension!
4. Continue to think, study, and meditate on this reality revealed in Scripture, and you will grow, and it will pay dividends!
5. We don't have to be able to fully explain to believe!

##### B. Do we see the major implications of the Trinity?

1. Do we see that all of life is relational?
  - a. Trinity: God is relational by nature - and so are we!
  - b. We were created for relationships
  - c. We're redeemed & placed in Church - relationships!
  - d. Please don't give in to our culture and isolate!
  - e. Relationships are not "virtual" - they must be real and in-person to fulfill our design
2. Do we see that unity and diversity are both necessary?
  - a. One God, Three distinct persons - unity & diversity
  - b. This has been a major philosophical debate, and it is a huge issue in our culture today!

- c. We need both unity and diversity to be strong
- d. True in Church, family, business, nation, etc.
- e. Example: local church

1. Unity - essential beliefs - Trinity, Deity of Christ, justification by grace through faith alone, etc.
2. Diversity - minor doctrines, differences in gifts, personalities, ethnicities, economics, politics, etc.
3. Unity and diversity make us strong
4. Unity and diversity enable us to more fully express the life and character of God in our worship and ministry

##### f. Example: family

1. Unity - common commitment to God & each other
2. Diversity - different strengths and weaknesses, personalities, likes, and dislikes
3. Many couples struggle because they were attracted to the other person because they were different, and then those very differences become a source of conflict!
4. But we need both unity and diversity to be able to fully receive and express God's life and blessing in and through our family!
5. Embrace diversity - it makes a strong, healthy family!

##### 3. Do we see life necessarily overflows into blessing?

- a. God did not create out of any need - Father, Son, and Spirit were in perfect love, joy, and unity!
- b. But that perfect relationship and love overflowed into the act of creation, for this is the nature of love!
- c. Love is always giving, always seeking to bless the other person; it is self-centered lust and greed that wants to take.

- d. Because the self-giving, overflowing love of Father, Son, and Spirit is the source of all creation and redemption, a self-centered life is actually undoing itself and dying! Life is found in overflowing into blessing others!
- e. This is why when we are brought into a relationship with God, the natural result should be to let blessing flow through us to others!
- f. Through your relationship with God, you are blessed - so let that overflow into blessing others!

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit.  
<sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

### C. Communion - our Trinitarian communal meal

1. Here, we are reminded of our Trinitarian salvation
2. Here, we are reminded of our need for one another
3. Come, confessing sin and need for salvation
4. Come as part of the community of faith
5. Nicene creed
6. Our communion meal

### We Believe - In the Trinity

Deuteronomy 6:4 1 Corinthians 12:4-6

November 2, 2025

Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

Teaching keywords: Trinity; Word of God; Christian life; unity; Tradition and Traditionalism

May 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

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.  
 Deuteronomy 6:4