

THE TRINITY

INTRODUCTION

The most fascinating truth about God is the mystery of His Trinity. With our finite¹ minds, we cannot understand the Infinite God, one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.² The mystery of His Triune Being is revealed in undeniable clarity throughout the written Word: the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. There isn't anything in the physical universe that can adequately illustrate the Trinity.

“The infinite Godhead invites us into Himself to share in all the intimacies of the Trinity. And Christ is the way in.” The Attributes of God – A. W. Tozer

The Godhead is made up of three Persons who possess the same attributes of personality. Though they are One, they interact with each other as individual Persons. For example, the Father speaks to Jesus His Begotten Son, *You are My Son, today I have begotten You* (Hebrews 1:5). The Father refers to the Son as God, *But to the Son He says, 'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever'* (Hebrews 1:8). The Son refers to Himself as the Father, *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as interacting with the Father and Himself, *But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me* (John 15:26).

THEME SCRIPTURE

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My [Jesus] name, He [Holy Spirit] will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I [Jesus] said to you. (John 14:26).

¹ finite: having definable limits; restricted, not infinite; having a limited nature or existence.

² Holy Spirit: one of the three divine Persons in the Godhead.

SECTION I – Definitions

1. What do you think *trinity* means? _____

Dictionary Definition

Trinity of Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit as three Persons in one Godhead, according to Christian dogma. A group of three closely related persons or things.

Biblical Definitions

The word *Trinity* or Tri-unity is not found in the Bible; however, the Word of God clearly teaches that God is three Persons in One.

The Hebrew for the singular form of God is *El*. *Elohim*³ is the plural form, which means gods, more than one God in One. The plural name for God, *Elohim* is used in Genesis 1:1, *In the beginning God* [*Elohim*], as well as in over 2,500 other references in the Old Testament.

The New Testament from Matthew to Revelation portrays God, *Elohim*, as a trinity, consistently naming the three Persons of the Godhead and their functions separately as well as together as One.

Scripture Descriptions

2. READ the following Scriptures that declare God's trinity. UNDERLINE a word, phrase, or sentence that state that one or more of the Persons of the Godhead was present at *creation*.

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God* [*Elohim*] *created the heavens and the earth.*

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth* [in the beginning] *was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

Genesis 1:26a *Then God said* [at creation], *'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness*

Proverbs 30:4 *Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?*

³ *Elohim* - Hebrew *gods* supreme God: the plural for the singular name for God which is *El*. Therefore, the plurality of God is shown in Genesis 1:1 through the use of the word *Elohim*. The Spirit of God in Genesis 1:2 and the Son of God in John 1:1-4, 14 were present at creation.

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word⁴ [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

Hebrews 1:1-3 *God,⁵ who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His Person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on High.*

3. What did you learn about God’s Trinity from these Scriptures? _____

PERSONAL

How has what you have learned impacted your life? _____

SECTION II – The Presence of the Trinity at Jesus’ Baptism

The Trinity is clearly portrayed throughout the Scriptures: at creation, the birth and temptation of Christ and as you will learn in this lesson, at the baptism of Jesus.

READ Matthew Chapter 3.

John the Baptist and His Message

⁴ Word: And the Word became flesh [Jesus], and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

⁵ God - Greek *theos* deity: the Supreme Divinity.

1. What was John the Baptist doing in the wilderness (Matthew 3:1, 2; see also Mark 1:4; Luke 3:2, 3)?

What was his message? _____

2. Who sent John? What was John's purpose (John 1:6, 7)? _____

3. What words or phrases did the prophets use to describe John the Baptist (Matthew 3:3; see also Mark 1:2, 3; Luke 3:4-6)?

What did the prophets declare would be John the Baptist's message? _____

LOOK DEEPER

How do the following individuals/groups describe John the Baptist?

Zachariah the Priest

Luke 1:76 _____

The Disciples of John the Baptist and the Jews

John 3:22-26 _____

Christ

Matthew 11:7-14 _____

John 5:33-35 _____

John the Baptist

John 3:27-30 _____

What was John's message about the three Persons of the Trinity (John 3:34-36)? _____

4. DESCRIBE John the Baptist at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:4-7; see also Mark 1:5, 6; John 1:19-28)?

Who came out to see John the Baptist and why? _____

5. What was John the Baptist's message to the Pharisees⁶ and Sadducees⁷ (Matthew 3:7-10)? _____

John Announces the Christ

1. What did the people question in their hearts about John the Baptist (Luke 3:15)? _____

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2. John the Baptist exhorted the multitudes to be baptized⁹ with water unto repentance. What did he teach about two of the Persons of the Trinity: Christ and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11; see also Mark 1:7, 8; Luke 3:16; John 1:26, 27)?

John Baptizes Jesus

READ Matthew 3:13-15.

1. Why did Jesus come from Galilee to John (Matthew 3:13; see also Mark 1:9)? _____

⁶ Pharisees: conservative members of an ancient legalistic Jewish sect distinguished by strict observance of the written Law of Moses and their own added traditions. They were exposed by Jesus to be self-righteous and hypocritical.

⁷ Sadducees: a member of a Jewish sect or party of the time of Jesus that denied the resurrection of the dead, the existence of spirits and the obligation of oral tradition emphasizing acceptance of the written Law alone.

⁸ Christ – Greek *christos* : anointed, ie. the Messiah.

⁹ baptized – Greek *baptymos* to dip or immerse: immersion of a believer in water as a sign of his identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

3. What profound revelation did John make when he saw Jesus coming toward him (John 1:29-31)? _____

4. Why did John not want to baptize Jesus (Matthew 3:14, 15)? _____

Why did Jesus say it was necessary? _____

The Trinity Revealed

READ Matthew 3:16, 17.

1. How were the three Persons of the Trinity revealed at the baptism of Christ (Matthew 3:16, 17; see also Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21, 22)?

2. How did God the Father reveal to John the Baptist how he would recognize Jesus (John 1:32, 33)?

3. What other bold declaration did John the Baptist bear witness to (John 1:34)? _____

PERSONAL

What can you testify about the Son of God? _____

How has the Holy Spirit revealed Himself in your life? _____

SECTION III – Scriptural References of God’s Trinity

1. LOOK UP the following Scriptures which reveal the Trinity of God. FILL IN the blanks with the correct Person of the Trinity.

Matthew 28:19 [Jesus said] *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____ .*

Luke 1:31, 35 *And behold, you [Mary] will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name _____ . And the angel answered and said to her, ‘the _____ will come upon you, and the power of the _____ will overshadow you; therefore, also, that _____ who is to be born will be called the _____ .*

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the _____ , and the _____ was with _____ , and the _____ was _____ .*

John 15:26 [Jesus said] *But when the _____ comes, whom _____ shall send to you from the _____, the _____ of Truth who proceeds from the _____, _____ will testify of _____.*

II Cor. 13:14 *The grace of the _____, _____, _____, and the love of _____, and the communion of the _____ be with you all. Amen.*

I Peter 1:2 *elect according to the foreknowledge of _____ the _____, in sanctification of the _____, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of _____: Grace to you, and peace be multiplied.*

I John 5:7 *For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the _____, the _____, and the _____; and these three are _____.*

Jude 20, 21 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the _____, keep yourselves in the love of _____, looking for the mercy of our _____ unto eternal life.*

PERSONAL

What did God show you about Himself as you read these Scriptures? _____

How has the study of the Trinity of God impacted your life? _____

THEME SCRIPTURE

WRITE the THEME SCRIPTURE.

(John 14:26).

*F*or through Him [the Son] we both
have access by One Spirit to the Father.

Ephesians 2:18

NOTES: _____

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Due to the holy nature of God, the first letter of all references to Him,
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