



# All About The Trinity

Dear Parents,

This sheet is intended for use as a resource for you and your children to use in studying the often misunderstood doctrine of the Trinity (the concept that there is one God existing in three Persons). This sheet provides the logical arguments and numerous Scripture references to show that the Bible does, in fact, show that our one God exists in three Persons. We suggest that you use this sheet to study the Trinity and to further teach the concept to your children.

## 1. Is God God?

This may seem like a silly question, and indeed, there can be very little dispute over the answer. Throughout the Bible, Yahweh (God's name in the Bible, sometimes rendered "Jehovah," or, "the LORD"[WITH SMALL CAPITAL LETTERS]) is clearly referred to as the Almighty God. Isaiah 44:6 is one of many, many verses to teach this.

**Isaiah 44:6** This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

This is one of the verses in Scripture which clearly points out that there is only one God, so we can confidently say that there is only one God.

## 2. Is Jesus Christ God?

This question is disputed more frequently. Some say that Jesus was simply a teacher or a prophet or a "good man," but not God. The Bible, however, clearly teaches otherwise. Here are just a few references:

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ("the Word" here refers to Jesus)

**Colossians 2:9** For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

**John 10:30** [Jesus said,] "I and the Father are one." (in the subsequent verses, the Jews wanted to stone Jesus for claiming to be God).

**John 20:28** Thomas said to [Jesus], "My Lord and my God!" (in the subsequent verses, Jesus does not dispute Thomas' claim that He was God).

**See also:** Matthew 28:9-10, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, John 8:58, Hebrews 1:3-10

## 3. Is the Holy Spirit God?

This question is also sometimes disputed. Some say that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but just an "active force" of God. The Bible, however, clearly shows that the Holy Spirit is a person and is God.

**Job 33:4** The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

**Acts 5:3-4** Then Peter said to Ananias, "how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...you have not lied to men but to God.

**Matthew 28:19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 12:31-32** And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

**See also:** 2 Corinthians 3:17, Luke 1:35, Hebrews 9:14, 1 Cor. 6:11, 6:19, 2 Peter 1:21, Job 26:13

## 4. Are there, then, three Gods, or just one?

This also creates confusion. Indeed, our finite minds cannot grasp the concept that God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all be the same God. We have seen that God the Father is God, that Jesus is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God. Yet, the Bible clearly states that there is only one God—not three.

**Isaiah 44:6** This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

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

John 5:44 [Jesus said,] "How can you believe if you accept praise from one another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes from the only God?"

**Ephesians 4:4-6** There is one body, and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all in all.

**James 2:19** You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that—and shudder.

**See also:** Isaiah 43:10, 1 Corinthians 8:4

## 5. One God in three persons? Is this possible?

Of course. The Bible shows the Trinity in several passages, and let us not forget—all things are possible with God.

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness . . ." (emphasis added)

This passage is the first passage of Scripture to suggest the concept of three in one, since us and our is used when God is speaking.

**John 14:16-17** And I (Jesus) will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth...

This passage once again shows Jesus, God the Father, and God the Holy Spirit all working together.

**Isaiah 48:12-16** Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last. My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together... I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him. I will bring him, and he will succeed in his mission. Come near me and listen to this: From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there. *And now the Sovereign Lord has sent me, with this Spirit.* (emphasis added)

This passage is one of the clearest passages in the Old Testament that points to God being three in one. In verses twelve and thirteen, God is speaking, because he calls himself the first and last, and describes how he has created the universe. As you continue reading the passage, you will see that the same person is speaking throughout the rest of the passage. So, in verse sixteen, "me" seems to be referring to Jesus, the Son, whom God the Father, or the Sovereign Lord, has sent with God the Holy Spirit.

**Mark 10:27** Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

**See also:** 1 Peter 1:2, Ephesians 4:4-6, John 14:26 and 15:26, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Hebrews 1:2, Matthew 3:16-17, John 14:16-17, Romans 15:30, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

## 6. If God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God, why does one submit to another?

Although all three persons of the Trinity are the same God, and therefore equal in power, deity and importance, there is a structure that has been established. The Holy Spirit voluntarily submits to Jesus the Son, who voluntarily submits to God the Father. This is similar to the structure of a family, where a child submits to his mother, who submits to her husband. All three are equally human, but they each have different roles within the family.

## 7. Do I have to be able to understand the Trinity?

Of course not. There are many things about God that none of us can understand. He is all-powerful, eternal, and ever-present. None of this is comprehensible by our minds, but the Bible shows all of it to be true, just as God's Word shows the Trinity to be a true concept. Reality does not depend upon our understanding. Things are as they are, whether we can understand them or not. Indeed, we are told in God's Word that we cannot understand God. Fortunately, our salvation is not dependant upon our understanding, but on our faith.

**Isaiah 40:13** Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?

**Isaiah 55:8-9** For my thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.