

THE TRINITY

“Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19

Few doctrines are more central to Christianity than the doctrine of the Trinity. The Bible teaches that there is only one God, yet this one God eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Christians do not worship three gods, nor do we believe that one divine person merely appears in three different forms. Rather, the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, while the Father, Son, and Spirit remain personally distinct from one another.

Although the word Trinity does not appear in Scripture, the truth behind the doctrine is woven throughout the Bible. Scripture repeatedly affirms that God is one: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). At the same time, the Father is identified as God, Jesus Christ is identified as fully divine, and the Holy Spirit is also spoken of as divine. Jesus is called “the Word” who “was God” (John 1:1), and Thomas worshipfully confessed to him, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). Likewise, Acts 5:3–4 speaks of lying to the Holy Spirit as lying to God.

The Bible also regularly places Father, Son, and Holy Spirit together in ways that show both equality and distinction. Jesus commanded baptism “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Paul closed 2 Corinthians with a blessing invoking “the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit” (2 Corinthians 13:14). These passages do not explain the Trinity philosophically, but they reveal the pattern from which the doctrine arises.

The Trinity stretches beyond human comprehension, yet it is not irrational or contradictory. God is one in essence and three in person. The church has historically used careful language to guard these biblical truths and avoid errors that either divide God into three beings or collapse the persons into one.

For everyday faith, the doctrine of the Trinity reminds us that God is eternally relational, loving, and complete within himself. The Father sends the Son, the Son accomplishes redemption, and the Spirit applies God’s work to believers. Our salvation, worship, prayer, and fellowship with God are thoroughly Trinitarian realities. Far from being an abstract doctrine for scholars alone, the Trinity stands at the very heart of Christian faith and devotion.

Why do you think the doctrine of the Trinity is essential for understanding Christianity rightly?