

## **What is the Trinity?**

For most of us it is a mystery.

**What relationship does the Holy Spirit have with the Father and the Son in the Godhead?**

# **UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY**

The Trinity is the foundational Christian belief that God is one Being who exists in three Persons.

*Job 11:7-8 "Can you fathom the depths of God or discover the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens - what can you do?"*

*Isaiah 55:9 "For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*

**If we were to fully understand God - we would be like God!**

*"If God was small enough for my brain to fully understand, He wouldn't be big enough to save me!"*

## **1. The Trinity Defined**

**One God and One only:**

- God exists in three Persons
- The Trinity is Equal and Eternal

- Trinity means 'Three in One'

The Godhead: God the Father  
God the Son  
God the Holy Spirit

## 2. The Trinity Explained

### What we don't mean:

- We do not believe in three Gods
- We do not believe in three 'forms' of God
- We do not believe that each is a 'part' of 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,

*2 Corinthians 13:1.* May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### Taught in Old and New Testament

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

*1 Corinthians 8:4* 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."

*1 Timothy 2:5* For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus,

**Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” <sup>27</sup> So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

**Isaiah 48:16** 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, endowed with his Spirit.

**Galatians 1:1** Paul, an apostle - sent not from men nor by a man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead.

**John 20:28** Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

**Acts 5:3-4** Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? <sup>4</sup> Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

**1 Peter 1:2** who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

### **3. The trinity Explained**

#### **Where do we find the Trinity in the Bible?**

- The word 'Trinity' is not in the bible
- The concept is certainly in scripture...
- It is not about the 'word' it is about the 'concept' or 'truth'.

#### **Is there another word we could use?**

- Triune God – means the same
- How can we illustrate the Trinity?  
EG: H<sub>2</sub>O – Ice – Water – Steam –

### **4. The Trinity Applied**

#### **The Trinity helps us answer the question:**

- “What was God doing before he created the universe?”

#### **God enjoyed fellowship:**

- The Trinity teaches us that before the foundation of the world, God was having fellowship within his own being.

*John 17:24* Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have forever communicated and loved each other

### **Limits are set:**

- The Trinity sets the limits on human speculation about the nature of God
- God is more than the Trinity, but he is not less than the Trinity

### **God is beyond comprehension:**

- The Trinity teaches us that God is beyond all human comprehension.
- The greatest minds of history have stood in amazement before a God so great that he cannot be contained by our puny explanations
- The Trinity exalts the Son and the Spirit.

### **What happened on the cross:**

- The Trinity helps us understand what really happened at the Cross

*Matthew 27:46* About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli<sup>1</sup> lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”)

Instead of “Father,” Jesus cries out, “My God, my God!”

***2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

*“If you try to explain the Trinity, you will lose your mind. But if you deny it, you will lose your soul.”*

***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,*

***2 Corinthians 13:14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

Indeed, it is a mystery, and with all the saints we bend the knee in worship before our great God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.