

WHAT **THE BIBLE** SAYS ABOUT...

THE TRINITY



TRINITY

The coexistence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the unity of the Godhead (divine nature or essence). The doctrine of the trinity means that within the being and activity of the one God there are three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Nelson's Bible Dictionary*

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ONE GOD

Deuteronomy 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

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THE FATHER

Deuteronomy 32:6

Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

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JESUS THE SON

John 1:1, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 5:3–4, 9

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

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OLD TESTAMENT

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OLD TESTAMENT

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One = echad: diversity within unity

Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

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OLD TESTAMENT

While it is true that this doctrine is foreshadowed in the OT, the verse concentrates on the fact that there is one God and that Israel owes its exclusive loyalty to him. *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*

Deuteronomy 6:4 NLT

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God,
the Lord alone.

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OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

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NEW TESTAMENT

Luke 1:35

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”

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NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 1:10–11

And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

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NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew 28:19

**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit**

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NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 2:32–33

This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

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NEW TESTAMENT

1 Corinthians 12:4–6

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
There are differences of ministries, but the same
Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is
the same God who works all in all.

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NEW TESTAMENT

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

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NEW TESTAMENT

Ephesians 4:4–6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

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NEW TESTAMENT

1 Peter 1:2

elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be multiplied.

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EARLY CHURCH

Augustine readily admits that humanity must ultimately regard any exploration of the Trinity as being handicapped by insufficient language and, when necessary, be content to rest in what has been revealed of divine mystery *(Augustine, De Trinitate 5)*.

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EARLY CHURCH HERESIES

Modalism, pictured only one divine Person who acted successively as creator, redeemer, and sanctifier.

At times God appears as Father, at times as Son, at times as the Spirit. Originating with Sabellius in the 3rd century.

Arianism (Arius 325), the Son and the Holy Spirit were willed into existence by the Father and were therefore not eternal, nor equal, but created.

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EARLY CHURCH CREEDS

We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. *Athanasian Creed*

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The most distinctive characteristic of the persons of the triune family is their selfless love for one another. Each esteems and defers to the other in a way that makes the original family of the trinity a model for the Christian family of believers in the church. *Nelson's*

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