

BASICS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

MADE EASY



What Is The Trinity?

The Bible teaches that . . .

God is spirit. This means his essential nature is immaterial or nonphysical (John 4:24).

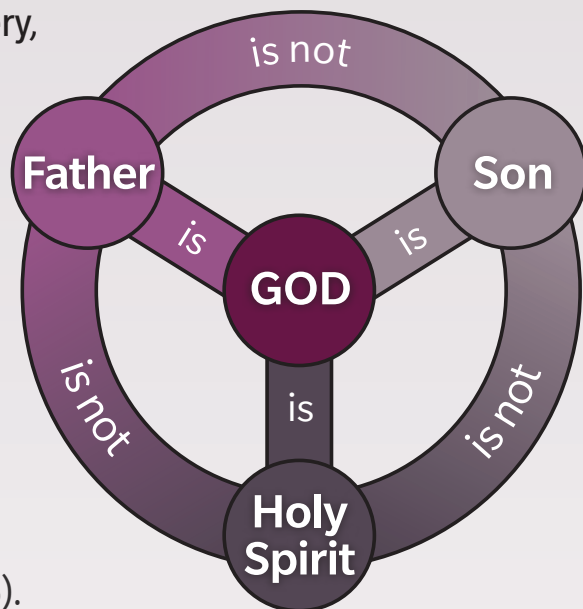
God is one. This means that there aren't multiple gods and that God's nature or essence is perfect unity (Deut. 6:4).

The one and only God exists as three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. God is triune in nature. He is one, yet three.

This is what people mean when they speak of *the Trinity*. For our finite minds, this "three-in-oneness" is an impossible-to-comprehend mystery, but the Bible reveals God as a Trinity of divine Persons existing in perfect unity (Matt. 3:16).

Each person in the Trinity is fully God—and yet not to be confused with the other persons of the Trinity.

- ◆ The Father is God (1 Cor. 8:6).
- ◆ The Son, Jesus Christ, is God (John 1:18).
- ◆ The Holy Spirit is God (Matt. 28:19).



The following chart provides biblical support for the divinity of each person in the Trinity:

DIVINE ATTRIBUTES	FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
Eternal	✓ Rom. 16:26, 27	✓ Rev. 1:17	✓ Heb. 9:14
Creator of all things	✓ Ps. 100:3	✓ Col. 1:16	✓ Ps. 104:30
Omnipresent (in all places at once)	✓ Jer. 23:24	✓ Eph. 1:23	✓ Ps. 139:7
Omniscient (knows all things)	✓ 1 John 3:20	✓ John 21:17	✓ 1 Cor. 2:10
Wills and acts supernaturally	✓ Eph. 1:5	✓ Matt. 8:3	✓ 1 Cor. 12:11
Gives life	✓ Gen. 1:11-31	✓ John 1:4	✓ Rom. 8:10, 11
Strengthens believers	✓ Ps. 138:3	✓ Phil. 4:13	✓ Eph. 3:16



Transcendent and Infinite

God is *transcendent* and *infinite*. *Transcendent* means that he's beyond the universe and beyond human intelligence and imagination, meaning also that there are natural limits on how far our understanding of God can go. It also means that God is outside the universe and is only accessible because he reaches out to people first. God is also beyond understanding because he is *infinite*. This means that God is above our standards—he's not only wise and gracious; no one is wiser or more gracious than he is. It also means that God has no limits because he is beyond limits (1 Kings 8:27; Ps. 145:3).



Eternal and Creator

While being *infinite* refers to limits, being *eternal* refers to time. Christians point to Revelation 1:8 as one source that teaches God does not have a beginning or an end: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty” (see also Deut. 33:27; Jude 25). Before all things were, God already existed. Since God is eternal—he existed before anything else—it also means that he is *creator*. No one created God, but he created all things. God's existence doesn't depend on anything; he is free from obligation.



Omnipresent

As *eternal* and *infinite*, Christians also believe that God is not limited by space. God is *omnipresent*—present everywhere and in all moments of life. God is always accessible because he is always present. People can't hide from God or escape his rule over our lives. There is nowhere to run away from God; his love finds us everywhere: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Josh. 1:5; see also Ps. 33:13).



Immutable

Since God is *eternal*, *infinite*, and *omnipresent*, Christians deem him as *immutable*—God doesn't change (Mal. 3:6; James 1:17). He will never become evil, or weak, or hateful, or cruel. God's attributes, essence, and nature will always be consistent and unchanged. His nature is reliable and trustworthy. These incommunicable attributes move Christians to worship God as awesome and glorious, pointing out that although he is so far away from any of our common experience, he still reaches out and desires to relate to us in personal, intimate ways.

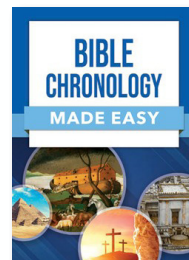


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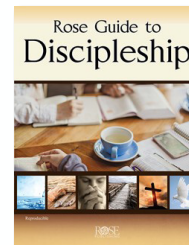


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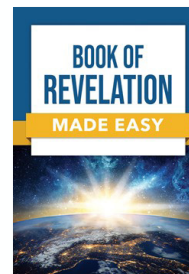


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