

**Holy**

**Omnipotent**

**Wise**

**Good**

**Omnipresent**

**Merciful**

**Wrathful**

**Omniscient**

**Perfect**

**Freedom**

**Infinite**

**Just/Righteous**

**Independent**

**Grace**

**Loving**

**Truthful**

**Patient**

**Jealous**

**Personal**

**Peace**

**Unchangeable**

**Eternal**

**Glorious**

Holy

Omnipotent

Wise

Good

*If we understood only those attributes, we would not rightly understand God at all, for we would not understand that God, in His very being, has always existed as more than one person. In fact, God exists as three persons, yet He is one God.*

*(Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology)*

Personal

Eternal

Glorious

Unchangeable

# Question 7

Explain the doctrine of the **Trinity** and provide its biblical basis.

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- Definition; Revealed in Old Testament and New Testament
- Three Basic Tenets (with biblical basis)

If we have time ...

- Heresies
- Use of Analogies
- Why is This Important?
- Distinctions Between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

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Doctrine of the Trinity:

God **eternally exists as three persons** – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – and **each person is fully God**, and **there is one God**.

Trinity: “*tri-unity*”, or “*three-in-oneness*”

The word *trinity* is never used in the Bible, but the idea represented by the word is taught in many places throughout Scripture.

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Progressively revealed in the **Old Testament**:

- Genesis 1:26a
- Genesis 3:22a
- Genesis 11:7a
- Isaiah 6:8a
- Psalm 110:1
- Psalm 45:6-7
- Isaiah 63:10
- Isaiah 61:1
- Malachi 3:1-2
- Hosea 1:7
- Isaiah 48:16
- Gen. 16:13; Ex. 3:2-6; 23:20-22; Num. 22:35, 38; Judg. 2:1-2; 6:11, 14; Prov. 8:22-31

All of these references suggest the idea of **multiple, distinct personhoods**; a plurality of persons.

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A more complete revelation in the **New Testament**:

- Matthew 3:16-17
- Matthew 28:19
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Ephesians 4:4-6
- 1 Peter 1:2
- Jude 20-21

With the birth/incarnation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, one would expect that this great event would be accompanied by more explicit teaching about the **trinitarian nature of God**. And that's exactly what we find!

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In one sense, the doctrine of the Trinity is a **mystery** that we will never be able to fully understand. However, we **can understand** something of its truth by summarizing the teaching of Scripture in these **three basic statements/tenets**:

- 1. God is Three Distinct Persons**
- 2. Each Person is Fully God**
- 3. There is One God**



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Explain the doctrine of the **Trinity** and provide its biblical basis.

## 1. God is Three Distinct Persons

- The **Father** is not the **Son**, they are distinct persons.
- The **Father** is not the **Holy Spirit**, they are distinct persons.
- The **Son** is not the **Holy Spirit**, they are distinct persons.

These distinctions are seen in many of the passages we've already read.

Here are some more examples:

- John 1:1-2
- John 17:24
- 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25
- John 14:26
- Romans 8:27
- Matthew 28:19
- John 16:7

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Explain the doctrine of the **Trinity** and provide its biblical basis.

## 2. Each Person is Fully God

- God the **Father** is fully God
- God the **Son** is fully God
  - John 1:1-4
  - John 20:24-29
  - Hebrews 1:3a
  - Hebrews 1:8
  - Hebrews 1:10
  - Titus 2:13
  - 2 Peter 1:1
  - Romans 9:5
  - Isaiah 9:6
  - Isaiah 40:3
  - Matthew 3:3
  - Colossians 2:9

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Explain the doctrine of the **Trinity** and provide its biblical basis.

## 2. Each Person is Fully God (continued)

- God the **Holy Spirit** is fully God

Note: Once we understand **God the Father** and **God the Son** each to be **fully God**, then the trinitarian expressions in verses like Matthew 28:19 assume significance for the doctrine of the **Holy Spirit**, because they show that the Holy Spirit is classified on an **equal level with the Father and Son**.

- Other trinitarian verses previously mentioned  
(1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:2; Jude 20-21)
- Acts 5:3-4
- 1 Corinthians 3:16
- Psalm 139:7-8
- 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

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## 3. There is One God

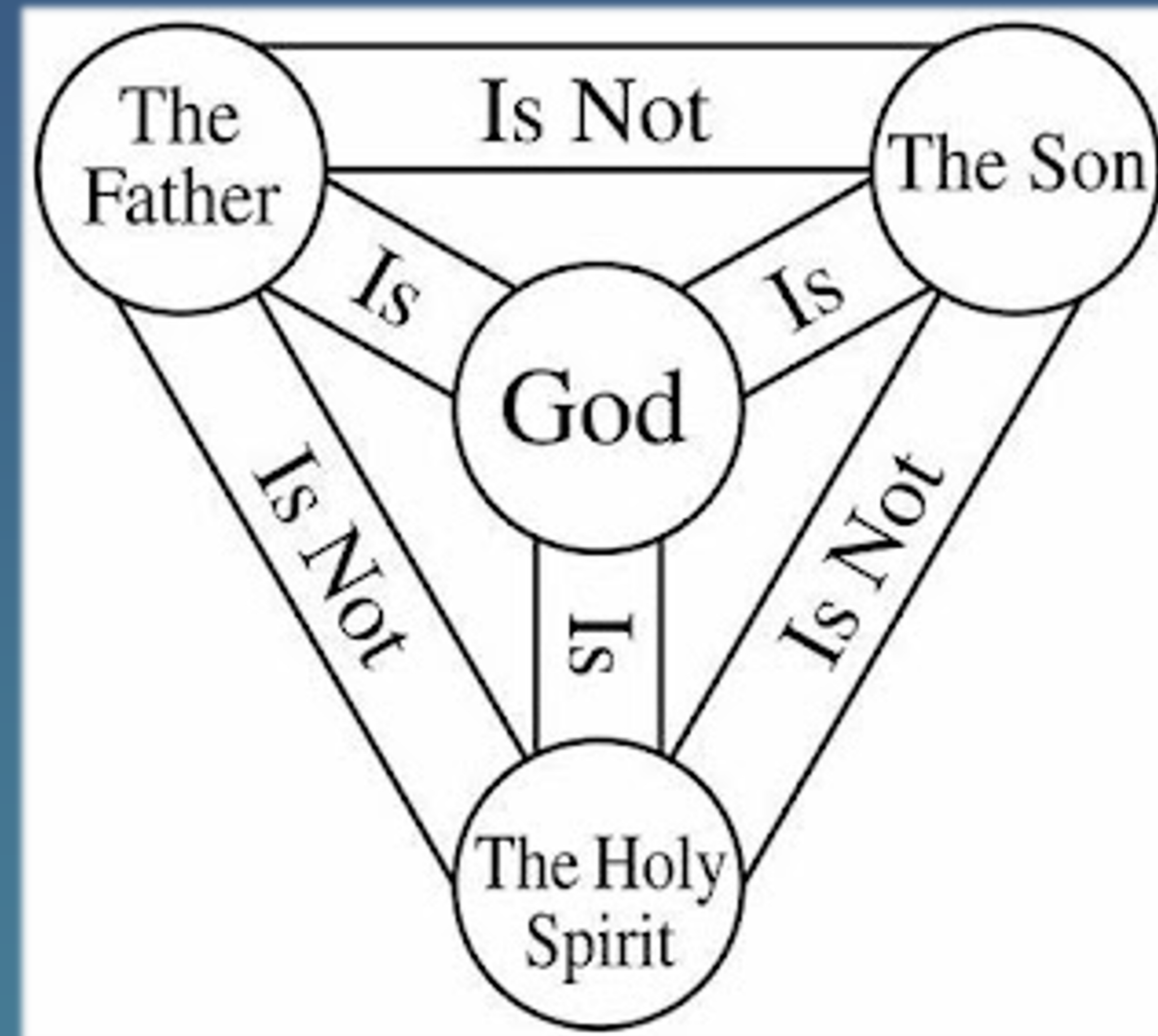
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- Exodus 15:11
- 1 Kings 8:60
- Isaiah 45:5-6, 21-22
- 1 Timothy 2:5
- Romans 3:30a
- 1 Corinthians 8:6a
- James 2:19

Scripture is abundantly clear that there is **one and only one God**. The three different persons of the Trinity are one not only in purpose and in agreement on what they think, but they are **one in essence, one in their essential nature**. In other words, God is only one being. There are not three Gods. There is only one God.

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Explain the doctrine of the **Trinity** and provide its biblical basis.

1. God is Three Distinct Persons
2. Each Person is Fully God
3. There is One God



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## References:

- Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine*
- John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth*
- John M. Frame, *Systematic Theology, An Introduction to Christian Belief*

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