

"I could wish that they were buried, if only this faith were universally agreed upon: that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God, yet the Son is not the Father, nor the Spirit the Son..."

JOHN CALVIN, ON THE WORD "TRINITY"

WHO IS THE TRINITY?

God Is One. God Is Three.

God Is One

"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one."

DEUTERONOMY 6:4

God Is Three

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

MATTHEW 28:19

WHO IS THE TRINITY?

God is three in one?

God is three persons in one being.

Not three Gods in one God. Not three persons in one person. Not three beings in one being.

— FRED SANDERS

WHO IS THE TRINITY?

God is one in **being** — essence,
substance, nature — and three in **person**.

WHO IS THE TRINITY?

Being and Person

Being

What makes you what you are.

Person

What makes you who you are.

WE KNOW GOD, BUT NOT THE WAY GOD KNOWS GOD

Archetypal theology (original) is God's own perfect knowledge of himself. **Ectypal** theology (copy) is what he communicates to us, by grace, for his own glory.

Only God knows God perfectly. We know God relatively, as creatures — but truly.

— FRANCISCUS JUNIUS

*"Our words cannot do any better
than this."*

GILLES EMERY

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed."

DANIEL 7:13-14

DELIGHT — OUR DELIGHT IN GOD, HIS DELIGHT IN US

"that my joy may be in you, and that
your joy may be full"

John 15:11

DELIGHT — OUR DELIGHT IN GOD, HIS DELIGHT IN US

"I saw more clearly than ever that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was, to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished..."

GEORGE MUELLER, JOURNAL, MAY 7, 1841

Delight in God

Psalms 16:11

*"in your
presence
there is
fullness of
joy"*

Psalms 37:4

*"Delight
yourself in
the LORD"*

Job 22:26

*"you will
delight
yourself in
the
Almighty"*

Job 27:10

*"Will he take
delight in the
Almighty?"*

Isaiah 58:14

*"then you
shall take
delight in the
LORD"*

Psalms 43:4

*"to God my
exceeding
joy"*

John 15:11

*"that my joy
may be in
you, and that
your joy may
be full"*

Joy and Rejoicing in God

not just circumstances

Habakkuk 3:17–18

"Yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation"

Psalms 5:11

"let those who love your name exult in you"

Psalms 35:9

"my soul will exult in the LORD, exulting in his salvation"

Isaiah 61:10

"I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God"

Nehemiah 8:10

"the joy of the LORD is your strength"

Pleasure, Taste, and Satisfaction in God

Psalm 34:8

*"Oh, taste and see
that the LORD is
good!"*

Psalm 63:3–5

*"your steadfast
love is better than
life... my soul will
be satisfied as
with fat and rich
food"*

Psalm 73:25–26

*"Whom have I in
heaven but you?
There is nothing
on earth I desire
besides you"*

Psalm 84:1–2, 10

*"How lovely is
your dwelling
place... a day in
your courts is
better than a
thousand
elsewhere"*

Psalm 16:5–6

*"The LORD is my
chosen portion
and my cup... the
lines have fallen
for me in pleasant
places"*

Jeremiah 15:16

*"your words
became to me a
joy and the
delight of my
heart"*

Gladness in Worship and God's Presence

Psalm 100:2

*"Serve the LORD
with gladness!
Come into his
presence with
singing!"*

Psalm 122:1

*"I was glad when
they said to me,
'Let us go to the
house of the
LORD!'"*

Psalm 118:24

*"This is the day
that the LORD has
made; let us rejoice
and be glad in it"*

Psalm 90:14

*"Satisfy us in the
morning with your
steadfast love, that
we may rejoice and
be glad all our
days"*

Psalm 4:7

*"You have put more
joy in my heart
than they have
when their grain
and wine abound"*

Happy in God — and God Delighted in Us

HAPPY / BLESSED IN GOD

Psalms 144:15

"Happy are the people whose God is the LORD!"

Deuteronomy 33:29

"Happy are you, O Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the LORD"

Psalms 1:1-2

"Blessed is the man... his delight is in the law of the LORD"

GOD DELIGHTS IN US

Zephaniah 3:17

"he will rejoice over you with gladness... he will exult over you with loud singing"

Psalms 149:4

"the LORD takes pleasure in his people"

Isaiah 62:5

"as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you"

Appetites, Passions, Affections

Appetites

Natural drives. Hunger, and the drive to eat.

Passions

Surges of feeling: rage, terror, lust. Things to be controlled. Closest to what we'd now call emotion.

Affections

Settled, deliberate inclinations of the soul. Carry real moral weight, right or wrong directions of desire.

AFFECTIONS FOR THE TRIUNE GOD

A Simple Contrast for the Room

Affections	Emotions / Passions
Rooted in what you believe true	Can float free of belief
Settled, lasting	Fleeting, reactive
Move the will, produce action	Often don't
Whole person: mind, will, heart	Often just the surface

AFFECTIONS FOR THE TRIUNE GOD

Delighting in God isn't manufacturing a feeling on command.

It's having your deepest affections rightly ordered toward the one actually worthy of them.

That can involve strong feeling but isn't reducible to it, and it can be cultivated even on days the feeling is faint.

GROWING IN AFFECTION FOR GOD

More Informed

Affections arise from truth grasped. Growth means knowing the Trinity more clearly.

GROWING IN AFFECTION FOR GOD

More Settled

Passions spike and fade. Affections, rightly formed, become more constant, less dependent on mood or circumstance. Mueller's daily discipline: re-orienting mind, heart, and will toward what's true, trusting the delight follows.

GROWING IN AFFECTION FOR GOD

More Active

Real affections move the will. Growth shows up in what a person does, how they worship, how they treat others, what they turn to when afraid, not just what they feel.

Growing delight in the Trinity is not feeling more. It's knowing him more clearly, resting in him more steadily, and living from him more fully, all three deepening together, over years, not moments.

FRED SANDERS

"The first kind of believer hears the word Trinity, nods in assent, and immediately asks, 'Wait, but why does this matter?' The doctrine is to them an itch, not a scratch. They are vulnerable to any cheesy explanation, application, or analogy that comes along, and gullible toward whatever far-fetched fads or fancies are offered on this week's episode, as long as it is brought to them by the number three."

FRED SANDERS

"But the second kind of believer hears the word Trinity and is aware... they have just received a signal about the great open secret of the glory of God and the depth of salvation. For this kind of Christian, any hint of the Trinity is evocative: it strikes a chord and resonates. 'Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls,' said the Psalmist (Ps 42:7), and this kind of Christian is stirred to the depths by the deep things of God."

FRED SANDERS

"What these Christians instinctively do, without necessarily working out all the theological details, is associate the Trinity with the gospel. That associative move is the whole trick: Trinity and gospel belong together, and anyone whose habit of mind is trained to keep them close together is constantly in touch with the deep grounding of the Christian spiritual life."

FRED SANDERS

"If you hear the word Trinity and immediately think, 'Ah yes, the Father sent the Son and the Holy Spirit to save sinners,' then you have learned the Christian habit of linking Trinity and gospel (Galatians 4:4–6). If the word makes your heart respond, 'Ah yes, the Son's grace, the Father's love, and the Spirit's fellowship,' then you are practicing that same habit (2 Corinthians 13:14). If you hear the word and think 'Ah yes, through Christ hostile groups lay down their enmity and have access in one Spirit to the Father,' then you get it (Ephesians 2:18)."