

DELIGHTING IN THE TRINITY · SESSION 2

Does the Bible Teach the Trinity?

And why it matters

Who says no? Revealed, or invented?

Who	What they say
Jehovah's Witnesses	Father alone is God; Son created; Spirit a force
Latter-day Saints	Many gods; three separate gods
Islam	God is one and has no Son
Popular culture	“Constantine invented it at Nicaea”
Some RC apologists	The Bible alone doesn't get you there

“Good and necessary consequence” (WCF 1.6)

What the Bible teaches

- 1 There is one God**
 - 2 Father, Son and Spirit are each fully God**
 - 3 Father, Son and Spirit are not the same as each other**
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- 4 The Persons of God are distinct but undivided**

Deuteronomy 6:4–5

CLAIM 1 · ONE GOD · ESV

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

John 1:1–3

CLAIM 2 · THE SON · ESV

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

The Shema, widened

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

CLAIM 2 · THE SON · ESV

1 Corinthians 8:6

“yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

Every knee

Isaiah 45:23

“By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: ‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’”

CLAIM 2 · THE SON · ESV

Philippians 2:10–11

“so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Acts 5:3–4

CLAIM 2 · THE SPIRIT · ESV

“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.’”

Exodus 3:2 ... 14–15

DISTINCT, ONE NAME · ESV

“And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. ... God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ ... ‘This is my name forever.’”

Matthew 28:19

CLAIM 3 · DISTINCT · ESV

“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.”

Keep all of it

- 1 There is one God**
- 2 Father, Son and Spirit are each fully God**
- 3 Father, Son and Spirit are not the same as each other**
- 4 The Persons of God are distinct but undivided**

If you lose one, you lose the Christian Doctrine of God.

Galatians 4:4–6

REVEALED IN THE GOSPEL · ESV

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”

“The Christian mind remains unsatisfied until all of existence is referred back to the triune God, and until the confession of God’s Trinity functions at the center of our thought and life.”

Herman Bavinck, Reformed Dogmatics, vol. 2

Every day

2 Corinthians 13:14

Am I loved?

The love of the Father

Am I forgiven?

The grace of the Son

Am I alone?

The fellowship of the Spirit

What does the Trinity say to a self-centred heart?

God delights in God: Father, Son and Spirit in eternal love.

John 17:24

You are invited into that delight. Glorify God, not self.

John 15:11 · WSC 1

Love like God loves: as God loves God, and as God loves you.

John 15:9, 12

Can we pray to all three? Yes.

To	Scripture
The Father	Matthew 6:9 · Ephesians 3:14
The Son	Acts 7:59 · 1 Cor 1:2 · Rev 22:20
The Spirit	Acts 5:3–4 · 2 Cor 13:14

Whoever you address, you speak to the one God.

“No sooner do I conceive of the One than I am illumined by the splendour of the Three; no sooner do I distinguish them than I am carried back to the One.”

Gregory of Nazianzus

To the Father

Through the Son

By the Spirit

Next week: getting it wrong. Heresies, and why the clover, the egg and water-ice-steam fall short.

Pray tonight

Father, thank you that we are not orphans. Teach us to cry “Abba, Father” and trust you to answer.

Lord Jesus, turn our hearts from being curved in on ourselves to you and to others. Remake us into people who love others.

Holy Spirit, stir our hearts with delight in the Father and the Son. Pour God’s love into our hearts and point us to Jesus.