

Belief #2 **The Trinity**

We believe in one God who eternally exists in three distinct persons — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — each fully God, equal in nature, yet distinct in role and relationship.

Reason 1 The Great Commission names all three persons together

Jesus commanded his disciples to baptize “in the name” (singular) of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — uniting all three in one divine name, a foundational Trinitarian formula.

Matthew 28:19

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

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 2 The baptism of Jesus reveals all three persons at once

At Jesus' baptism, all three persons of the Trinity appeared simultaneously — the Son in the water, the Spirit descending as a dove, and the Father speaking from heaven.

Matthew 3:16–17

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'"

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 3 Paul's benediction blesses in three distinct persons

Paul closes 2 Corinthians with a Trinitarian blessing that distinguishes each person by a unique attribute — grace (the Son), love (the Father), and fellowship (the Holy Spirit).

2 Corinthians 13:14

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 4 The Shema affirms one God — whom the New Testament applies to all three

Israel's foundational confession is that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4). The New Testament reveals that the one God exists as Father, Son, and Spirit, each identified as fully divine.

Deuteronomy 6:4

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

New International Version (NIV)

John 10:30

"I and the Father are one."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 5 The Father, Son, and Spirit each bear the full attributes of God

Scripture attributes divine qualities to each person separately, demonstrating that each is fully God, not merely a part or a mode of God.

John 1:1–3 (the Son)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

New International Version (NIV)

Acts 5:3–4 (the Spirit)

"Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied just to human beings but to God.'"

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 6 Jesus prays to the Father, showing distinct yet unified persons

In John 17, Jesus addresses the Father in prayer while asking that believers share in their divine unity — revealing two distinct persons in genuine relationship, yet sharing one divine essence.

John 17:21

"That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

New International Version (NIV)

Reason 7 Peter's letter opens with all three persons active in salvation

Peter opens his first letter by describing salvation as a work involving all three persons — chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, and redeemed by the blood of the Son.

1 Peter 1:2

"Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

New International Version (NIV)

Summary — Belief #2

- **The Great Commission names all three persons** — Matthew 28:19 unites Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in one baptismal name.
- **The baptism of Jesus reveals all three at once** — Matthew 3:16–17 shows all three persons present simultaneously.
- **Paul's benediction blesses in three distinct persons** — 2 Corinthians 13:14 attributes unique qualities to each person.
- **The Shema plus Jesus' claim** — Deuteronomy 6:4 and John 10:30 show one God revealed in three persons.
- **Each person bears full divine attributes** — John 1:1–3 and Acts 5:3–4 confirm the Son and Spirit are fully God.
- **Jesus prays to the Father** — John 17:21 shows two distinct persons in genuine relationship.
- **Peter's letter opens with all three active in salvation** — 1 Peter 1:2 weaves Father, Son, and Spirit into the work of redemption.