

Foundations of the Christian Faith: The Trinity

1. The doctrine of the Trinity: God is one.

Exodus 32:39; 1 Samuel 2:2; Isaiah 44:6; Isaiah 45:21-22; Ephesians 4:6;
Mark 12:28-30

2. Heresies of the Trinity

Modalism denies the basic distinctiveness and co-existence of the three persons of the Trinity.

Tritheism believes that there are really three gods, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who share the same substance but are completely distinct from each other.

Arianism teaches that Jesus Christ did not co-exist with the Father before time, but rather that He was the first of all creation.

Docetism is an ancient heresy that teaches that Jesus was not fully human.

3. The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons — the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Philippians 1:2; Titus 2:13; Acts 5:3-4; John 3:17; John 14:26; Mark 1:10-11;
John 1:1-2; John 16:13-15

4. The Personhood of the Father

5. The Personhood of the Son

6. The Personhood of the Holy Spirit

John 14:26; 16:7-15; Acts 8:16; Hebrews 3:7; Acts 15:28; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; wills 1 Corinthians 12:11; feels; 2 Corinthians 13:14

7. While the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are separate from each other, they remain equal to one another. Philippians 2:6

8. Application

8a. The Trinity helps us answer the question, "What was God doing before He created the universe?" John 17:24

- 8b. The Trinity teaches us that God is beyond all human comprehension and therefore worthy of our worship. John 4:24
- 8c. The Trinity has a very significant application to prayer.
- 8d. The Trinity exalts the Son and the Spirit.
- 8e. The Trinity helps us understand the Cross. Romans 5:8; John 15:13