

## Concerning God/The Trinity

**We believe that within the One Supreme Being God, there eternally exist three co-equal and co-eternal Persons revealed to mankind as God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit otherwise known as the Trinity. We believe that God is infinite, perfect, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all loving and unchangeable.**

### One Supreme Being

As Christians we believe that there exists only one Supreme Being called God.

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|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. <b>Deuteronomy 6:4</b> | 2. <b>Isaiah 45:5-6</b> |
| 3. <b>1 Timothy 2:5</b>   | 4. <b>James 2:19</b>    |

Both Old and New Testaments teach that there exists only one God, however within this one God there are three co-eternal and co-equal Persons named God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Therefore God must be a trinity.

### Trinity

Although the word *trinity* is not found in the Bible, the concept represented by the word is taught in many places throughout Scripture. The word *trinity* means “tri-unity” or “three-in-oneness.” Even though the doctrine of the trinity is a mystery that we will never be able to fully understand, there are two major teachings found within Scripture that convince us of its reliability:

1. **Each Person is called God.**
2. **Each Person possesses attributes (characteristics) that only God has.**

### Each Person Is Called God

- |                          |                          |                               |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u><b>The Father</b></u> | <u><b>The Son</b></u>    | <u><b>The Holy Spirit</b></u> |
| 1. <b>Phil. 1:2</b>      | 1. <b>John 1:1-2, 14</b> | 1. <b>Acts 5:3-4</b>          |
| 2. <b>John 17:1-3</b>    | 2. <b>John 20:24-28</b>  | 2. <b>1 Cor. 2:10-11</b>      |

### Each Person Possesses Attributes of God

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <u><b>The Father</b></u> | <u><b>The Son</b></u>   | <u><b>The Holy Spirit</b></u> |
| 1. <b>Jer. 23:23-24</b>  | 1. <b>Matt. 8:26-27</b> | 1. <b>Ps. 139:1-10</b>        |
| <b>Omnipresence</b>      | <b>Omnipotence</b>      |                               |
| <b>Omnipresence</b>      |                         |                               |

In addition to the previously mentioned attributes of God, the following are seven key attributes that make up our statement of faith.

**Note:** The before mentioned attributes nor the core seven which follow are given in an attempt to present an exhaustive presentation due to the context of this class and chiefly as a result of the incomprehensibility of Almighty God.

### The Seven Core Attributes

**Infinite** – God is infinite in that He is not subject to any of the limitations of humanity, or of creation in general. He is infinitely greater than everything He has made.

1. 1 Kings 8:27

2. Ps. 90:2

**Perfect** – God's perfection means that God completely possess all excellent qualities and lacks no part of any qualities that would be desirable for Him.

1. Matt. 5:48

2. Deut. 32:4

**All Powerful** – The fact that God is omnipotent means that God is able to do all His holy will.

1. Gen. 17:1

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**All-Knowing** – God fully knows Himself and all things actual and possible in one single and eternal act.

1. Ps. 139:1-4

2. Ps. 147:4-5

**All-Present** – God is everywhere present with His whole being at all times.

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**Love** – God seeks the highest good of humans at his own infinite cost.

1. 1 John 4:8

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**Unchangeable** – God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and He acts and feels emotions differently in response to different situations.

1. Mal. 3:6

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BELOW IS A CHART THAT IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE, ONLY ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE TRINITY. THE TRINITY IS A BIBLICAL CONCEPT.

	GOD THE FATHER	GOD THE SON	GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT
Called God	Phil. 1:2	John 1:1,14 Col. 2:9	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Ps. 102:25	Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-17	Job 33:4; Job 26:13
Indwells	2 Corinthians 6:16	Colossians 1:27	John 14:17
Everywhere	Jer. 23:24	Matt. 18:20	Psalms 139:7-10
All Knowing	Jer. 17:10	Rev. 2:23	1 Cor. 2:11
Sanctifies	1 Thess. 5:23	Hebrews 2:11	1 Peter 1:2
Truth	John 7:28	Rev. 3:7	1 John 5:6
Eternality	Psalms 90:2	John 1:2	Heb. 9:14
All Powerful	1 Pet. 1:5	2 Cor. 12:9	Rom 15:19
Holiness	Rev. 15:4	Acts 3:14	Acts 1:8
Benevolence	Rom. 2:4	Eph. 5:25	Neh. 9:20

**Concerning the Church's Ordinances****The Mode and Meaning of Water Baptism**

The Greek word *baptismo* means “to plunge, dip or immerse” something in water. This is the mode in which baptism was carried out in the New Testament.

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|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mark 1:5-8 | 2. John 3:23 | 3. Acts 8:38-39 |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|

Within the text of Scripture the teaching of water baptism suggests the immersion in water rather than the sprinkling or pouring on of water.

As Christians we keep this ordinance because it is a command from our Lord Jesus Christ and because of the teaching and observance of His Apostles.

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|-------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Matt. 28:19-20 | 2. Acts 2:38 | 3. Rom. 6:1-11 |
|-------------------|--------------|----------------|

The pattern revealed in Scripture in several places of the New Testament is that only those who give a believable profession of faith should be baptized.

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|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| 1. Acts 2:41 | 2. Acts 10:44-48 | 3. Acts 8:12 |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|

**Baptism serves three distinct purposes within the life of a Christian:**

1. It shows affiliation and allegiance to the body of Christ.
2. It shows a cleansing and denouncement of their sin.
3. It shows repentance from dead works and renewal to a new life in Christ.

**The Symbolism of Baptism**

The baptism of the believer symbolizes the union with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection, as well as a washing and cleansing from one's sins.

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|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Rom. 6:1-11 | 2. Col. 2:11-12 | 3. Gal. 3:27 |
|----------------|-----------------|--------------|

**Prerequisites for Baptism**

1. Repentance
2. Confession
3. Evidence of a changed desire
4. Acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ
5. Understanding of the gospel message
6. A submission to God's will

**Evangel's Formula for Baptism**

Matthew 28:18-20

- Name of the Father
- Name of the Son
- Name of the Holy Spirit

**Acts 2:38**

- Name of Jesus

**Romans 6:1-7**

- Buried with Him in baptism
- To rise to the newness of life

**Holy Communion**

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion/Eucharist) was instituted by Christ Himself of the eve of His death.

1. Matt. 26:26-29                      2. Mar. 14:22-25                      3. Luke 22:19-20

**The Symbolic Meaning of Communion**

The meaning of the Lord's Supper has great significance in the Christian life. There are several things that it symbolizes and affirms in the life of the believer.

1. It symbolizes Christ's Death – When we participate in the Lord's Supper we symbolize the death of Christ through our actions, giving a picture of His death for us. When the bread is broken it symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body, and when the cup is poured out it symbolizes the pouring out of Christ's blood for us. 1 Corinthians 11:26

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Benevolence	Rom. 2:4	Eph. 5:25	Neh. 9:20

2. It symbolizes our participation in the benefits of Christ's death – As we individually reach out and take the bread & cup for ourselves, each one of us is by that action proclaiming, "I am taking the benefits of Christ's death to myself". When we do this we demonstrate the fact that we are participating in or sharing in the benefits earned for us by the death of Jesus. John 6:55-56, Matthew 26:26
3. It symbolizes the unity of the believers – When we participate in the Lord's Supper together we give a clear sign of our unity with one another. 1 Corinthians 10:17
4. It reaffirms the believer's faith in Christ – Finally when we partake of the bread and cup our action proclaims that we need and trust Jesus to forgive our sins and give life and health to our souls through the saving power of His broken body and shed blood. 1 Corinthians 11:26

#### **Prerequisites to Partake in the Lord's Supper**

1. You must have already trusted Christ for your salvation. 1 Corinthians 11:27, 33
2. You must conduct a self examination to assess your "worthiness" before you participate. 1 Corinthians 11:28-32

#### **Unworthy Partakers**

Unworthy partaker – anyone who does not satisfy the requirements to participate in the Lord's Supper, i.e. sinners and Christians with unconfessed sin in their lives.

1. Unworthy partakers of communion are guilty of the body and the blood of Christ. 1 Corinthians 11:27
2. Unworthy partakers of communion are sometimes visited with judgment. 1 Corinthians 11:30

#### **COMPARISON BETWEEN BAPTISM AND COMMUNION**

BAPTISM	COMMUNION
To show you are beginning a relationship with Jesus.	To show that you are continuing in fellowship with Jesus.
It should be done only once in the life of a believer.	It should be done repeatedly throughout a believer's life.
It is an ordinance of Christ to be done by all believers.	It is an ordinance of Christ to be done by all believers
Symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Christ	Symbolizes the death of Christ

### **Differing Views Concerning Communion**

#### **The Roman Catholic View: Transubstantiation**

This view is the view that the bread and the wine *actually* become the body and blood of Jesus Christ. The partaking of the body and blood of Jesus is a “means of Grace”, a way in which believers can receive the grace *needed* for salvation.

#### **The Lutheran Church View: Consubstantiation**

This view is that the Lord is present “in, with and under” the bread and wine. Like water in a sponge so Christ is in the bread and wine.

#### **The Symbolic View: Symbolism (*Evangel's View*)**

The bread and wine are only symbolic of Christ's body and blood. This view was held by John Calvin and other reformers, and became the most commonly accepted belief concerning the Lord's Supper among the Protestant churches.