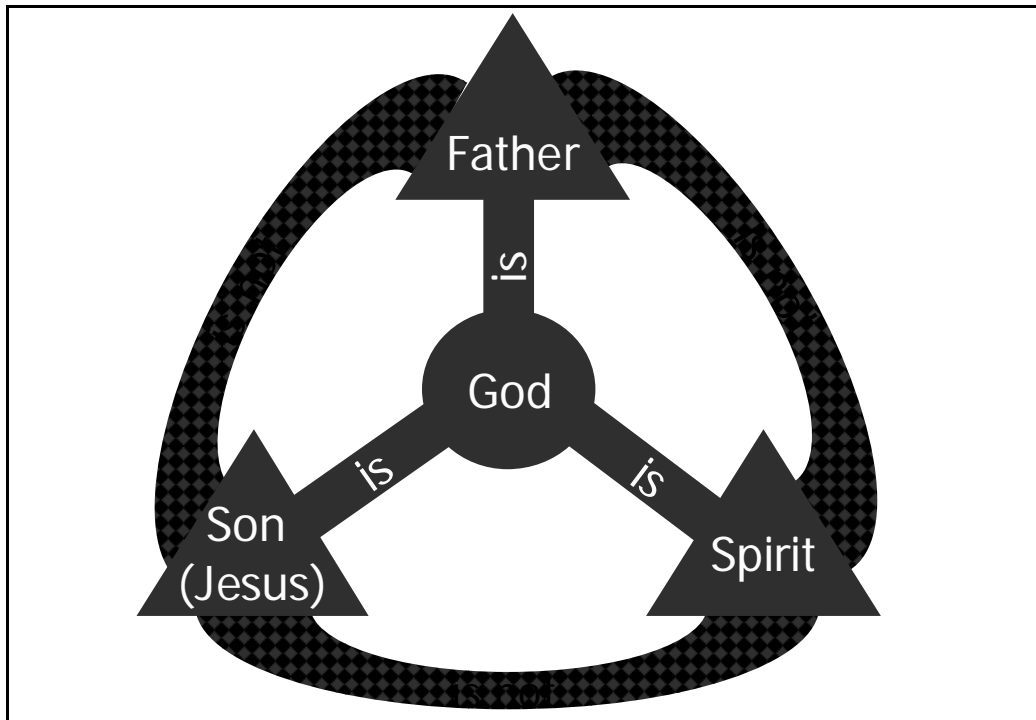


Walking in the Word service



Doctrine of the Trinity

- There is only One God: Monotheism
- One God exists in Three Persons
- The Three Persons of the Trinity are
 - Father
 - Son (Jesus Christ)
 - Holy Spirit



Nicene Creed

- I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible
- And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance [homoousius] with the Father, by whom all things were made

Nicene Creed

- And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets

Unity of God in Action

John 10:

³⁷Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

³⁸ But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father."

Who is the Creator?

Genesis 1:

- ¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

John 1:

- ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- ² He was with God in the beginning.
- ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

One God

Deuteronomy 6:

- ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
- ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Leviticus 19:18

... love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD.

I Am He

Isaiah 43:

- ¹⁰ "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that **I am he**. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.
- ¹¹ I, even **I, am the LORD**, and apart from me there is no savior.
- ¹² I have revealed and saved and proclaimed-- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that **I am God**.
- ¹³ Yes, and from ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?

Monotheists Meet Jesus

John 8:

- ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; ..."
- ⁵⁷ "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"
- ⁵⁸ "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I am!**"
- ⁵⁹ At this, they picked up stones to stone him, ...

No other Savior

NIV **John 8:24**

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am *the one I claim to be*,^b {24 Or **I am he**; also in verse 28} you will indeed die in your sins.

TNIV **John 8:24**

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am he** you will indeed die in your sins.

Jesus is NOT the Father

TNIV **John 8:28**

So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that **I am he** and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

Jesus is One with the Father

John 10:

- ³⁰ "I and the Father are one."
³¹ Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him,
³² but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?"
³³ "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

Monotheists Experience Jesus

Luke 8:

- ²² One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." ...
²³ As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came...
²⁴ ... He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm.
²⁵ "... In fear and amazement they asked one another, "Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him."

They are struggling to understand what they are experiencing.

Experiencing God in the Flesh

- Jesus casts out demons (Matthew 9:32-23)
- He raises the dead (Luke 8:49-56)
- He heals the sick (Mark 6:56)
- Blind, deaf, mute healed (Matthew 15:30)
- Lepers are cleansed (Mark 1:40-45)
- Turns water into wine (John 2:1-11)
- Feeds 5000 and 4000 (Matthew 14 and 15)
- Walks on water (John 6:16-21)
- Predicts the future (Matthew 17:24-27)

Mark 2:1-12: Jesus Forgives Sins

⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

⁷ "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

⁹ Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'?

¹⁰ But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." He said to the paralytic,

¹¹ "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home."

¹² He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Jesus is Resurrected

- That is when they finally, fully understand
- **John 20:28** Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Pentecost Happens

- The apostles experience the same kinds of things that they experienced with Jesus
- The Spirit speaks to them and guides them
- They recognize that when they experience the Holy Spirit they are experiencing God

Review:

A Narrative Understanding of God

- God teaches the Israelites Monotheism
- Babylonian Exile establishes a culture of monotheists
- These monotheists meet Jesus
- Jesus does and says what only God can do and say
- The disciples come to recognize that Jesus is God

How do you express this experience?

- The apostles don't have words to express this new experience of God
- They can't give up monotheism, it is too engrained in their psyches
- But Jesus also reinforced monotheism
- So the Apostles and Biblical writers start to talk in unfamiliar ways

Three-In-One Formulations

- **2 Corinthians 13:13** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
- **Romans 1:1-11**
- **Galatians 4:6**
- **2 Corinthians 3:2-6**
- **2 Thessalonians 2:13-14**

Trinity: What Does it Matter?

OT is the Revelation of God

Isaiah 43:

¹⁰ "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that **I am he**. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.

¹¹ I, even **I, am the LORD**, and apart from me there is no savior.

Jesus is that Savior

TNIV **John 8:24**

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that **I am he** you will indeed die in your sins.

Romans 3:25

God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.

We Need the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 2:14

The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Titus 3:5

... He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit

God's Plan

- Absolute Obedience
- Like Saul, we fail to trust God exclusively and fulfill his commands completely
- So God sent his Son: Jesus Christ
- Jesus lived the life that we couldn't live
 - He was absolutely, completely obedient
 - Therefore he did not deserve to die
- Jesus died even though he didn't have to

God's Plan

- Jesus died as the sacrifice for our sins
- If Jesus was not fully human then his death would not be our death
- Jesus had to be God because no human being is capable of living a sinless life
- If you don't have the Holy Spirit then you
 - Cannot understand and believe the things of God
 - Cannot be regenerated