

The Three-ness of God: The Trinity

There is one, and only one, true God whose eternal being has been revealed to us as a tri-unity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct, yet inseparable, Persons possessing one and the same divine nature.

Not Just a Doctrinal Concept to Be Believed: Our God to be Loved & Worshipped

The Three-ness of God

“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” (Matthew 28:19)

- Three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- Three of a kind — “and of”
- Names reveal distinctions: Not three brothers
- Unity: Baptized in one name (singular) - due to the Persons’ inseparable action to save us.

Around 75 passages in the New Testament mention all three Persons of the Trinity.

Reasons We Overlook the Three-ness

- The New Testament generally refers to one Person of the Trinity at a time.
- The Father is often referred to simply as “God.”
- Using the term “Lord” to refer to God in a general way, the Trinity as a whole, when in the New Testament, *Lord* is usually referring to the Lord Jesus.
- As you read the New Testament, the Trinity will seem to come alive to you if you will read the words... and not just read for the general idea— with the awareness that *God* usually refers to the Father and *Lord* usually refers to the Lord Jesus.

Guardrails in Discussing the Three-ness

- **There is One God:** There are three Persons, not three gods (tri-theism).
- **There are Three Persons:** There are three Persons, not a one-person god who “wears different hats” as he relates to us in different ways at different times (modalism).

● **Each Person is Fully God, Possessing the Same Divine Nature:** Jesus isn’t merely the highest created being (Arianism); he is the uncreated Creator.

- **Though Inseparable, The Persons Are Distinct**
- **The Persons Have Dwelt in Perfect Unity From All Eternity.** Each person mutually indwells the others and the Trinity communes in perfect fellowship.

From the Father, Through the Son, by the Spirit

The Father initiates and sends

The Son executes and accomplishes

The Spirit empowers and completes

Examples:

Salvation: Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10

The Father chose us and planned our salvation

The Son, by his death, secured our forgiveness

The Spirit’s indwelling guarantees its completion

Adoption: Galatians 4:4-6

The Father sent his Son to secure our adoption

Believers are adopted by the Father

The Spirit assures us of our adoption

Prayer:

We address our prayers to the Father: Matthew 6:9

We have access to the Father through Jesus

(Ephesians 2:18) and pray in his name (John 16:23).

The Spirit empowers our prayers: Romans 8:26 &

Ephesians 6:18

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. — 2 Corinthians 13:14

