

WHO ARE YOU?

The Triune God

There is only one God

There is **ONE** God who exists as **THREE** distinct persons. To understand this concept, we must first understand that God is spirit. God is one in **essence** and three in **person**. Now you may ask “If God is three Persons, does this mean that each Person is “one-third” of God? Does the Trinity mean that God is divided into three parts?” The Trinity does not divide God into three parts. The Bible is clear that all three Persons are each one hundred percent God. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all fully God. For example, it says of Christ that

“in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form” (Colossians 2:9).

The divine essence is not something that is divided between the three persons, but is fully in all three persons without being divided into “parts.”

Each Person is fully God

There are three undeniable truths about the triune God:

1) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is only one God.

The Bible speaks of the Father as God

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:2),

Jesus as God

while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, (Titus 2:13),

and the Holy Spirit as God

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” (Acts 5:3-4).

Are these just three different ways of looking at God, or simply ways of referring to three different roles that God plays?

The answer must be no, because the Bible also indicates that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons. For example, since the Father sent the Son into the world, **He cannot be the same person as the Son.** Likewise, after the Son returned to the Father, the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the world. Therefore, **the Holy Spirit must be distinct from the Father and the Son.**

In the baptism of Jesus, we see the Father speaking from heaven and the Spirit descending from heaven in the form of a dove as Jesus comes out of the water. In John 1:1 it is affirmed that Jesus is God and, at the same time, that He was “with God”- thereby indicating that Jesus is a distinct Person from God the Father. And in Jesus affirms that the Holy Spirit is also distinct from the Father and the Son.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what He will make known to you. (John 16:13-15)

The fact that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons means, in other words, that the **Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.** Jesus is God, but He is not the Father or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God, but He is not the Son or the Father. They are different Persons, not three different ways of looking at God. The personhood of each member of the Trinity means that each Person has a distinct center of consciousness. Thus, they relate to each other personally — the Father regards Himself as “I,” while He regards the Son and Holy Spirit as “You.” Likewise the Son regards Himself as “I,” but the Father and the Holy Spirit as “You.”

While the three members of the Trinity are distinct, this does not mean that any is inferior to the other. Instead, they are all identical in attributes. **They are equal in power, love, mercy, justice, holiness, knowledge, and all other qualities.**

If each Person of the Trinity is distinct and yet fully God, then should we conclude that there is more than one God? Obviously we cannot, for Scripture is clear that there is only one God: “There is no other God besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other” (Isaiah 45:21-22)