

✠ FRONTLINE



CHRISTIAN ESSENTIALS



DISCUSSION

Discussion

1. What did the Lord show you in your Hebrews 1 reading?
2. What stuck out about the Trinity as new, different, or challenging when you read through the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds?





Session 3

The Trinity

1 I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

2 My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

3 Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

Ps 34:1-3

Caveats:

- Not confusing, but complex.
- Not just an intellectual exercise.



Definition:

The one true God exists eternally as three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—who are equal in nature, equal in glory, and distinct in relations.



**I. The One True God Exists
Eternally as Three Persons**

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- There is Only One True God



“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.”

Deuteronomy 6:4

4 *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one (יהוה).”*

Deut 6:4

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one (יהוה) flesh.

Gen. 2:24

“3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God,”

(Jn 17:3).

I. The One True God Exists Eternally as Three Persons

- There is Only One True God
- The One God exists in Three Persons



*3 Blessed be **the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places (Eph 1:3).*

(Eph 1:3)

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.
All things were made through him, and without him was not
any thing made that was made.”*

John 1:1-4

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**"

Acts 5:3-4

Conclusion:

The one true God exists eternally as three persons —the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit —who are equal in glory, equal in nature, and distinct in relations.

Lets keep Going...

The one true God exists eternally as three persons —the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit —who are equal in nature, equal in glory, and distinct in relations.



II. Equal in Nature, Equal in Glory, Distinct in Relations

II. Equal in Nature

“I and the Father are one.”

(Jn 10:30)

9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

(Jn 14:9)

II. Equal in Nature

*“14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”*

Heb. 9:14

II. Equal in Nature

*10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For **the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.** 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also **no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.***

1 Cor 2:10-11

II. Equal in Glory

“And when they saw him they worshiped him,”

Matthew 28:17

“He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him”

John 9:37–39

II. Equal in Glory

*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

II. Equal in Glory

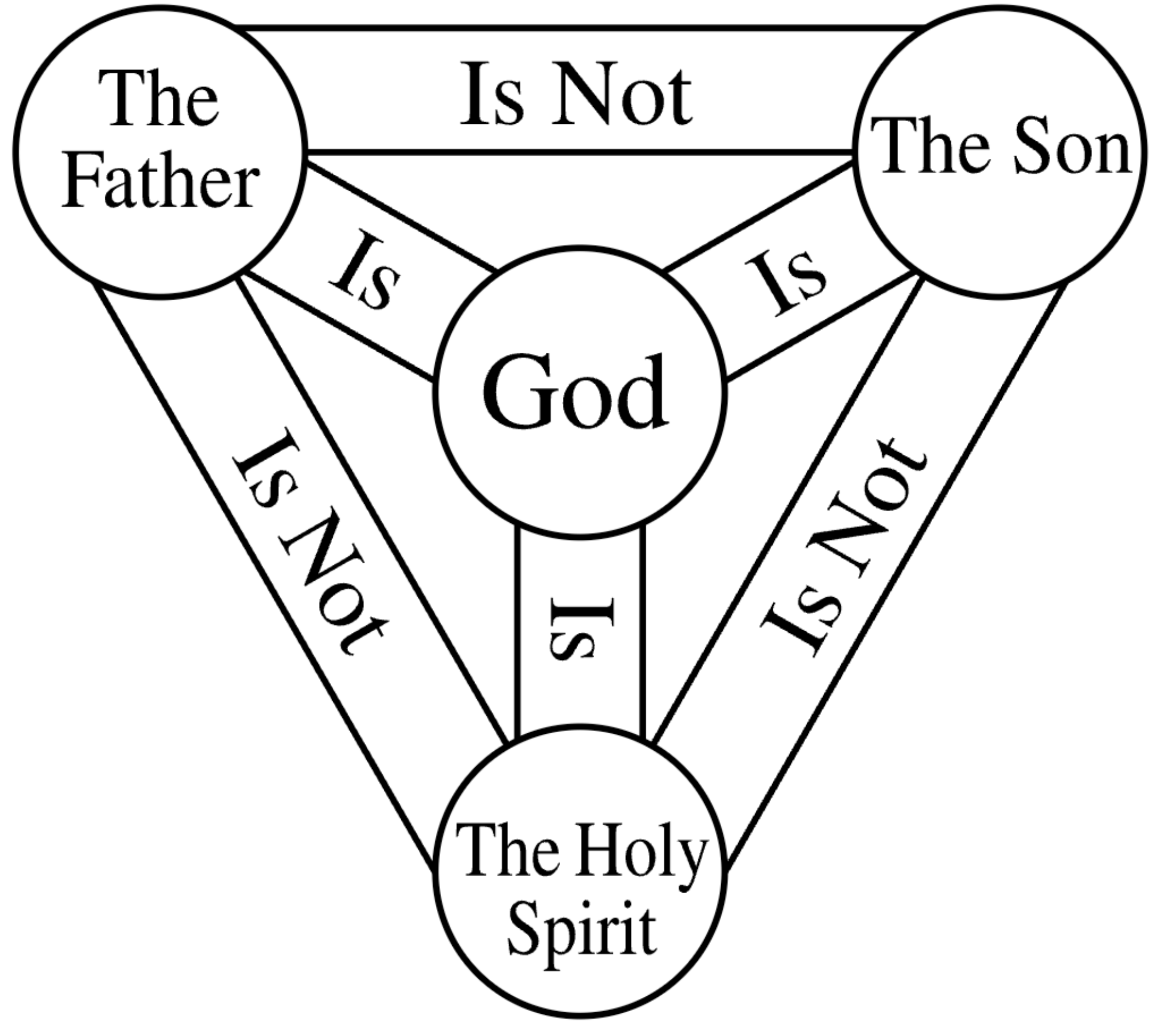
“I am the Lord; that is my name; my glory I give to no other.”

(Is 42:8)

II. Distinct in Relations

*16 And when **Jesus** was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*

(Mt 3:16–17)





III. The Trinity & The Good News

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- We see the Father in our Salvation



*“For God so loved the world, that **he gave** his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. **For God did not send** his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”*

John 3:16-17

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the **Spirit of adoption** as sons, by whom we cry, "**Abba! Father!** The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him "

(Ro. 8:14-17).

III. The Trinity & The Good News

- We see the Father in our Salvation
- We see the Son in our Salvation



14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Jn 1:14)

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

(2 Co 5:20–21)

26 I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

Jn 17:26

III. The Trinity & The Good News

- We see the Father in our Salvation
- We see the Son in our Salvation
- We see the Spirit in our Salvation



*11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead **dwells in you**, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.*

(Ro 8:11)

*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God (Jn 3:5).*

(Jn 3:5)

26 But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you

(Jn 14:26)

13 But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

(2 Th 2:13)

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”

John 15:26



IV. We Worship One God in Trinity

*“Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!”*

Psalm 34:3

*19 addressing one another in psalms and hymns and
spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord
with your heart, 20 giving thanks always and for everything to
God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*

(Eph 5:19).

*“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual worship**”*

(Ro. 12:1)

IV. We Worship God in Trinity

- i. In song.
- ii. In baptism and communion.
- iii. In giving generously.
- iv. Bible reading
- v. In prayer.
- vi. In service.





Activity

What's Wrong with This Picture?

1. *The trinity is like **water**. It can exist as liquid, solid, or vapor.*
2. *The trinity is like an **egg**. There is a shell, the whites, and the yolk.*
3. *The trinity is like a **three leaf clover**. There are three leaves, which together make one clover*



What's Wrong with This Picture?

1. *The trinity is like water. It can exist as liquid, solid, or vapor.*

1. *Modalism*

2. *H₂O in different forms*

3. *1 God, 1 person, showing himself in different forms.*



What's Wrong with This Picture?

2. *The trinity is like an egg. There is a shell, the whites, and the yolk.*
 1. *Tritheism*
 2. *3 substances of egg*
 3. *3 Gods, different natures, bound together.*



What's Wrong with This Picture?

3. *The trinity is like a **three leaf clover**. There are three leaves, which together make one clover.*
 1. *Partialism*
 2. *Each leaf is itself only a leaf, not a full clover.*
 3. *Each person is itself only 1/3 God.*





HOMework

Homework

1. Read: Titus
2. Ask The Lord: Where is God calling you to worship him in new and greater ways in this season as you consider the triune God?



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