

The Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

February 22, 2023



The Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

I. God

A. The Existence of God:

- The greatest and most profound idea the human mind can ever conceivably entertain concerns the possibility of the existence of a personal God.
 - The sheer importance of a person's response to this idea cannot be exaggerated, for it will not only govern their life down here but also determine their ultimate destiny.
 - Unless one satisfactorily answers the who question, they cannot possibly solve the how, why, when, and where problems of their own existence.
- 1) There are no Scriptural arguments for the existence of God.
 - The Bible does not attempt to prove God exists; it simply assumes (or accepts) the existence of God (Psalm 14:1; Hebrews 11:6)



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1. God (cont.)

B. The Being of God (Book of Discipline, Chapter II):

“The Scriptures teach that there is only one true and living God who is Spirit, self-existent, eternal, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, independent, good, wise, holy, just, and merciful, the Creator, Preserver, and Governor, of the universe; the Redeemer, Savior, Sanctifier, and Judge of men; and the only proper object of worship. The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far above the understanding of man's ability to comprehend Him. There is nothing in the universe that can justly represent Him, for there is none like him. He is the foundation of all perfection and happiness. He is glorified by the whole creation and is worthy to be loved and served by all intelligence.”



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1. God (cont.)

C. Names of God:

There are many names attributed to God. The three most noted are:

- 1) **Elohim** – God’s power and might (Gen. 1:1 & Psalm 19:1)
- 2) **Adonai** – Master and Lord, God owns all His creation (Malachi 1:6)
- 3) **Jehovah** – God the self-existence One, the God of the covenant (Gen 2:4)

D. Nature of God:

- 1) **God is a Spirit** (John 4:24)
- 2) **God is a Person** – possesses the elements of personality.
 - **Intellect, Emotion & Will**
- 3) **God is One** (Deut. 6:4; 1 Kings 8:60; Isaiah 45:5-6; Isaiah 46:9; Eph. 4:4-6 and 1 Tim. 2:5)



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1. God (cont.)

E. The Attributes of God:

- 1) **Self-existent (Exodus 3:13-14)** – God exists because He exists. He is not dependent upon anything or anyone for His thoughts (Romans 11:33-34), will (Romans 9:19, Eph. 1:5), power (Ps. 115:3), or counsel (Ps. 33:10-11).
- 2) **Self-sufficient (Ps. 50:10-12)** – God has never had in eternity past, nor can ever have in the ages to come, a single need for which His own divine nature has not already provided.
- 3) **Eternal (Transcendent) (Deut. 33:27; Ps. 102:11-12 & Ps. 139:7-12)** – God is absolutely free from the tyranny of time and space. In him there is no past or future, but one always and never-ending present. He is neither conditioned nor confined by time or space.
- 4) **Omnipresent (ever present) (Ps. 139:7-12 & Matt. 18:20)** – God is present everywhere with His whole being at the same time.



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1. God (cont.)

E. The Attributes of God (cont.):

- 5) **Omnipotent (all powerful) (Gen. 18:14 & Rev. 19:6)** – God can do anything if it can be done, and it does not contradict His own nature (i.e. God cannot lie or steal, for these things would contract His own nature).
- 6) **Omniscient (all-knowing) (Ps. 147:5; Isaiah 40:13-14; Hebrews 4:13; & Ps. 104:24)** – God possesses (without prior discovery of facts – He doesn't have to find it out) complete and universal knowledge of all things past, present, and future.
- 7) **Wisdom (Ps. 136:5; 1 Cor. 2:7; 1 Tim. 1:17; & Jude 1:25)** – God's wisdom is grounded upon His omniscience.
- 8) **Immutable (Hebrews 1:10-12; James 1:17; Acts 1:11; & Hebrews 13:8)** – God never differs from Himself. He may on occasion alter His dealings with mankind in a dispensational sense, but His divine character remains constant.



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1. God (cont.)

E. The Attributes of God (cont.):

9) Holy (Lev. 19:2; Ps. 99:9; & 1 Peter 1:15)

10) Love (John 3:16; Rms. 5:8; 2 Peter 3:9; & Gal. 2:20)

11) Righteous & Just (Exodus 9:27; Neh. 9:8; Ps. 67:4; Ps. 119-137; Rev. 16:5-7; & Rms. 4:3)

12) Truthfulness (Titus 1:1-2; John 17:3; 1 Thess. 1:9; & Rms. 3:4)

13) Goodness (Ps. 107:8; Ps. 23:6; & Rms. 2:4)

14) Merciful (Ps. 51; Ps. 103:8-17; Heb. 8:8,12; Jonah 4:2; & 1 Tim. 1:13, 16)

15) Gracious (Ps. 111:4; Ps. 116:5; 1 Peter 5:10; Rms. 3:24; Eph. 2:8-9; Rms 5:20; & Heb. 2:9)



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1. God (cont.)

F. God is a Trinity:

There is only one God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal Persons, the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence (the means of maintaining or supporting oneself).

1) The Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

2) False views concerning the Trinity:

Two serious errors about the doctrine of the Trinity:

- a) **The error of tri-theism** – The Trinity consists of three separate (but co-operating) Gods. We **DO NOT** worship three Gods.
- b) **The error of modalism** – There is one God who simply reveals (or manifests) Himself through three different modes or roles. The Father, Son, & Holy Spirit are not mere forces or manifestations by which God interacts with us, but three distinct Persons, possessing the elements of personality.



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II. The Father

- A. What do you believe about or how would you describe the Father?
- B. The Father possesses all the elements of personality (intellect, emotion, & will) and attributes of God.
- C. We believe that there is but one living, true and eternal God, the Father of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and immutable in all his attributes.
 - 1) **1 Corinthians 8:6** - *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*
 - 2) **Isaiah 40:28** - *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*



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III. The Son

- A. What do you believe about or how would you describe the Son?
- B. The Son possesses all the elements of personality (intellect, emotion, & will) and attributes of God.
- C. We believe that there is one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, whom God freely sent into the world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ freely gave Himself a ransom for all, tasting death for all men; who was buried and rose again the third day and ascended into heaven, from whence we look for Him the second time, in the clouds of heaven, at the last day, to judge both the quick and dead
 - 1) **1 Timothy 1:15** *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*



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III. The Son (cont.)

- 2) **Hebrews 2:9** *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*
- 3) **1 John 2:2** *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*
- 4) **Revelation 1:7** *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.*
- 5) **Acts 24:15** *And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.*
- 6) **Acts 24:21** *Except it be for this one voice, that I cried standing among them, Touching the resurrection of the dead I am called in question by you this day.*



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IV. The Holy Spirit

- A. What do you believe about or how would you describe the Holy Spirit?
- B. The Holy Spirit possesses all the elements of personality (intellect, emotion, & will) and attributes of God.
 - 1) Therefore, the Holy Spirit is not an “It”, He is a Person just as the Father & Son.
- C. We believe that there is one Holy Ghost, the precious gift of the Father through His dear Son, unto the world who quickeneth and draweth sinners home to God.
 - 1) *John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*
 - 2) *Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*



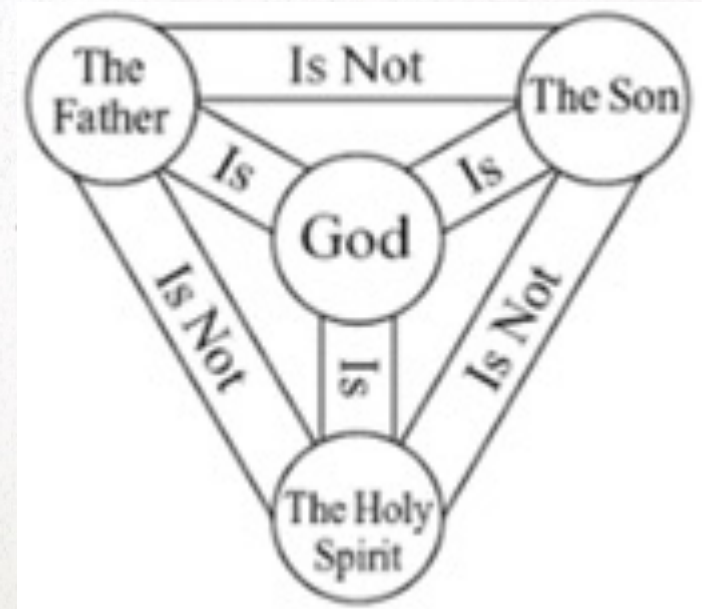
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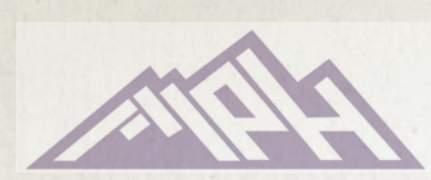
IV. The Holy Spirit (cont.)

3) **Acts 2:5-6** *And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.*

4) **Ephesians 4:4** *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;*

V. The Relationships & Distinctions of the Trinity





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VI. Let us make man in our image, after our likeness (Gen. 1:26)

A. “In our image”:

1) We are persons with the elements of personality (intellect, emotion, and will)

B. “After our likeness”:

1) We are given the capacity of some of the attributes of God:

a) **Communicable Attributes** – God’s attributes that He shares with us that we have the capacity to display but not in the absolute fullness that He does.

- Our fullest potential of displaying these attributes is through the filling of the Holy Spirit.

b) **Incommunicable Attributes** – God’s attributes that we do not possess as they are beyond our capacity to display as finite beings.



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VI. Let us make man in our image, after our likeness (Gen. 1:26) (cont.)

1) We are given the capacity of some of the attributes of God:

Attributes of God	
Communicable	Incommunicable
Love	Omniscient
Wisdom	Omnipresent
Holy	Omnipotent
Grace	Transcendancy
Mercy	Immutable
Truthfulness	Self-existent
Righteousness & Just	Self-sufficient
Create (Not: <i>*ex nihilo</i>)	Eternal

(*) **ex nihilo:** Meaning to create from nothing. Only God can create something from nothing. Man is “creative” but can only create (repurpose) from things already in existence.



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VII. Conclusion:

Discussion

What benefits do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bring to our lives?

Q & A

What questions do we have regarding the Trinity?



MPH Christian Education Presents



NEXT SESSION

SALVATION & SIN

March 1, 2023

6:30 p.m.