

Theme: Is there more than One True God? No, there is only one true God. He eternally exists as the Trinity, one God in Three Persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct Persons, but are one in being, power, and glory.

## I. Intro - Studying Calculus

- A. I had a hard time with calculus! A low C at 12 weeks
- B. Worked hard, and began to understand by 14 weeks
- C. The light came on the night before the final and I got a 95 on the final - and a B in the course!
- D. Some things take thought and reflection but are worth it
- E. Question 6: The Trinity is worth our time to reflect upon!

## II. There Is Only One God

### A. A central tenet of the faith in the OT

You were shown these things **so that you might know that the Lord is God; besides him there is no other...**

<sup>39</sup>Acknowledge and take to heart this day that **the Lord is God** in heaven above and on the earth below. **There is no other.** Deuteronomy 4:35, 39

- 1. Israel had just Egypt, which had many gods
- 2. They were going into Canaan, where the people had many gods
- 3. The foundational truth of their faith - only one God!  
Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Deuteronomy 6:4

Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. **Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one.** Isaiah 44:8

- a. The Shema - repeated every single day; hoped it would be the first and last sentence - One Lord
  - b. In prophesying exile and return, the Lord proves He knows and controls all - He is the only God!
4. Israel struggled to accept and keep monotheism, but the radical surgery of the exile finally cured them of the disease of polytheism.
- ### B. A central tenet of the faith in the NT
- One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" <sup>29</sup> "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Mark 12:28–29
- 1. Most important command - Jesus begins by quoting the Shema - one Lord!
  - 2. Jesus is a monotheist!  
We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that **there is no God but one.** <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"), <sup>6</sup> yet for us **there is but one God** .... 1 Corinthians 8:4–6
  - 3. In the midst of the mandated polytheism of their day, Christians were monotheists, rejecting the false gods and idols as nothing and embracing the One, True God.
- ### C. Christians must profess that there is only One True God, and all other so-called gods are empty idols which ultimately connect people with demons, not the One True God.

### III. The Trinity: One God in Three Persons

#### A. The One God is the Trinity

Is there more than One True God?

No, there is only one true God. He eternally exists as the Trinity, one God in Three Persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct Persons, but are one in being, power, and glory.

1. Christians believe in One God, but we believe He is the Holy Trinity
2. The One God eternally exists as Father, Son, and Spirit - distinct Persons Who share the One Divine Essence/Being
3. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not modes, roles, or simply distinct ways of speaking about One Person, but are Three Distinct Persons within the One True God.
4. Like everything else regarding the Being of God, the Trinity is beyond our comprehension. We can not fully grasp the depth of this, but it is clearly taught throughout Scripture and is foundational to the Christian faith.

#### B. The Trinity in the New Testament

May 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

1. Paul is giving apostolic blessing from God - and invokes the Trinity!
2. The experience of Jesus and the Spirit as Divine led these monotheists to understand that God is Triune

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matthew 3:16–17

- a. Jesus, Spirit, Father - the Trinity, not a parlor trick!
  - b. This is followed by Jesus proclaiming Himself to be truly, fully God and one with the Father
    1. The I AM sayings in John show Jesus is Yahweh in the flesh
    2. The 7 signs in John all show Jesus is Divine
    3. The Resurrection proved Jesus' claim to Deity is true
  - c. Then the Powerful, Personal Presence of the Spirit after Pentecost showed the Personhood and Deity of the Spirit
  - d. Yet, Jesus' prayer life and teachings on Himself and the Spirit also made it clear that the Father, Son, and Spirit were distinct Persons Who loved and related to One Another!
3. This lead to many Trinitarian Scriptures in the NT  
There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4–6

There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4–6

- a. Both texts - Spirit, Lord, God - the Three Person

- b. Both texts speak of diversity and unity
- c. Powerful Trinitarian texts about the church's life

#### C. The Trinity in the OT: Creation

In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And God **said**, "Let there be light," .... Genesis 1:1–3

1. God creates by His Word and fashions by the Spirit
2. Also see texts like Psalm 33:6; 104:30 for this idea  
Then God said, "Let **us** make **man** in **our** image, in **our** likeness, and let **them** rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."  
<sup>27</sup> So God created **man** in **his** own image, in the image of God **he** created **him**; male and female he created **them**. Genesis 1:26–27
3. Us, our, them - plural; man, his, he, him - singular
4. Not royal language, nor angels - this is the Trinity
5. This has huge implications for what it means to be made in the image of God!

#### D. Summary: Our Trinitarian faith and life

1. Bible teaches that creation is the work of the Trinity
2. Bible teaches that salvation is the work of the Trinity
3. Bible teaches that prayer is Trinitarian
4. Bible teaches that spiritual gifts are Trinitarian
5. Bible teaches that the Church is Trinitarian

6. The Trinity is truly the foundation of all Christian life and doctrine
7. This is why the Scripture begins with the Trinity, the Creeds are Trinitarian in nature, and our summary of the whole plot of the Bible is Trinitarian
8. See the teaching "[The Trinity](#)" (June 15, 2014)

### IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do I see the massive implications of the fact that God is the Holy Trinity?
  1. This belief affects virtually everything about Christian life and doctrine!
  2. There is only One True God - no matter what our world may say today
  3. The One True God is eternally the Trinity - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
  4. This is an area that requires study, thought, reflection, prayer - but it pays massive dividends!
  5. Check out the web site for further teachings on the [Trinity](#)
- B. The Trinity and discipleship at BRCC
  1. Love our God - worship
    - a. We are called by the Father to worship
    - b. The Son has opened our access to the Father
    - c. The Spirit draws us in and fills our worship
    - d. Do I regularly gather to worship?

## 2. Connect with others - relationships

- a. The Trinity is inherently relational - and so are we
- b. In salvation, we become the Temple of God, the Body of Christ, the dwelling place of the Spirit
- c. The Christian life can not be lived in isolation
- d. Am I part of a connect group?

## 3. Serve His Church - overflowing giving

- a. Father, Son, and Spirit love and prefer One another
- b. Creation exists out of the overflowing love of God
- c. We are created and redeemed to give to others as God gives to us
- d. Am I serving in some capacity regularly as we gather?

## 4. Reach the world - sent with the Gospel

- a. The Father loved us and sent the Son to redeem
- b. The Father and Son sent the Spirit to convict, draw, and regenerate us
- c. As the Father sent the Son, so we are sent in the power of the Spirit to be witnesses
- d. Am I reaching out to others with the Gospel?
- e. Am I part of the outreach ministries at BRCC - County fair, Winter Relief, Easter Family Festival, jail ministry, Lighthouse Shelter, etc.?

## 5. The Trinity is calling us to Love, Connect, Serve, Reach

## C. Response of Worship: Holy, Holy, Holy

## The Trinity - One God in Three Persons

Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 2 Corinthians 13:14

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Song - Holy, Holy, Holy

2 Corinthians 13:14

Teaching keywords: Catechism; Trinity; God; Jesus; Holy Spirit

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