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# What is the Trinity?

## Lesson 3: Speaking of God

[http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/ABE/Education\\_ABE.htm](http://www.clearcreekchapel.org/Ministries/ABE/Education_ABE.htm)

### God in Three Persons

Three different names are used when referring to God: God or Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

God is three very distinct persons.

Even though God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have eternally existed as three distinct persons, there is only one God.

This is called the doctrine of the Trinity.

### The Trinity in the Bible

The word “trinity” is never found in the Bible.

The word “trinity” means “tri-unity” or “three-in-oneness”.

The doctrine of the Trinity is progressively revealed in Scripture.

The Trinity is alluded to in the creation narrative (Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3:22).

There are passages in which one person is called “God” or “the Lord” and another is called “God” (Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8).

All three members of the Trinity were present at Christ’s baptism (Matthew 3:16-17).



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Jesus affirmed that all three members of the Trinity are distinct in their personhood (Matthew 28:18-19).

## **The Meaning of the Trinity**

Because God is three distinct persons, the Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son (2 Cor. 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2).

Each of the persons of the Trinity is fully God (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 2:9; Acts 5:3-4).

The Bible is clear that there is only one God and not three (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; Romans 3:30; 1 Timothy 2:5).

Ultimately, the Trinity is one of those “secret things” that “belong to the LORD our God” (Deut. 29:29).

If Jesus is not both fully God and a separate person from God, then he could not have borne the complete wrath of God, died, and risen from the dead.

## **The Distinct Roles of the Trinity**

In both creation and redemption the Father, the Son, and the Spirit all had distinct roles (Genesis 1:1,2, 2:7; John 1:1-3; John 3:16-17, 6:38, 14:16, 16:7).

These different functions and roles are the outworking of the eternal relationship between the Father, Son, and Spirit.

The unity and diversity within the Trinity provide a wonderful basis for the unity and diversity we experience in everyday life (1 Cor. 11:3; Ephesians 5:31).