

Why Christians Believe in the Trinity

First of all, what does "Trinity" mean? The dictionary says the word itself means "the state of being threefold." The prefix "**tri**" means **three**, as in tricycle, a three-wheeled version of the bicycle ("bi" means two), or trio, a group of three people, such as a singing group. In the Christian sense, the Trinity is a word we use to describe the Godhead: the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit **as one God**. The word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, but **it is a word we use to describe a TRUTH that is in the word of God**. The Bible uses the word "**Godhead**", and as we study Scripture, we see that the Godhead is made up of three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and yet He tells us that **He is ONE God**.

- **Romans 1:20** "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even **His eternal power and Godhead**; so that they are without excuse."
- **Deuteronomy 6:4** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is **ONE LORD**."

The Hebrew word for "one" used here is "echad", which means a "**UNITED ONE**" - from the verb "achad" - to unify. The same word, "echad" is used in Genesis 2:24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to (be joined to) his wife; and **they shall be ONE FLESH**" - **two persons becoming a UNITED ONE**. The very word for "God" in the Hebrew is in the plural - **Elohim**. Anytime you see the suffix "im" on the end of a word in Hebrew, it is plural, meaning two or more of something.

If God's nature is triune (threefold), we would expect to see this revealed to us in His word right from the beginning. In Genesis Chapter One (you can't get any closer to the beginning than that!), verses 1-2 already refer to two persons, God and the Spirit of God. In verses 26-27, **God refers to Himself as "Us" and "Our"**, then switches back to "**His**" and "**He**". If it were God PLUS SOMEONE ELSE who is NOT God speaking, it would have to say "created in THEIR images." We know from other Scriptures, such as Isaiah 44:24, that God says He created everything BY HIMSELF, yet John 1:1-3 and Hebrews 1:1-3 tell us that Jesus created all things. How can **God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit** all be involved in creation and still have God say He did it all by Himself? It only makes sense when you accept the fact that God is a "trinity" - a "united One."

- **Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27** "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters." (verses 26-27) "Then God said, '**Let US** make man in **OUR image**, according to **OUR likeness**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. So God created man in **HIS own image; in the image of God HE created** him; male and female **HE created** them.'"
- **Genesis 3:22** Then **the LORD GOD** said, 'Behold, the man has become **like ONE of US**, knowing good and evil.....'
- **Isaiah 44:24** "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer and He that formed you from the womb, '**I am the Lord who makes all things**; stretching out the heavens **ALONE**, and laying out the earth BY MYSELF.'"
- **John 1:1-3 & 14** "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 nothing was made that was made." "And **the WORD BECAME FLESH** and **DWELT among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Definition: "The WORD" - This is another name or title for Jesus - the Greek is "**Logos**" . The dictionary definition of Logos is "the divine wisdom manifest in the **creation, government and redemption of the world.**" In Greek philosophy, it meant the controlling principle of the universe, and was a term that was very familiar at the time John was writing his Gospel. **Jesus is all of this! He is the One who controls the universe, is all of the wisdom and revealed** knowledge of God wrapped up in one person - Jesus is **God the Son** come down in the flesh!

- **I Timothy 3:16** "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **GOD was manifested in the FLESH**, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."
- **Colossians 2:9** "For In Him (Jesus Christ) dwells **all the fullness of the Godhead bodily** (in human form), and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power."
- **Colossians 1:15-17** "**He is the IMAGE of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. For **by Him all things were created** that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All things were created through Him and for Him.** And He is before all things, and in Him ALL THINGS CONSIST (hold together)"
- **Hebrews 1:1-3** "God, who at various times and in different ways spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us in **His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds**; who being the brightness of His glory and **the express IMAGE of His person**, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Definition: "ALL THINGS were MADE THROUGH HIM" - The Bible tells us over and over again that **we WORSHIP ONE GOD, but that He exists in THREE PERSONS**: the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT. Compare Isaiah 48:12-16 with Rev. 1:8,11,17-18. The same One who "laid the foundation of the earth and stretched out the heavens" is also the One who "was DEAD and now is ALIVE forevermore!" Jesus Christ is the "Alpha and Omega, **the First and the Last**, the Beginning and the End."

- **Isaiah 48:12-16** "Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: **I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.** Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens." (Verse 16) "Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now **the LORD GOD and His SPIRIT have sent ME.**"

Definition: "The LORD GOD and His SPIRIT have sent ME" - Here are ALL THREE PERSONS of the GODHEAD mentioned together in the Old Testament! Jesus is speaking, and He says that God and the Holy Spirit have SENT HIM. Over and over in His teachings, Jesus said that He was the One sent from the Father.

- **John 17:2-3** "As You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, **that they may know YOU, the ONLY TRUE GOD, AND Jesus Christ whom YOU have SENT.**"
- **Revelation 1:8,11,17b-18** "'I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,' says the Lord, 'Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'" "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last.'" (Verses 17b-18) "Do NOT be AFRAID; **I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was DEAD**, and behold, I am ALIVE forevermore. Amen. And I have the Keys of Hades and of Death."

We have seen how the triune nature of God (**one God, but three distinct persons**) was revealed in the Old Testament, from the very beginning in the creation. Now, let us see how

this is revealed to us in His word in the New Testament. Right from the beginning of Jesus' ministry, **at His baptism, we see all three persons of the Trinity**. Also, notice in the other verses below how many times we see Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit working together.

- **Matthew 3:16-17** "Then **Jesus**, when He had been baptized, came up immediately from the water; and, behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly **a voice (the Father) came from heaven**, saying "This is **My** beloved **Son**, in whom I am well pleased."
- **John 16:13-15** "However, when **He, the SPIRIT** of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **He will glorify ME**, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that **the FATHER** has are **Mine.....**"
- **John 15:26** "But when **the Helper (HOLY SPIRIT)** comes, whom **I shall send** to you from **the FATHER, the SPIRIT** of Truth who proceeds from **the FATHER, HE** will testify **of ME.**"

That was in His ministry while Jesus was here on earth **as a man, as God in the flesh** (incarnate). Now that He is risen from the dead and ascended to heaven, do we see the three persons of the Godhead involved in our lives? Yes, **all three Persons of the Godhead are involved in our salvation, and in our daily lives:**

- **II Corinthians 1:21-22** "Now He who establishes us with you in **CHRIST** and has anointed us is **GOD**, who also has sealed us and given us **the SPIRIT** in our hearts as a deposit."
- **Ephesians 1:17** "That the **God** of our **Lord JESUS CHRIST**, the **FATHER** of glory, may give to you **the SPIRIT** of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."
- **II Corinthians 13:14** "The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion (fellowship) of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all."
- **I John 4:13-15** "By this we know that we abide in Him, and **He in us**, because He has given us of **His SPIRIT**. And we have seen and testify that **the FATHER** has sent **the SON** as Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that **JESUS** is the **SON of God, GOD** abides in him, and he in **GOD.**"
- **John 14:23-24** "**JESUS** answered and said to him, "If anyone loves **ME**, he will keep My word; and **My FATHER will love him**, and **WE will come to him and make OUR home with him**. He who does not love **Me** does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the **Father's** who sent **Me.**"

Definition: "WE will COME to him and MAKE OUR HOME with him" - Jesus says that both He and the Father will come and **abide in, make their home with, dwell in** every Believer in Jesus Christ. We see in I John 4:13 that "we **ABIDE** in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of **His Spirit**," or in other words, **He lives in us BY His Holy Spirit**. This is for ALL true Believers in Jesus, because I John 4:15 says "whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, **God ABIDES in him**, and he in God."

- **I John 3:24** "Now he who keeps His commandments abides (dwells) in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, **by the SPIRIT** whom He has given us."
- **Acts 7:55** "But being full of **the HOLY SPIRIT**, he (Stephen) gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of **GOD**, and **JESUS** standing **at the right hand of God.**"

Definition: "JESUS standing at the RIGHT HAND of GOD" - Romans 8:34 says that Jesus, God the Son, is "seated at the **right hand of God**" and that He **makes intercession for us**." In I John 2:1, we are told that Jesus is our Advocate with the Father. **Jesus intercedes for us** (prays on our behalf) as **He is seated with the**

Father, as our "advocate" or defense attorney against Satan. If Satan accuses us before God, **Jesus INTERCEDES** and steps forward and says, "That's already PAID for - it's covered by My BLOOD" (I John 1:7, Revelation 1:5-6). This is the work that Jesus is doing in heaven for us right now, seated at the right hand of the Father.

There is a great deal of confusion among some people about who Jesus is, and they **wrongly** teach that Jesus IS the Father and the Holy Spirit - that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are only different "offices" of God, not separate persons. However, Jesus could not be up in heaven NOW, seated next to the Father, and interceding WITH the Father on our behalf, if He is the same person as the Father. Also, Jesus said He would send us the Holy Spirit FROM the Father, after He left to go back to heaven. It is obvious that Jesus cannot be all three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit - that is false teaching.

- **Ephesians 1:20-21** "Which He wrought in **Christ** when He raised Him from the dead, and **set Him at His own right hand** in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named....."
- **Hebrews 10:10-15** "By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of **JESUS CHRIST** once for all.....But **this Man (Jesus)** , after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **SAT DOWN at the right hand of GOD**, from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.....And **the HOLY SPIRIT** also witnesses to us...."
- **Psalms 110:1** "**The LORD** said to **my LORD**, 'Sit at My **RIGHT HAND**, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.'"
- **I Corinthians 15:23-25** "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward, they that are **Christ's at His coming**. Then comes the end when He shall have **delivered up the kingdom to God, the Father**; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet."
- **John 17:5** "So now You, **Father**, glorify **Me TOGETHER with YOURSELF with the GLORY that I had WITH YOU** before the world was."
- **John 5:21-23** "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will (wants to). For the Father judges no one, but He has committed all judgment to the Son, in order that **all may HONOR the SON JUST AS they HONOR the FATHER**. He who does not **HONOR the Son** does not **HONOR the Father** who sent Him."
- **John 14:16-17** "And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper**, that He may abide with you forever, even **the SPIRIT of truth**."

Definition: "**He will give you ANOTHER HELPER** - Some versions say "Comforter," but there is really no one English word that can describe the meaning of the Greek word, which is Parakletos. The actual meaning of the Greek word is "one who comes alongside to help." When Jesus said, "He will give you **another Helper**," the Greek word for "another" means "one of exactly the same kind." Many people find it difficult to understand the triune Godhead: how God says He is one God, but in three persons, and how God can be more than one place at a time. How can Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, **live in EVERY Believer on earth**, and yet still be seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven? How can we expect to understand and explain the infinite God with our finite minds? **It is something we must accept by faith**. All of the pseudo-Christian cults we have today were begun by someone who could not accept or understand the idea of a "Trinity" or triune God, so they rejected God's truth, and started a religion of their own.

- **John 14:26** "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 things that **I said** to you."

- **I John 5:20** "And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us an understanding, that we may **KNOW HIM who is true, and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ**. This is **the TRUE GOD** and ETERNAL LIFE."