

Basics of Christianity Series  
*The Trinity*

---

**Recap:** Purpose of the series

My desire for this series is that you would better come to know who God is and what his plan is in this world so that you may serve him better.

What's the first thing you think of when you hear "Trinity"? When was the last time you even thought about it?

**What is the Trinity?**

Three persons in one nature.

*What is the divine nature?*

All the "omni"s. Omnipresence, omnipotent, omniscience. Eternal, life itself. Each member of the trinity possesses all of these attributes.

*What is personhood?*

Individuality. Matt. 3:16-17. All three members of the trinity fully exist and have a consciousness, even though they are always united in purpose (Matthew 26:39).

Distinct, not divided. Different but not separated.

**Can we understand it?**

1) In as much as God has revealed. He did not reveal himself as a math equation, but as a being. He revealed his nature through prophets and the Son.

2) Our Understanding : 3D :: God's Being : 6D

We cannot understand the depth of who God is in His Being because he is completely other. He is not like us in that he bound by the boundaries that we have. However, he has spoken of himself in our language in a way that he says that we can know enough about him to say that we "know" him. So, when we talk about the trinity we can know some things about it that have been revealed in Scripture.

Common errors:

1) Modalism – Oneness Pentecostals.

Modalism says that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are different "modes" of who God is. So when the Son shows up, it is the same person as the Father, just *appearing* to us differently. The problem with this is that it denies the giving worship to each person of the

Trinity, instead saying that two of the three persons in the trinity don't really "exist." This also does not agree with what we see in Scripture when each person of the Trinity appears in one scenario (like Matthew 3:16-17)

2) Monarchianism - Jehovah's Witness, Muslims, Mormons (kinda)

This says that only the Father is God, and that Jesus is not divine in the same way that the Father is. They usually say that the Holy Spirit is God's force in the world as well. He is not a person, but an extension of God. However, if Jesus is a created being then to give him worship in the way that we worship the Father is to commit idolatry. But Scriptures show that Jesus accepted worship (Matthew 28:9-10).

**Why is the Trinity so important?**

1) It is the truth upon which everything in Christianity rests. To talk about any other doctrine in our faith without the foundation of the trinity misunderstands that doctrine. A good example of this is in the way we preach the Cross. If we talk about the cross without the context of it bringing us into a relationship with the Father then it becomes a statement to believe that has no meaning.

2) Talking about the Trinity also increases our view of God's holiness. It magnifies him when we realize just how different he is than us, yet still he is actively involved in this world. He is a being which exists on a different plane than ourselves, making him impossible to grasp. However, he reached down into our world and communicated with us using the language that he gifted us with.

3) If you deny who the Son is then you cannot have access to the Father (John 8:19, 14:6-7, Romans 10:9-13). If you are not led by the Spirit then you are not a child of God (Romans 8:5-11).

4) Matthew 28:18-20. The primary command in evangelism is to invite people into a relationship with the triune God.

*Need more Scriptural support than I have given? Check out some of these resources:*

<http://carm.org/trinity>

<http://www.desiringgod.org/articles/what-is-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity>

<http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2011/09/28/the-doctrine-of-the-trinity-no-christianity-without-it/>