

## The Triune God

We need to understand who God is from a Biblical perspective as there are different perspectives and understandings of God according to different religions. Judaism and Islam teach an indivisible monotheism i.e., that God is an absolute one and cannot be composed of distinct persons or parts. This differs from Biblical monotheism which teaches that God is a Triune God – He is three persons in one God. Hinduism teaches a form of monism, which means that everything and everyone is god. This is also a form of Pantheism, but pantheists revere nature to the extent of worshipping it. Polytheism is the belief in multiple gods, which we often get accused of when we speak about the Trinity.

Matthew 28:19-20 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

### 1) God is one God

- It is essential to understand that we serve and worship one God and not three gods.
- Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.
  - The Hebrew word used for “one” is echad, which is a compound unity
  - A compound unity, which is a concept or entity that is composed of multiple distinct parts or persons, yet functions together as one single collective whole.
    - Marriage or a team are compound unities
  - The Hebrew word “Yachid” means an absolute indivisible unity – the only one.
- Isaiah 45:5 I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.
  - Here we see the Lord declaring that He is the only God that exists. No other god exists at all.
  - This isn’t referring to the singularity or plurality of His person, but is a denunciation of polytheism in all its forms.
- If there aren’t any other gods, then why does the Bible refer to other gods?
  - Psalms 96:4-5 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.
  - Psalms 115:4-8 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.
- 1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.
- 1 Corinthians 8:6 Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.
  - Here we see New Testament declarations that there is one God and Jesus is associated with God as the mediator and through whom we exist.
  - Only God is the one through whom all things originate and exist, thus equating Jesus with God Himself.

### 2) The Triune God

- What we mean by the Triune God is that God is a Trinity – three persons in one God
  - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- The words “Trinity” or “Triune God” aren’t found in the Bible
- The Trinity is established by the fact, that we’ve already looked at, that there is only one God
  - Then the facts that the Father is God, Jesus the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God are established by scripture pointing to each of them being God
  - The Trinity is then founded on the deduction of the above
- We hold to the following fundamental truth
  - The Father is God
  - Jesus, the Son, is God
  - The Holy Spirit is God
  - There is only one God

- The Father is God
  - Jesus always referred to God as “Father”
    - John 6: 32 – 33 Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."
- The Son is God
  - Jesus called Himself by the same name that God revealed Himself to Moses with – I am
    - John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”
- The Holy Spirit is God
  - The Holy Spirit and “God” are used interchangeably
    - Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”
- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all being God are one in essence and share the same qualities and character, but are differing persons
  - The Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Father
  - The Father is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Father
  - The Son is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Son
  - The three are inseparable persons of God
  - They are not associates of God – they all make up who God is
- The Trinity cannot be explained by analogies as all analogies fall short of the description of the Trinity. However, analogies can be used to explain the three in one concept
  - The analogy of an egg – the shell, the white, and the yolk
    - Problem: each aspect differs in qualities from the other. In the Trinity all three persons share the same qualities
  - The analogy of water – liquid, vapour, and gas
    - Problem: Water can only be in any one of these states at the same time. The three persons of the Trinity are permanently in their states of shared qualities

### 3) How the Trinity affects our lives

- God the Father initiated our salvation
  - He loved us and sent His Son to die on a cross for us
  - John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
  - 1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.
- Jesus, the Son is our Saviour
  - Acts 4:10-12 By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
  - Titus 2:13 ...waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ.
  - John 8:36 If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- The working together of the Father and Son in giving us eternal life and keeping us in the faith
  - John 10:28-30 I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.
- The Holy Spirit gives us new birth
  - John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”
- The Holy Spirit transforms us into the character of God
  - Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- The Holy Spirit guides us in all truth
  - John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.