



Title: What Does the Bible Say About the Trinity?

Text: Jude 20-21

Jude 20-21 *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, **21** Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*

Introduction: The word trinity means “tri-unity” or “three-in-oneness”. It is understood as the teaching in Scripture that God is one God who eternally exists in three persons. While we believe this doctrine is clearly taught in Scripture, we also acknowledge that it is among the more difficult doctrines to understand, and that it raises many equally difficult questions. Our goal today is to affirm our belief in this teaching, lay a biblical foundation for it, and see how it represents the mystery and majesty of God. The prayer is that this study will lead us to a deeper worship of our God who is worthy!!

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God... that in the unity of the Godhead (the Trinity) there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, being equal in their nature, attributes, and perfections and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption and in the accomplishment of His eternal plan and purposes. –

FBC Statement of Faith

- We want to offer up three simple statements that serve as the foundation for our belief in the Trinity.

I. There is One God

- The Scriptures are abundantly clear that there is only one God.
- The belief that there is only one God is referred to as monotheism.

Exodus 20:1-3 *“And God spake all these words, saying, 2 I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.”*

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 *“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: 5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”*

Isaiah 45:5-6 *“I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else.”*

Ephesians 4:6 *“One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

1 Timothy 1:17 *“Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen”*

- The phrase *“the only wise”* differentiates God, in both existence and nature, from the false gods of this world!

II. God Exists in Three Persons

- God eternally exists as three persons, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:1-2,26 *“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters....26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:*

Colossians 1:14-17 *“In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*

- The Father, Son, and Spirit were all present and participants in the creation of the universe.

Matthew 3:16-17 *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

- All three persons of the Trinity were represented at the baptism of Jesus.

1 Peter 1:2 *“Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”*

- This is what we mean in our statement of faith when we say, *“...executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption...”*

III. Each Person is Fully God

A. The Father is God

- God the Father is understood to be a clear reference in the New Testament to the one true God of Israel—the all powerful creator of the universe!
- This is why the unbelieving Jews became so angry with Jesus when we spoke about His relationship to the Father!

John 10:32-33 *“Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.”*

B. The Son Is God

- The divine nature of Christ is strongly supported in Scripture, and represents an essential teaching of our faith!

John 1:1-3, 14 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made....And the Word was made 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.”*

John 20:28-31 *“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. 30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”*

- Thomas’s confession of Jesus as, “My Lord and my God”, is recorded by John without correction and presented as an essential part of understanding who Jesus is so that people “might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”

I Timothy 3:16 *“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”*

C. The Spirit is God

Matthew 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

- Jesus makes clear that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in their nature and personhood.

Ephesians 4:1-6 *“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, 2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; 3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*

- The phrase “...in you all” is understood as a reference to the indwelling of the Spirit, making a direct connection between the (Holy) Spirit and God.

Acts 5:3-4 *“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”*

Conclusion:

*“God is a Trinity of three persons, but all of one substance: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These are not the delineation of three functions, but are three distinct persons. The Trinity is the ultimate community, functioning in perfect unity and love, without argument, debate, or disagreement. **I am now sitting silently before the light of my screen, amazed at what I have just written. The words are accurate, and they expand your mind and excite your imagination, but they still fall short of doing justice to the immensity of the being and glory of God.** In my heart I am saying with the psalmist, “Who is like the Lord our God?”*
–Do You Believe: 12 Historic Doctrines to Change Your Everyday Life by Paul David Tripp

1. There is one God. (Exodus 20:1-3, Deuteronomy 6:4-5)
2. God exists in three persons. (Genesis 1:1-2,26, Colossians 1:16)
3. Each person is fully God. (John 1:1-2,14, John 20:28-31, Acts 5:3-4)

Notes:
