

03 | Three

The Trio of One



Introduction

You may have heard God described as “the Trinity”, or ‘Godhead’. These phrases describe the nature of God, as being made up of three persons but one God. A Trio of One.

- **God = Father, Son, Holy Spirit**

The Bible teaches that there is one God, who has revealed Himself in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Three but One. Extremely difficult to comprehend I know, but not unbelievable. This study will attempt to make this ‘Three equals One’ nature of God a little more understandable.

Incomprehensible, but believable

There is so much about God that we (mere humans) cannot even begin to comprehend. If we could understand everything about God, He wouldn’t be much more intelligent than we are. Think about it... the simple fact that we cannot fathom God is stunning proof that He is God! We will never be able to fully comprehend God and His ways until we get to Heaven and He reveals everything to us, but we can always trust.

*¹²Now we see things imperfectly like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. **1 Corinthians 13:12 (NLT)***

God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26), and we only have to look at ourselves to get a glimpse of the triune character of God.

‘Three-in-one’ examples in nature

*²⁰For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. **Romans 1:20 (NLT)***

We can grasp much about the nature and character of God by observing His creation. For example, God has made us with three very different parts. We have three very different aspects of ourselves and yet we are one being:

- **Man = spirit, soul, body**

There is also the very well-known egg illustration. Three distinct parts but all one object:

- **Egg = shell, white, yoke**

Many Christians try to explain the Trinity by likening God to water. Water having three different forms but still the same thing:

- **Water = liquid, solid, gas**

This is not a Biblical explanation of the Trinity however, because there are three distinct persons that are God, and they cannot change into one another (unlike water).

What the Bible teaches

Surprisingly, the Bible doesn’t contain the word ‘Trinity’, but it is very plain to see what the Bible writers and the Bible characters believed and taught about the triune (three-in-one) nature of God, as we shall soon see.

Only one God

Believers of the Trinity are often accused of polytheism (worshipping more than one God), but this is not true. Christians believe in, and worship only one God.

⁴*Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one.* **Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)**

⁶*This is what the LORD says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven's Armies: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God.* **Isaiah 44:6 (NLT)**

Three persons but one God

The Bible teaches that God is three persons.

²⁶*Then God said, "Let us make people in our image, to be like us."*
Genesis 1:26a (NLT)

Some people say that God is talking to His angels in the above verse, but angels are created beings, and could not and did not help God to create.

⁸*Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?"* **Isaiah 6:8 (NLT)**

¹⁹*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.* **Matthew 28:19 (NLT)**

God is... the Father

The Bible teaches that God is the Father.

¹*This letter is from Paul, an apostle. I was not appointed by any group of people or any human authority. My call is from Jesus Christ himself and from God the Father, who raised Jesus from the dead.* **Galatians 1:1 (NLT)**

¹⁰*that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*
¹¹*and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.* **Philippians 2:10-11 (NLT)**

God is... the Son

The Bible teaches that God is the Son.

⁸*But to the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a sceptre of justice.* **Hebrews 1:8a (NLT)**

³⁰*"The Father and I are one."* **John 10:30 (NLT)**

²*But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.* ³*The Son is the exact radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being...* **Hebrews 1:2-3a (NIV)**

God is... the Holy Spirit

The Bible teaches that God is the Holy Spirit.

³*Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit..."*
⁴*You weren't lying to us but to God."* **Acts 5:3a, 4b (NLT)**

Some cults do not teach that the Holy Spirit is a person of the Trinity. They also teach that the Holy Spirit is not a person at all, just a force. The Bible says:

¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future. ¹⁴He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me. **John 16:13-14 (NLT)**

If the Holy Spirit was just a force, He would be called an 'it', and not a 'He'. Jesus was making a point here. A force does not have personality or attributes. Jesus said the Holy Spirit guides, foretells the future, glorifies Jesus Christ and reveals things to the Christian. No force can do that – only a living, eternal person can.

The 'Jesus is not God' deception

Warning! Do not be deceived into doubting that Jesus is God! The Bible is very clear about people and organisations that preach 'another' gospel...

⁸Let God's curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. ⁹I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed. **Galatians 1:8-9 (NLT)**

There are so called 'Christians' that teach that Jesus Christ is not God; Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are just two examples. Let me be very clear... you cannot be a genuine Christian, and believe that Jesus Christ is not God!

It would be extremely unwise to debate with such people, unless you are very strong in your faith and Bible knowledge, because they are highly trained to confuse young Christians into doubting that Jesus is God.

⁷I say this because many deceivers have gone out into the world. They deny that Jesus Christ came in a real body. Such a person is a deceiver and an antichrist. ⁸Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward. ⁹Anyone who wanders away from this teaching has no relationship with God. But anyone who remains in the teaching of Christ has a relationship with both the Father and the Son. ¹⁰If anyone comes to your meeting and does not teach the truth about Christ, don't invite that person into your home or give any kind of encouragement. ¹¹Anyone who encourages such people becomes a partner in their evil work. **2 John 1:7-11 (NLT)**

Lie #1: Jesus is a god

¹In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He existed in the beginning with God. ³God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. **John 1:1-3 (NLT)**

Note: The verses go on to explain that 'The Word' is Jesus Christ.

The Jehovah's Witness translation of the Bible (The New World Translation) purposefully mistranslates this verse to support their teaching that Jesus Christ is not God. Their version reads:

*In the beginning was the Word, and the word was with God, and the Word **was a god.***
John 1:1 (New World Translation)

Any novice Bible translator would easily be able to prove that the Jehovah's Witness Bible's rendering of John 1:1 is grossly inaccurate!

Lie #2: Jesus was created

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created... **Colossians 1:15 (NIV)**

Some cults say that this verse proved that Jesus is not God. The word 'firstborn' does not mean that Jesus was born first. The writer of Colossians, Paul, was writing to Jews here and the Jews had a name for Jehovah (God):

- **Jehovah = Becoro Shel Olam**

Becoro Shel Olam translated means: 'Firstborn of all the world or of all creation', and carries the meaning that God is supreme over all creation.¹ We know that God wasn't born, and any Jew reading this would immediately understand that Paul was saying that Jesus was God.

Words don't always mean what you think they mean. With Bible study it is important to understand what the writer meant and to what culture he was writing to when he used certain words. For example, to surfers, 'sick waves' means excellent waves, to non-surfers sick waves mean unwell waves (which doesn't really make sense). The meaning of one word can differ vastly when heard from different cultures or sub-cultures. It's the same with the Bible. I highly recommend buying a Study Bible. Study Bibles give great insight into things such as the word meanings and hard-to-understand verses etc.

The New Living version of the Bible translates the verse in the correct understanding for our time and culture to avoid confusion...

*¹⁵Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation. **Colossians 1:15 (NLT)***

All man, all God and sinless

One major proof that Jesus is God is the fact that He reconciled man back to God by being the atoning sacrifice on the cross. To achieve what Jesus did on the cross He had to be:

- **All man, all God and sinless**

Only someone who was all human could die in our place... Jesus was. Only someone who has no beginning or no end could break the power of sin and death... Jesus was. Only someone who was sinless could be the atoning sacrifice for sin... Jesus was. Only someone who was all man and all God could reconcile man back to God... Jesus was. Which leaves us with only one conclusion... Jesus is God.

Evidence that demands a verdict

The following verses prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ is God.² These verses also work with the erroneous Jehovah's Witness' New World Bible translation.

- **Who is the one true God?**

*⁵I am the LORD; there is no other God. I have equipped you for battle, though you don't even know me, ⁶so all the world from east to west will know there is no other God. I am the LORD, and there is no other. **Isaiah 45:5-6 (NLT)***

*²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands. Put your hand into the wound in my side. Don't be faithless any longer. Believe!" ²⁸"My Lord and my God!" Thomas exclaimed. **John 20:27-28 (NLT)***

- **Who is the Saviour?**

*¹¹I, yes I, am the LORD, and there is no other Savior. **Isaiah 43:11 (NLT)***

*¹³while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed. **Titus 2:13 (NLT)***

- **Who is the First and the Last?**

*⁶This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven's Armies: "I am the First and the Last; there is no other God". **Isaiah 44:6 (NLT)***

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid! I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive

¹Adam Clarke's Commentary on Colossians 1:15-16. An online version is available: <http://www.godrules.net/library/clarke/clarke.htm>.

²Adapted from Francis Afuso and David Hobbs, tract "The Jehovah's Witness Bible Proves That Jesus Christ Is God".

forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave. **Revelation 1:17-18 (NLT)**

- **Who is the Lord of Lords?**

¹⁷“For the LORD your God is the God of gods and Lord of lords. He is the great God, the mighty and awesome God, who shows no partiality and cannot be bribed”. **Deuteronomy 10:17 (NLT)**

¹⁴Together they will go to war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of all lords and King of all kings. And his called and chosen and faithful ones will be with him.” **Revelation 17:14 (NLT)**

- **Who sent the Holy Spirit?**

²⁶But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. **John 14:26 (NLT)**

⁷But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. **John 16:7 (NLT)**

- **Who is the light of the world?**

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation— so why should I be afraid? **Psalms 27:1a (NLT)**

¹²Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” **John 8:12 (NLT)**

- **Who will judge us?**

⁶Then let the heavens proclaim his justice, for God himself will be the judge. **Psalms 50:6 (NLT)**

³⁹Then Jesus told him, “I entered this world to render judgment—to give sight to the blind and to show those who think they see that they are blind.” **John 9:39 (NLT)**

- **Who is the shepherd?**

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I have all that I need. **Psalms 23:1 (NLT)**

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep. **John 10:11 (NLT)**

Conclusion

I trust this study has shed some light on the subject of the triune nature of God, and also has given concrete proof that Jesus Christ is God. Remember that although it is sometimes difficult to understand God and His ways, we can always trust Him!

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