

Faith Formation – Week Two

The Doctrine of God: The Trinity

Introduction:

Although the word “Trinity” is not in Scripture, the doctrine is clearly taught.

In the Old Testament, God is sometimes referred to in the plural:

Genesis 1:26; Genesis 3:22; Genesis 11:7; Isaiah 6:8

The biblical doctrine of the Trinity can be summarized into three points:

1. God is three distinct persons, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Each person is fully God and equal in deity and importance.
3. There is only one God.

1. God is three distinct persons

They are distinct from each other: Psalm 110:1; Matthew 22:41-46; 3:16-17

They have distinct functions: 1 Peter 1:2

A heresy that denies this truth is called *Modalism*.

2. Each person is fully God and equal in deity and importance

All three persons existed eternally and at creation:

The Son: John 1:2; John 8:58; Col. 1:16-17

The Holy Spirit: Gen. 1:2; Heb. 9:14;

Each person of the Trinity has all of God’s attributes:

Jesus is omniscient: John 2:24

The Spirit is personal and omnipresent: John 14:17

Each person of the Trinity is equally God:

The Father: Ephesians 4:6

The Son: Colossians 2:9

The Holy Spirit: Acts 5:3-4

A heresy that denies this truth is called *Arianism*.

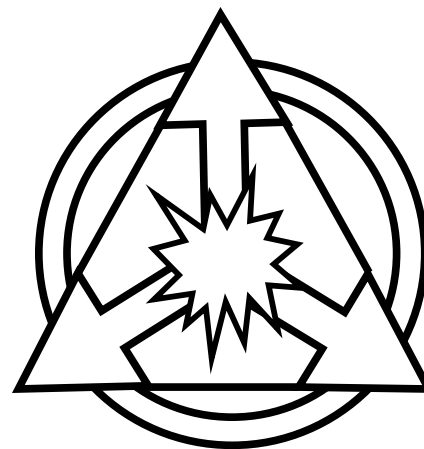
3. There is only one God

He exists not merely in harmony, but in unity. God is one in being.

Harmony means agreement.

Unity means oneness.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 46:9



Ancient diagram of the Trinity

Application

Our faith is reasonable! This doctrine is not a contraction, but a mystery.

God is one in being, three in person.

The triune God is the God whom we worship and must believe in to be saved!

Matthew 28:19; 1 John 2:23; John 4:23

God is a personal being, not a force.

Therefore, relationship is possible with Him! Isaiah 30:18; James 4:8

We must know our faith in order to defend it!

Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons deny the doctrine of the Trinity