

Warnings to be on guard:

Deuteronomy 11:16

For those of us who live life according to the true doctrine of the Trinity, we have a command to understand and stand strong in this essential of the faith,

“Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.” Jude 3–4

As Charles Spurgeon, known as the “prince of preachers,” of the 19th century, stated,

“It needs the Trinity to make a Christian, it needs the Trinity to cheer a Christian, it needs the Trinity to complete a Christian, and it needs the Trinity to create in a Christian the hope of glory.”

Next Week:

Dr. Walter Martin... Baptist minister, author, and founder of The Christian Research Institute wrote,

“When people say, 'I believe in Jesus', look them straight in the eye and ask, 'Which one?'”

Next week,:

The Christian Essential of a correct understanding of Jesus

and the biblical teachings about “Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.”



Essentials of Christianity—Week 1: The Trinity

Purpose of this series: To clarify and solidify essential truths of the Christian faith. **If these truths are missing, incorrect, or incomplete** from our personal belief matrix we are not living biblical Christianity.

Introduction to the Essentials of Christianity series

Our Warnings:

2 Timothy 4:3,4

1 John 4:1-6

The 1 in 60 Rule:

“For each **degree off** in the way you’re heading, you’ll be off course 1 nautical mile over a 60-mile distance.”

Example of the enemy’s deception:

Acts 13:6-10

More Warnings:

1 Timothy 1:4

1 Timothy 4:7

1 Timothy 6:3,4

1 Timothy 6:20

Titus 3:9

THIS WEEK... CORRECT DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS ESSENTIAL

“The Trinity is the basis of the gospel, and the gospel is a declaration of the Trinity in action.” - J.I. Packer

“Lord, I don’t completely understand the Trinity, but it is clearly taught in Scripture, and I will accept it because Your Word is truth. How awesome that You can be both three persons and yet one God! Amen.” - A.W. Tozer

One reason the idea of the biblical Trinity is often attacked as not true, is that the word does not appear anywhere in the Bible.

Biblically true words not mentioned in the Scriptures:

“**Bible**” The collective word of God - Psalm 119:128,151 / Matthew 4:4

“**Omniscience**” which means "all-knowing," - Psalm 147:5 / 1 John 3:20

“**Omnipotence**” which means "all-powerful," - Jeremiah 32:17,27 / Matthew 19:26

“**Omnipresence**” which means "present everywhere," - Psalm 139:7-12 /
Jeremiah 23:24

Other clear biblical concepts not specifically used:

“**Atheism**” is the teaching that there is no God. - Psalm 14:10

“**Divinity**” which means divine quality or godlike character. - 2 Samuel 7:28,29

“**Incarnation**” which means the word God who became flesh. - John 1:1, 14

“**Monotheism**” is the teaching that there is only one God. - Isaiah 43:10; 44:8

“**Rapture**” is the teaching that the Christians who are alive when Jesus returns will be caught up to meet Him in the air. - 1 Thess. 4:16-18

Trinity throughout the Scriptures:

“The Shema”... God is a unity of one

“*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*” Deuteronomy 6:4

In Hebrew the word “one” “**אֶחָד**” is a singular/plural meaning “a unity”
“altogether one”

2 Corinthians 13:14

God the Father – His loving plan of salvation

God the Son – His gracious fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation

God the Holy Spirit – His indwelling fellowship for facilitation of God’s plan

First-century church - statements of faith:

Titus 3:4-6

2 Corinthians 1:21,22

1 Peter 1:2

“Some Jews and Muslims accuse Christians of being idolatrous for believing in the Trinity. My response to both groups is that they fundamentally misunderstand the Christian understanding of the Trinity.” - Miroslav Volf

Some use the word “Trinity” but twist the biblical understanding into falsehood.

A common false teaching of the Trinity is “modalism” ... “A Trinity of Roles”

Modalism defined by the “*Believer’s Study Bible*” says, “Modalism maintains that there is one God who manifests Himself successively as Father, then Son, and then the Holy Spirit but who is not contemporaneously all three.”

Seeing the Trinity... in one place, at one time, doing and saying different things.

Genesis 1:26,27

Genesis 11:7,8

Isaiah 6:8

In the birth of Christ - Luke 1:35

At the baptism of Christ - Matthew 3:16,17

In the “Great Commission” - Matthew 28:19

All members of the Triune Godhead: Same Essence—A Plural Unity

ETERNAL:

Father is Eternal - Romans 16:26

Son is Eternal - John 1:1-3,14

Holy Spirit is Eternal - Hebrews 9:14

ALL-KNOWING:

Father is All-Knowing - 1 John 3:20

Son is All-Knowing - John 2:25 / John 21:17

Holy Spirit is All-Knowing - 1 Cor 2:10

CREATOR:

Father is Creator - Ephesians 3:9

Son is Creator - Colossians 1:16,17

Holy Spirit is Creator - Psa 104:30 /
Job 33:4

LIFE-GIVING:

Father is Life Giving - Genesis 1:11-31

Son is Life Giving - John 1:4,5 /
1 John 11-13

Holy Spirit is Life Giving - Romans 8:10,11

ALL-PRESENT:

Father is All-Present - Jeremiah 23:24

Son is All-Present - Ephesians 1:23

Holy Spirit All-Present - Psalm 139:7

STRENGTH FOR BELIEVERS:

Father Strengthens - Psalm 138:1-3

Son Strengthens - Philippians 4:13

Holy Spirit Strengthens - Ephesians 3:16

The “*Baker Encyclopedia of Christian Apologetics*” puts it this way, “By saying God has one essence and three persons it is meant that he has one “What” and three “Whos.” The three “Whos” (persons) each share the same “What” (essence). So God is a unity of essence with a plurality of persons. Each person is different, yet they share a common nature.” This idea comes across when Jesus states, ““I and the Father are one.”” (John 10:30) The word “one” in Greek translates to “the same essence” or “a unit of sameness.” This refers us right back to the “Shema” of Deuteronomy 6:4... a “unity of one”.