


## Session 1 - "Trinity: God Is"

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### What Is the "Trinity?"

1. According to the Bible, how many true Gods are there? \_\_\_\_\_
2. According to the Bible, how many "persons" are in the True God? \_\_\_\_\_
3. "To clarify, to say that each member of the Trinity is a 'person' does not mean that God the Father or God the Spirit became human beings. Rather, it means that each member of the Trinity \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ because they are persons and not \_\_\_\_\_." (Driscoll, Mark; Breshears, Gerry, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe*, p. 13, Good News Publishers/Crossway Books. Kindle Edition.)
4. "The Trinity is one God who eternally exists as three distinct persons— \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_—who are each fully and equally God in eternal relation with each other." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 13).
5. Is the word "Trinity" found in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_
6. "[The word 'Trinity'] was first used by the \_\_\_\_\_ Tertullian (AD 155–220)." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 12).
7. Is the teaching of the Trinity found in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

 For an in-depth Scripture Study demonstrating from the Bible that the teaching of the "Trinity" is true, please consult Driscoll & Breshears' book, *Doctrine*, or download the essay, *Jesus Christ, God, and the Bible* for **free** at: <http://Luke-15.org/JCGB.pdf>

### Other Gods

8. Since there is only One True God, then all other "gods" must be \_\_\_\_\_ "gods."
9. "The biblical emphasis on the existence of only one true God raises the question of what is to be made of other 'gods' that are worshiped by people in various religions in the days of the Bible and in our \_\_\_\_\_. The Bible states that these 'gods' are very powerful \_\_\_\_\_ who rebelled against God. They \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus and seek worshipers, whom they reward if they serve them well. They perform powerful signs, wonders, and miracles that can \_\_\_\_\_ people into thinking they are equal with God." (Driscoll & Breshears, pp. 13-14).

### What is the Trinitarian God of the Bible Like?

10. "Perhaps the best-known statement about the Trinitarian God of the Bible is found in 1 John 4:8, which simply states, 'God is \_\_\_\_\_.'... In stating that 'God is love,' the Bible also reveals that the Trinitarian God of the Bible is simultaneously the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ of true love." (Driscoll & Breshears, pp. 15-16).

11. "In the very \_\_\_\_\_ of God there is a continuous outpouring of love, communication, and oneness because God is a \_\_\_\_\_ community of love." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 16).
12. The Bible verse most quoted in the Bible tells us a lot about what our Trinitarian God is like:
6. Yahweh! The LORD! The God of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_! I am slow to anger and filled with unfailing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. I lavish unfailing love to a thousand generations. I forgive iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But I do not excuse the guilty. (Exodus 34:6-7, NLT).

### What it Means that Our God is Trinitarian

13. According to Exodus 34:6-7, the Trinitarian God of the Bible is:

- a. **Yahweh:** He has a \_\_\_\_\_. He is \_\_\_\_\_. He is not an \_\_\_\_\_.
- b. **Lord:** He has \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. **compassion:** "Yahweh, the Trinitarian God of the Bible, is compassionate to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ people. He sees our lives, knows our frailty, and responds with compassion." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 18).
- d. **mercy:** It is our God's nature to give mercy. Mercy is when we receive something good that we \_\_\_\_\_. God enjoys being merciful because it is part of His character.
- e. **slow to anger:** Do we have someone in our life who "blows up on us?" Maybe even a Dad or a Mom? Our God is \_\_\_\_\_ like that. He doesn't have a "short fuse." In contrast to many \_\_\_\_\_ and dysfunctional \_\_\_\_\_ that need to be appeased and can quickly turn in anger, our God is slow to anger.
- f. **filled with unfailing love:** "Yahweh, the Trinitarian God of the Bible, is lovingly faithful, shown by the wonderfully powerful Hebrew word *hesed*. It speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, relentlessly pursuing, extravagant, limitless, trustworthy, and merciful love of our God. It speaks of his caring provision coming from his strong mercy." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 18).
- g. **filled with unfailing faithfulness:** "Yahweh, the Trinitarian God of the Bible, is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He never fails and he \_\_\_\_\_ lies. As a result, he alone is fully worthy of faith, trust, and devotion, because he alone will always keep his promises." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 18).
- h. **forgiving:** It is in God's nature to forgive the sins \_\_\_\_\_ have committed, and make us \_\_\_\_\_ from every single blot, blemish, thought, word, and deed that is sinful. "Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool." (Isaiah 1:18).

- i. **not going to excuse the guilty:** God is by nature \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, so He is unable to leave any sin unpunished. *Let's live lives of thankfulness because of God's great offer: if we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus, then Jesus will take the punishment we deserve for us!!!*

### Practical Application That Our God Is Trinitarian

14. The key verses for this section are Genesis 1:1,26-27:

1. In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
26. Then God said, "Let \_\_\_\_\_ make human beings in \_\_\_\_\_ image, to be like \_\_\_\_\_. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the ground."
27. So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:1,26-27, NLT).

15. Some truths about God's Trinitarian Nature (or, "Why this matters"):

- a. **humility:** "Trinitarian life is \_\_\_\_\_. The doctrine of the Trinity is so complex and wonderfully mysterious that it humbles us. This is because while God can be known truly, he cannot be known fully. This forces us to be humble in our understanding of God" (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 34).
- b. **love:** "When 1 John 4:7 says, 'Love is from God,' it is revealing that love emanates from the Trinitarian community of God. Trinitarian love includes love for \_\_\_\_\_, family, \_\_\_\_\_, neighbor, stranger, and even \_\_\_\_\_. This is because even though we were enemies of God, estranged by sin, Jesus came to be our neighbor, loved us as a friend, died for our sins to make us family, and shared with us God's love." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 34).
- c. **worshipful:** The persons of the Trinity give glory to one another. God Himself is the most \_\_\_\_\_ being in existence, so it is \_\_\_\_\_ NOT to worship Him in our song, words, and lives.
- d. **relational:** The Trinity is the ultimate and \_\_\_\_\_ unified relationship. This truth "compels us to live face-to-face with others in companionship and community. This is why Christians practice hospitality to strangers and why they participate in the life of their local church as they live face-to-face with their spouses and children. All of this is to practice for the day when, as Paul says, we too will see God 'face to face.' [1 Corinthians 13:12]" (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 34).
- e. **unified and diverse:** The persons of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each perfectly in unity with one another, but they each perform \_\_\_\_\_ roles. Perfect diversity within unity!
- f. **submissive:** "As we hear Jesus teaching us to pray, 'Your will be done,' [Matthew 6:10] and himself praying, '\_\_\_\_\_ but yours, be done,' [Luke 22:42] while he sweated drops of blood from anxiety caused by the looming horror of his crucifixion, we learn to submit ourselves to the will of the Father by the Spirit like the Son." (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 36).

g. **joyful:** “[The] Trinity is the place of the \_\_\_\_\_ that has ever been or ever will be; each member delights in the others and pours himself out continuously for the good of the others in unparalleled delight. Indeed, another synonym for the Trinity is Happy.” (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 36).

16. “Our longings for \_\_\_\_\_, unity in diversity, communication, \_\_\_\_\_, humility, peace, and selflessness are in fact—by design—longings for the Trinitarian God of the Bible and a world that is a reflection of the Trinity.” (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 12).

17. “Tragically, human desires corrupted by \_\_\_\_\_ turn in on themselves; rather than finding satisfaction in God, longings become lusts—bottomless pits of selfish desire, \_\_\_\_\_ quite satisfied, inevitably leading to \_\_\_\_\_. Because we are made in the image of the triune God to reflect his glory, we will never stop longing; yet, our sin-stained longings distort that reflection.” (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 12).

### In Conclusion

18. “In closing, the Trinity is not a doctrine to be philosophized beyond the teachings of Scripture but rather a \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, worshipful, relational, diverse, submissive, and joyful life to be entered into by the Spirit through the Son to the Father.” (Driscoll & Breshears, p. 36).

### For More Study

For an in-depth Scripture Study demonstrating from the Bible that the teaching of the “Trinity” is true, and countering the false teachings that exist about who God is, please consult Driscoll & Breshears’ book, *Doctrine*, or download the essay, *Jesus Christ, God, and the Bible* for free at: <http://Luke-15.org/JCGB.pdf>

### For Self Examination

The following three questions come from the “Small Group Resources” section of Driscoll & Breshears’ book, *Doctrine: What Christians Should Believe*:

- a) How do you personally resonate with the human longings (e.g., community, relationship, humility, peace) rooted in the Trinitarian nature of God?
- b) Why is a right understanding of the Trinity essential to our faith?
- c) How does the doctrine of the Trinity affect your worship of God? • Which of the doctrinal errors or false views of God are you most familiar with or wrestle with personally? • How does your life reflect the Trinity? • Which of the practical implications listed in this chapter is most significant to you and why?

### Answer Key:

1) one 2) three 3) thinks, acts, feels, speaks, relates, impersonal forces 4) Father, Son, Spirit 5) no 6) church father 7) yes 8) false 9) present day, fallen angels, hate, deceive 10) love, definition, example, source 11) nature, relational 12) compassion, mercy, love, faithfulness 13) a. name, personal, impersonal force, b. authority, everyone, c. hurting, suffering, d. do not deserve, e. not, false gods, relationships, f. constant, passionate, overflowing, g. dependable, truthful, never, h. His people, clean, i. holy, good, just 14) us, our, us 15) a. humble, b. God, friend, enemy, c. glorious, idolatry, d. only perfect, e. different, f. not my will, g. greatest joy 16) love, community 17) sin, never, despair 18) humble, loving

# Why You Should Believe In the Trinity

**Trinity defined:** The Holy Spirit is Jehovah as the Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah and as the Father is Jehovah, yet there is only one Jehovah.

**There is only one Jehovah:** Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6,8; John 17:3

**When we compare Scripture with Scripture we see:** Attributes that are **attributed to Jehovah** are also attributed to **Jesus and the Holy Spirit**.

<b>Jehovah</b> raised Jesus from the dead	Acts 3:15; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30; 1 Corinthians 15:15; Galatians 1:1
<b>Jesus</b> raised Jesus from the dead	John 2:18-22
<b>Jehovah</b> alone knows the hearts and minds of men	1 Kings 8:39
<b>Jesus</b> knows the hearts and minds of men	Matthew 9:4; Luke 5:22; Revelation 2:23
<b>Jehovah</b> alone is to be worshipped	Exodus 34:14; Matthew 4:10; Acts 14:15; Revelation 19:10
<b>Jesus</b> is worshipped	Matthew 14:33; Luke 24:52; Hebrews 1:6 (compare 1961 edition of the New World Translation to the 1984 edition at Hebrews 1:6)
Isaiah saw <b>Jehovah's</b> glory	Isaiah 6:3,10
Isaiah saw <b>Jesus'</b> glory	John 12:36-37,39-41
God's people are to be " <b>Jehovah's</b> Witnesses"	Isaiah 43:10,12
In the New Testament 100% of the time God's people were " <b>Jesus'</b> Witnesses"	Acts 1:8; 2:32; 3:15; 4:33; 13:31
<b>Jehovah</b> "alone" is Creator	Isaiah 44:24
<b>Jesus</b> is Creator	John 1:3, Colossians 1:16 (note: NWT adds [other] 4 times in Colossians 1:16-17 despite absence in the Greek manuscripts - check <i>Diaglott</i> for proof of this.)
<b>Jehovah</b> alone is Savior	Isaiah 43:11; Titus 1:3
<b>Jesus</b> is Savior	John 4:42; Titus 1:4; 1 John 4:14
They will look upon <b>Jehovah</b> who they pierced	Zechariah 12:10
They will look upon <b>Jesus</b> who they pierced	John 19:37; Revelation 1:7
"Prepare the way for <b>Jehovah</b> "	Isaiah 40:3
"Prepare the way for <b>Jesus</b> "	Matthew 3:1-3 (note: NWT uses the word "Jehovah" in Matt 3:3 despite absence in the Greek manuscripts - check <i>Diaglott</i> for proof of this.)
<b>Jehovah</b> is shepherd	Psalms 23:1; 95:6-7; 100:3
<b>Jesus</b> is shepherd	John 10:11,14
We must trust in <b>Jehovah</b> and not a created being	Jeremiah 17:5-7
We must trust in <b>Jesus</b>	2 Timothy 1:12

The Holy Spirit lives inside Christians	1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14
Jesus lives inside Christians	Colossians 1:27
God lives inside Christians	1 John 4:12

***It is not honest to only present the verses that show Jesus' incarnation humanity while ignoring the many scriptures that teach his deity.***

**More to Consider:**

There is only one true God (all others are false)

Isaiah 43:10; 44:6,8; 45:5; 46:9

John 1:1 in the NWT defines Jesus as a "lesser god." This is unbiblical according to the Isaiah verses above.

Jesus is the "firstborn of creation"

Colossians 1:15

Compare Genesis 41:51-52 with Jeremiah 31:9 and you'll see that "firstborn" in the Bible means "preeminent." Colossians 1:18

Greek grammar:

"The owner and manager" = 1 person

"The owner and the manager" = 2 people

NWT adds [the] in brackets to 2 Peter 1:1 & Titus 2:13 despite absence in the Greek ([the] is not in the 1961 edition of the NWT at Titus 2:13.)

Jesus is all-knowing (omniscient)

John chapter 11 records the story of Lazarus. In verse 14 we learn that Jesus knew when Lazarus died, even though no one told him. This shows omniscience. Jesus knew all about the woman at the well in John chapter 4.

Jesus is everywhere (omnipresence)

"And, look! I am with YOU all the days until the conclusion of the system of things." (Matthew 28:20).

[The Holy Spirit] is deity. He is not, however, merely a person. He is a divine person. This can be shown in several ways: (1) Attributes of deity are affirmed of him. He is eternal (Heb. 9:14), omniscient (1 Cor. 2:10f. ; John 14:26 ; 16:12f.), omnipotent (Luke 1:35), and omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-10). (2) Works of deity are ascribed to him, such as creation (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30), regeneration (John 3:5), inspiration of the Scriptures (2 Pet. 1:21; cf. Acts 1:16; 28:25), and raising of the dead (Rom. 8:11). (3) The way in which he is associated with the Father and the Son proves not only his personality, but also his deity, as the baptismal formula (Matt. 28:19), the apostolic benediction (2 Cor. 13:14), and the administration of the church (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

(4) The words and works of the Holy Spirit are considered as the words and works of God (cf. Isa. 6:9f. with John 12:39-41 and Acts 28:25-27; Exod. 16:7 with Ps. 95:8-11 ; Isa. 63:9f. with Heb. 3:7-9 ; Gen. 1:27 with Job 33:4. (5) Finally, he is expressly called God (Acts 5:3f. ; 2 Cor. 3:17f.). Other divine names are also given to him (cf. Exod. 17:7 with Heb. 3:7-9; and 2 Tim. 3:16 with 2 Pet. 1:21). All these references prove that the Holy Spirit, equally with the Father and the Son, is God<sup>1</sup>.

This sheet is meant only to be an overview defense of the Biblical doctrine of the "Trinity." For a more exhaustive defense, please read the essay, *Jesus Christ, God, and the Bible*, which you can download for free at <http://Luke-15.org/JCGB.pdf>

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<sup>1</sup> Thiessen, Henry Clarence, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, pp. 96-97