

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Truths about the Triune Nature of God

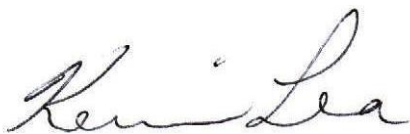
While the word “Trinity” does not appear anywhere in the Bible, the triune nature of God is a central doctrine of the Christian faith, and one of the most important. It is also a doctrine that the enemy of our souls attacks through the false teachings of many cult groups, specifically through denying the deity of Jesus Christ. For example, the Mormons will tell you that they are just another Christian denomination, but they teach that Jesus is the spirit brother of Lucifer, not God Incarnate. Jehovah Witnesses do not believe in the deity of Jesus either; they say Jesus is the Archangel Michael. It is easy to understand why attacking the trinity and the deity of Jesus is so important to the enemy. If Jesus is not God, He could not have paid the price for our sins. (Isaiah 43:11-13).

To help Christians deepen their understanding of God’s triune nature and equip them to share these truths with others, I presented a three-part teaching on the doctrine of the trinity in March 2010, along with handouts for each part. The attached table summarizes the individual handouts, and I encourage you to keep a copy tucked in your Bible.

You can also listen to the messages and download the individual handouts by clicking on the links below:

Message	Handout
<u>Part 1 - Behold, the Lord Our God is One!</u>	<u>Trinity Handout for Part 1</u>
<u>Part 2 - Jesus – The Great I AM and Creator of all Things!</u>	<u>Trinity Handout for Part 2</u>
<u>Part 3 - Jesus - Savior and Redeemer!</u>	<u>Trinity Handout for Part 3</u>

I pray that the Lord Jesus will use this in your life as you grow in Him to the glory of God the Father. Feel free to share this with others.



Kevin Lea
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Truths about the Triune Nature of God – by Pastor Kevin Lea – April 9, 2010 version

Truths about God	Remarks	Scriptures	Specific to Jesus
The Hebrew words used for “God” reveal that God exists as both a singular and a plural entity.	<p>Scripture uses both the plural and singular Hebrew words to refer to God. <i>Elohiym</i> is a plural form that can be translated as <i>God</i> or <i>gods</i> based on the context. <i>Elowahh</i>, is a singular form of the word referring to God.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 6:14-15 use both words for God in the same verse!</p> <p><i>“You shall not go after other gods [plural - Elohiym], the gods [plural] of the peoples who are all around you ‘for the LORD your God [plural] is a jealous God [singular Elowahh] among you), lest the anger of the LORD your God [plural] be aroused against you and destroy you from the face of the earth.”</i></p>	<p>Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God [Elohiym - plural] created the heavens and the earth.</p> <p>Deuteronomy 6:14-15</p>	This Hebrew word usage allows for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to all be one God.
God as a plural entity created man.	<p>Genesis 1:26 – God refers to Himself as “Us.”</p> <p><i>Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”</i></p>	Genesis 1:26	God declaring that “Us” created man, allows for Jesus creating all things, as the New Testament clearly states (detailed below).
God is One.	<p>Deuteronomy 6:4 uses the Hebrew word “echad,” a numerical form of unity. The same word is used in Genesis 2:24 to describe the union of a man and woman in marriage (“and they shall become one [echad] flesh”). Therefore, the Hebrew word can refer to the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (although separate persons) all being one God in the same way a husband and wife (although separate persons) are “one.”</p>	Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one [echad]!”	Jesus teaches on this same unity with the Father in His John 17 prayer – “Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.” (v.11) and “...that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us.” (v.21)
God’s triune nature is revealed in the Old Testament.	<p>The Trinity seen in Isaiah “...the Sovereign LORD has sent Me, with His Spirit.”</p> <p>Sovereign LORD = God (YHWH; “Yahweh.”)</p> <p>Me = The One sent by God, identified multiple places in Scripture as the Son.</p> <p>His Spirit = God sent the Son with “His Spirit” which is also clearly defined as “the” Holy Spirit in the New Testament.</p>	Isaiah 48:16	We see Jesus and the Holy Spirit in this prophecy written 700 years before Jesus.
God’s triune nature is revealed at the baptism of Jesus.	<p>At Jesus’ baptism, the priesthood of Aaron (represented by John the Baptist) is transferred to the priesthood of Jesus as prophesied in Psalm 110. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are all present at the Baptism.</p> <p>Matthew 3:16-17: <i>When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God [God the Holy Spirit] descending like a dove and alighting upon Him [Jesus, God the Son], and suddenly a voice came from heaven [God the Father], saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”</i></p>	Matthew 3:16 – 17	God the Father speaks that Jesus is His Son and that He is well pleased with Jesus. God the Holy Spirit alights on Jesus to provide the power of God to minister the New Covenant. In Matthew 17:5, God the Father tells the Apostles to “Hear Him [Jesus].”

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God's triune nature is revealed at Jesus' Great Commission.	<p>As Jesus commanded, we baptize disciples in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:</p> <p>Matthew 28:19: <i>“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, “teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.</i></p>	Matthew 28:19, 20	Jesus tells His followers that they are to teach all things that Jesus had commanded. True followers of God should only teach the commandments of God. Therefore, Jesus was a false teacher unless His commands were equal to God's commands.
God is Spirit and cannot be seen in His full glory.	<p>Exodus 33:11: <i>So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend...v18-20: And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.” Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you,” But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.”</i></p> <p>No one can see the full glory of God, but “The Angel of the Lord” described Himself as God in the Old Testament and was seen by those He appeared to. Jesus said that if you have seen Him (Jesus), then you have seen the Father.</p> <p>John 14:9-11: <i>Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”</i></p> <p>John 1:18: <i>No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.</i></p> <p>Hebrews 1:1-4: <i>God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.</i></p>	<p>God is spirit and must be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24)</p> <p>The Angel of the LORD is God and can be seen. Ref: Genesis 16:7-13, 22:11-18, 31:11-13; Exodus 3:1-15, 14:19-20; Numbers 22:22-35; Judges 2:1-4, 6:11-22, 13:1-23; Isaiah 63:8-11; Matthew 1:24.</p>	<p>It appears that God does not visibly reveal His infinite power and nature to man. But God wanted man to see and know Him.</p> <p>Therefore, God the Son had the role of materializing when necessary for God to communicate with Man.</p> <p>He did so as “The Angel of the LORD” in the Old Testament and as Jesus in the New Testament.</p> <p>This truth from Scripture has resulted in the theological statement that Jesus is fully God and fully man.</p>
There is only one God in the entire universe.	No god before Him, no god after Him!	Isaiah 43:10, 45:22	But Jesus ascribes attributes of deity to Himself and the Father also ascribes glory and worship to the Son [Jesus]. Therefore, Jesus must be a person of the “one God” Godhead. Some of these attributes are detailed below.

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Truths about God	Remarks	Scriptures	Specific to Jesus
God is the Creator of all things.	It is clear from Scripture that God created all things	Genesis 1, 2, 5, 6; Deuteronomy 4; Psalm 104, 148; Isaiah 40, 41, 42, 43, 45; Malachi 2:10	Therefore, Jesus (who is called “The Word” in John 1:1), is the creator God spoken of in the Old Testament. However the Father and Spirit also played a part as clearly taught in Gen 1:26 (Let “Us” make man in our image).
	But the New Testament Scriptures make it clear that Jesus is the Creator	John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:13-20; Hebrews 1:1- 2	
God declares one of His names to be “I AM.”	God speaks to Moses out of the burning bush and says that His name is “I AM.”	Exodus 3:13	The Jews understood what Jesus meant (taking the name of God) because they took up stones to stone Him for blasphemy. Jesus <i>was</i> blaspheming, unless He was in fact the same God who spoke to Moses in the burning bush.
	Jesus tells that Pharisees the He is “I AM.”	John 8:58	
Only God is to be loved as God.	The Old Testament law taught that we are to love God with <i>all</i> of our heart, soul and strength. There is to be no devotional love to any other God.	Deuteronomy 6:5	If Jesus is asking for the same love that was to be solely devoted to God, then He was either God or a blasphemer.
	But Jesus told the Jews to love Him with the same devotion that they were to have toward the Father.	John 8:42	
Man lives by the Word of God.	At the temptation of Jesus, the devil told Jesus that if He was the Son of God, then He should command stones to become bread. In response, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 8:3, saying that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.	Matthew 4:3-4	If God’s word brings life, but Jesus declared that His words must be listened to in order to have salvation, then Jesus’ words must have the authority of being God’s words.
	Throughout the gospels, Jesus speaks with the same authority as Scripture, claiming that His words provide life, making Himself equal with God.	John 8:21-24, 43-47	
Only God is sinless.	Both the Old and New Testaments declare that all men are sinners.	Leviticus 19:2; 2 Chronicles 6:36; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23	If only God is sinless, and Jesus was sinless, then Jesus must be a person of the Godhead. Jesus must have been sinless in order to die for the sins of others.
	Jesus claimed to be without sin. The writer of Hebrews records that Jesus never sinned.	John 8:46; Hebrews 4:15	
Only God can judge.	Scriptures are clear that God is the ultimate judge of the souls of men. But Jesus says that His words are what will judge men on the final day. Also, the book of Revelation teaches that it is Jesus who judges the earth at his second coming.	Psalm 75:6-10; John 8:49-51, 12:47-48; Revelation 19:11-13	If only God judges and it is actually Jesus that judges, then Jesus must be a Person of the Godhead.

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No one but God can save.	The prophet Isaiah makes it clear that the only way to be saved is to look to Almighty God who can forgive sin and be the Savior to sinful man. God also declares that no one can take those who are saved out of His hand.	Isaiah 43:10-14; 45:21, 22; Jeremiah 31:31-34	If only God can forgive sin and save man, but Jesus can forgive sin and save man, then Jesus must be a Person of the Godhead.
	But in the New Testament, Jesus forgives sin, is declared the Savior and Redeemer of man, and no one can pull the saved out of <i>His</i> hand.	Matthew 9:1-8; Luke 1:68; John 10:26-30; 1 Peter 1:18-19	
God is, "...the First ... the Last."	In the Old Testament, God declares that he is the Beginning and the End –same as "Alpha and Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.	Isaiah 48:12	Therefore, Jesus must be a Person of the Godhead.
	The New Testament declares that Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.	Revelation 1:7-8, 21:5-7, 22:12-16.	
Every knee will ultimately bow to God (as Lord or as Judge).	The Old Testament declares that every knee will bow to God.	Isaiah 45:23	Therefore, Jesus must be a Person of the Godhead.
	But the New Testament is clear that it will be to <i>Jesus</i> that every knee will bow.	Philippians 2:5-11	
Only God is to receive glory and preeminence.	The Old Testament is clear that God will not give His glory to another.	Isaiah 42:5-8	If the Father (Who says He will not give His glory to another) says that He has and will give glory to Jesus, then Jesus must be a Person of the Godhead.
	The New Testament makes it clear that Jesus is preeminent and is to be glorified, and the Father wants it to be so. Jesus also stated that He and the Father are one; therefore glorifying Jesus is glorifying God.	John 10:29, 12:27- 28, 16:14-15, 17:5-24; Colossians 1:17-18; Hebrews 2:9-10	
God is our Shepherd.	The Psalmist declares that people are the sheep of God's pasture.	Psalms 95:5-9	Either Jesus is trying to steal God's sheep or Jesus is God.
	Jesus declares that He is our Shepherd.	John 10:14-27, 21:16-17	
The Holy Spirit is God.	Ananias is said to be lying to the Holy Spirit, but also to God.	Acts 5:1-4	The Holy Spirit <i>is</i> God.

Summary

Old Testament: God is the Shepherd, we are His sheep; we are only to bow to Him and no one can take us out of His Hand. God alone is Savior, Redeemer and only He can forgive sin. Only God is to be glorified and God will not give His glory to another.

New Testament: Jesus is the Shepherd, we are His sheep; every knee will bow to Him and no one can take us out of Jesus' Hand. Jesus is Savior, Redeemer and He can forgive sin. God gives His glory to Jesus.

Conclusion: Jesus was fully man, and Jesus was and is God!

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle – I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying – a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth. (1 Timothy 2:3 – 7)