



The Trinity

Category	God (Trinity)	Father	Son (Jesus Christ)	Holy Spirit
Identity	One God, one essence (being)	First Person of the Trinity	Second Person of the Trinity	Third Person of the Trinity
Nature	One divine essence shared fully and equally	Fully God	Fully God	Fully God
Personhood	Three distinct Persons, not three gods	Distinct Person, not the Son or Spirit	Distinct Person, not the Father or Spirit	Distinct Person, not the Father or Son
Eternality	Co-eternal (no beginning or end)	Eternal	Eternal	Eternal
Equality	Co-equal in glory, power, divinity	Equal to Son and Spirit	Equal to Father and Spirit	Equal to Father and Son
Begotten / Proceeding	—	Not begotten, not proceeding	Eternally begotten of the Father	Proceeds from the Father (and the Son in Western theology)
Role in Creation	Creator of all things	Plans and wills creation	Creates and sustains all things	Gives life, empowers creation
Incarnation	—	Not incarnate	Incarnate—God became man	Not incarnate
Revelation in Scripture	Revealed as one God in three Persons	Revealed as God	Revealed as God	Revealed as God
Primary Roles	Unified work in all divine actions	Source, authority, initiator	Mediator, Redeemer, Revealer	Comforter, Sanctifier, Empowerer
Relationship	Three Persons exist in perfect unity and communion	Father of the Son	Son of the Father	Spirit of God
Worship	Worthy of worship	Worshipped as God	Worshipped as God	Worshipped as God



Distinction	Distinct in person, not in essence	Not the Son or Spirit	Not the Father or Spirit	Not the Father or Son
Knowledge of God	All-knowing	All-knowing	All-knowing	All-knowing
Will	One divine will, united	Shares one will	Shares one will	Shares one will
Power	Omnipotent	Omnipotent	Omnipotent	Omnipotent
Presence	Omnipresent	Omnipresent	Omnipresent (by divine nature)	Omnipresent

Core Doctrinal Statements

Doctrine	Meaning
Monotheism	Christianity teaches one God, not three.
Trinitarianism	The one God eternally exists in three Persons.
Consubstantiality	Father, Son, and Spirit share the <i>same</i> essence (<i>homoousios</i>).
Distinction of Persons	They are not modes, roles, or manifestations, but real personal distinctions.
Unity Without Confusion	The Persons are not blended together or confused into one another.
Co-equality	None is greater or lesser in divinity.
Eternal Generation	The Son is begotten <i>eternally</i> , not created.
Procension	The Spirit proceeds from God, not created or begotten.
Perichoresis	The mutual indwelling and unity of the three Persons.

What the Trinity Is Not

Heresy	Error
Modalism (Sabellianism)	Claims God is one person who switches between three modes.
Arianism	Claims the Son is created and not fully God.
Tritheism	Claims Father, Son, and Spirit are three separate gods.



Macedonianism (Pneumatomachianism)	Denies the Spirit is fully God.
Adoptionism	Claims Jesus became divine later, not eternally God.
Subordinationism	Claims Son or Spirit are lesser in divinity (different from functional submission).

Economic vs. Immanent Trinity

Term	Meaning
Immanent Trinity	Who God is within Himself—eternal relations of Father, Son, Spirit.
Economic Trinity	How God works in the world—different roles, same essence and will.
Functional Submission	The Son submits to the Father in role, not in nature (e.g., incarnation).

Key Scriptural Foundations

Passage Theme	Summary
One God	The Bible affirms one God (Deut 6:4; Isa 45:5).
Father is God	John 6:27; 1 Cor 8:6
Son is God	John 1:1, 20:28; Col 2:9; Heb 1:8
Spirit is God	Acts 5:3–4; 2 Cor 3:17–18
Three Persons Revealed Together	Matt 3:16–17, 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14
Creator, not creature	John 1:3; Gen 1:2; Col 1:16–17