

The Trinity

Contest for the BIG prize for today!!

What is the Trinity? How does it work?

Monotheism – what is it? How many religions are monotheistic? Is Christianity one of them?

Doctrine: (from Latin: *doctrina*, meaning “teaching,” “instruction” or “doctrine”) is a codification of beliefs or a body of teachings or instructions, taught principles or positions, as the essence of teachings in a given branch of knowledge or in a belief system. – *Wikipedia*

“Christians do not ‘believe in’ the doctrine of the Trinity (or any other doctrine). We believe in a living God. But the God we believe in is the God this doctrine confesses, the one living and true God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Faith in *this* God – and lives shaped by faith in this God – is what distinguishes Christians from people who do not believe in God at all and from other religious people whose faith and life is shaped by other views of God.” – *Christian Doctrine by Shirley Guthrie Jr.*

From the Westminster Shorter Catechism:

Q5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q6. How many **Persons** are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three **Persons** in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Three Persons?

One God

Deuteronomy 6:4 (p. 284) – the Shema

Mark 12:28b-29 (p. 1576)

1 Corinthians 8:4b-5 (p. 1780)

One Lord – The Son

1 Corinthians 8:6b (p. 1780)

So, are there two Gods’? One in heaven, one on earth? Or are they the same?

- Immanuel
- John 10:29-30 (p. 1667)
- John 14:9-11 (p. 1675)

But are they also distinguishable from each other?

- John 4:34 (p. 1652)
- John 5:19-23 (p. 1654)

The Holy Spirit

- Is it the Spirit of God or the Spirit of Jesus?

How does it work? Rejected answers:

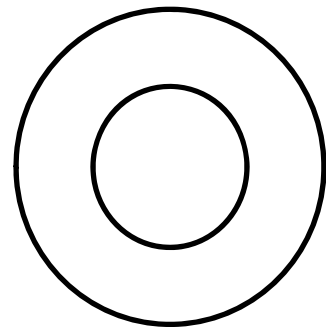
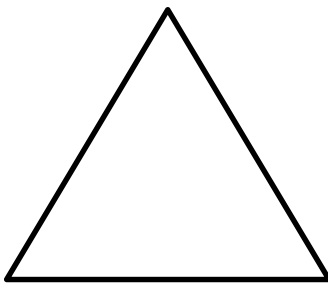
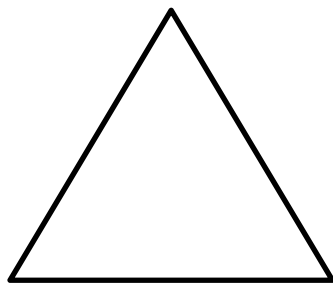
1. Heavenly Board of Directors with specific roles
2. One boss, two subordinates
3. Tag team
4. Three hats (playing roles)

Three jobs: Creator; Savior; Life Redeemer (Who has what role?)

“We may associate different works... but we cannot separate them. They are different aspects of the total work of *one* God... This understanding of the unity of the works of God led the ancient church to formulate a fundamental rule for Trinitarian thinking that is still absolutely essential if we are to understand who God is and what God is doing in our lives and the world around us: *The works of the Trinity are indivisible.*” – Guthrie

All three of one mind, one purpose (Jesus does not change the Father’s attitude about us)

Triangle vs. *perichoresis* (perry-ko-ray’-sis)
Western model vs. Eastern model



An indivisible community
Co-eternal, co-equal