



Exploring The Trinity

March 29, 2026

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I. Today's question on the nature of God follows naturally from last week's question on the authority of the Word of God.

II. The idea of the Trinity though "cognitively challenging" is not illogical or unreasonable.

III. There are two streams of biblical data that flow directly into the "River of the Trinity":

Stream #1: All the verses that demonstrate the divinity and personhood of _____
and the _____.

Evidence That Jesus Is God

1. He _____ like God. How?

2. He _____ to be God.

3. The _____ in their writings said he is God.

4. The early _____ all said he was God.

The Trinity is: one God, in three persons, Co-Existing, Co-Eternal, and Co-operating, serving and submitting to each other.

Stream #2: All the indirect and direct verses that describe the _____
_____ in both Old and New Testaments.

1. Examples from the Old Testament:

2. Examples from the New Testament:

IV. Why Does this Matter?

1. The Trinity matters because it affirms the full revelation of _____.

2. The Trinity matters in helping me have a real _____ with _____.

3. The Trinity matters because it preserves the truth that our salvation is from the _____.

Why Christians Believe That Jesus Is God, And That God Exists As A Trinity

I. Christ's Deity

The Scriptural evidence for Christ's divinity can be broken down into 3 categories: 1) direct references where this is stated, 2) passages where Jesus is shown to possess the attributes of deity, and 3) references where Old Testament passages from Isaiah referring to God alone are applied to Jesus in the New Testament.

a. Direct references

1. John 1:1-4, 14
2. John 5:18
3. John 10:30-34
4. John 20:27-28
5. Philippians 2:5-7
6. Colossians 1:15-20
7. Colossians 2:8-10
8. Titus 2:11-14
9. Hebrews 1:1-3, 6-8
10. 2 Peter 1:1

b. Attributes of Deity Possessed by Jesus

1. Mark 2:5-7

Jesus _____,
something only God can do.

2. Matthew 14:32-33, 28:17; John 9:38, 20:28

Jesus accepted _____,
something only God can do.

3. John 8:57-58, then Exodus 3:13-14

Jesus claimed _____,
something only God can claim.

4. Revelation 1:8 & 22:13, 16

Jesus claimed to be the _____,
something only God can claim.

5. Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8

God says through Malachi that he does not

_____.

Hebrews says of Christ that he

_____.

6. John 8:46, 1 Peter 2:22

Jesus claimed to be _____,
something that can only be said of God.

c. Indirect References to the Messiah's Divinity from
Isaiah

1. Isaiah 40:10-11, then John 10:11, 14, 27
Isaiah says God is...

The New Testament says Jesus is...

2. Isaiah 42:8, then John 1:14; 17:5
Isaiah says God will give his _____ to no one else.

Yet according to John, what does Jesus possess?

3. Isaiah 43:11, then Titus 1:4, 2:13
Isaiah says besides the Lord there is no _____.

Yet according to Titus (and many other verses) what is Jesus?

4. Isaiah 44:8, then 1 Corinthians 10:4
Isaiah says that besides God there is no _____.

Yet according to Paul what is Christ?

5. Isaiah 45:23, then Philippians 2:10
In Isaiah, God says, "To me every....

Yet what does Paul write of Christ in Philippians?

6. Isaiah 45:18, then Philippians 2:11
Isaiah quotes God as saying, "I am the _____ and there is no other."

Yet Philippians (and many other verses) says that Jesus Christ is...

7. Isaiah 45:24 cf. 1 Corinthians 1:30, Phil. 4:13
Isaiah says that only in the Lord are _____ and
_____.

Yet what do these New Testament verses say about Jesus?

8. Isaiah 41:4, then Revelation 1:17-18
In Isaiah, God says he is the
_____.

In Revelation Jesus says he
is _____.

II. Biblical Support For The Doctrine Of The Trinity **(for a great article to get your study started: [click here](#))**

1. Scripture clearly teaches that there is one God.
 - a. Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 46:9

2. Old Testament passages suggest a "plurality" within God's nature (yet not a plurality of Gods.)
 - a. Genesis 1:26, 11:6-7, all of chapter 18

 - b. Isaiah 6:8

3. Although the New Testament never uses the word "Trinity", nor is there an explicit statement of this teaching, there are two categories of evidence which support the doctrine.
 - a. "Formula" verses making mention of the three persons of the Trinity.
 1. Matthew 28:19
 2. Mark 1:9-12
 3. John 14:6-9, 16-18
 4. Acts 20:28
 5. Romans 15:12-13, 30
 6. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
 7. 2 Corinthians 13:14
 8. Hebrews 9:14
 9. 1 Peter 1:2

 - b. Scripture ascribing divinity to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Since we've examined the Scriptural data that pertains to Christ's divinity, let's look at the Scriptural evidence for the divinity of the Holy Spirit.

III. The Deity of the Holy Spirit

Read the following scriptures and take note of how the Holy Spirit is described or what he is doing.

- a. Acts, 13:2-3 and Acts 16:6-7. The Holy Spirit...
- b. Romans 8:27. The Holy Spirit...
- c. Romans 15:30. The Holy Spirit...
- d. 1 Corinthians 12:11. The Holy Spirit...
- e. John 16:7-8, 13-14. The Holy Spirit...

Some argue that the Holy Spirit is just an impersonal "force", like electricity. Is it possible to do the following to a "force"?

- a. Mark 3:28-29
- b. Acts 5:3-4
- c. Ephesians 4:30
- d. 1 Thessalonians 5:19