

3. Trinitarian life is communal.

God said after He created man and before sin entered into the world, that it was not good for man to be alone. Loneliness is not what God intends. Isolation is not what God intends. Relationship, community, friendship, connection – that's what God intends.

4. Trinitarian life is transparent.

The Father, Son, and Spirit, have no secrets among themselves. They live complete, open, authentic, transparent lives. There are no secrets. The Trinitarian life means we're open and honest about our sin, and our folly, and our fear, and our failure, and our hopes, and our longings, and our dreams, and our expectations, and our struggles, and our doubts. We have nothing to hide. We're open. We're honest. We're transparent because that's Trinitarian.

5. Trinitarian life is humble.

There has never been a day when Jesus was jealous of the glory and honor and praise that was being lavished upon the Father. There is never a day when the name of Jesus is preached and worshiped in song that the Spirit stands back and covets that glory. God is altogether humble, the Father, Son, and Spirit, live to honor, to glorify, to cherish, to serve, to exalt one another.

6. Trinitarian life is submissive.

Paul says in 1 Corinthians 11 that the head of the man is the woman in marriage, and that the head of Christ is God. What he is illustrating there is that Jesus Christ, though equal to the Father, is submissive to the Father. He respects authority. If you are defiant, you are not Trinitarian.

7. Trinitarian life is happy.

No one is happier than God. Within the Father, Son, and Spirit there is nothing but unprecedented, unparalleled joy. The reason this is true is because there is no sin. There's no jealousy. There's no conflict. There's no disrespect. There's no lying. There's no hiding. There's no blaming. There's just love: perfect love, perfect unity, perfect communication, perfect affection, perfect adoration, and perfect connection. God is the happiest person who has ever or will ever exist.

that Jesus was a man who became God, not God who became a man. Mormonism says that there are multiple gods and men and women like Jesus have the opportunity to become God.

Doctrine- What Christians Should Believe – Week 2 Trinity - God Is – Part 2

Titus 2:1

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine

Common Questions:

1. Does the Trinity appear in the Old Testament?

Genesis 1:1-2: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.*

The Hebrew word for God here is **Elohim**. It's a plural.

Dr. Gerry Breshears, who is the head of theology at Western Seminary in Portland, published what is called the Targum Neofiti. It's from roughly 200 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

A targum was an accepted Jewish translation and reading of the Old Testament. The targum for Genesis 1:1-2 reads: *"In the beginning, by the Firstborn (Jesus) God (that's the Father) created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

Genesis 1:26: *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."*

This makes no sense apart from the doctrine of the Trinity. Who's the "us" and the "our"? (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)

Genesis 3:22: *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (Trinitarian Language)*

Genesis 11:7: *Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

The Old Testament echoes from Genesis 1 onward with Trinitarian language. At the very least in Genesis 1:1-2 – at the very beginning we have God the Father and God the Spirit. And we have Jewish tradition which says, "We see Jesus there as well – the firstborn, God the Son."

Isaiah 48:16

Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.

This verse shows us the doctrine of the Trinity in the Old Testament. This verse was written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, and foretells the coming of Jesus Christ, eternal God, God the Son coming into history as a man.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor

Jesus quotes this verse referring to Himself in Luke 4:18-21.

2. Does the Trinity appear in the New Testament?

Luke 1:35 – The Trinity appears at the birth of Jesus

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

Matthew 3:16-17 – The baptism of Jesus

¹⁶ *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 descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Matthew 28:19

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,

How the Trinity works in history:

Regarding our salvation, we can see the Trinity at work. We could see that God is one, and that God, the Father, Son, and Spirit, always work in harmony, unison, they work together, but that each has a role to play in various things that they are accomplishing.

1 Peter 1:2 NLT

God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Here's what he's saying: that God the Father knew you and chose you. God the Son came and shed his blood in our place for our sins. And God the Spirit takes up residence in the Christian to sanctify us, to cleanse us, to

transform us to be more and more like Jesus.

What are the major heresies that have contradicted the doctrine of the Trinity?

Number One: There is not one God. That's called polytheism, where there's multiple gods, or tritheism, where there are three gods.

This would include Mormonism, which says that there are multiple gods and that Jesus was a man who became God, not God who became a man. Mormonism says that there are multiple gods and men and women like Jesus have the opportunity to become God.

Number two: To deny that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit are not three distinct persons.

This is called Modalism, or Monarchianism or Oneness or Jesus Only. The primary proponent of this teaching today is the United Pentecostal Church. It's a whole denomination that claims to be Christian, but denies the Trinity. They'll go by the name Jesus Only, that sometimes Jesus manifests as the Father. Sometimes Jesus manifests as the Spirit, but it's always Jesus. There is no Father, Son, and Spirit.

Number Three: To deny that the Father, Son, and Spirit are equally God. Early on there was a heresy in the church called Arianism, which said the Father is God but Jesus isn't. He's a created being. He's not eternally God. Today the Jehovah's Witnesses believe this, and they don't believe in the doctrine of the Trinity.

Living A Trinitarian Life:

1. Trinitarian life is Trinitarian

As a Christian who repents of sin, trusts in Jesus, the division between God and us is removed through Jesus' death and resurrection. As a result, the Holy Spirit comes and resides in us. Now we are brought into relationship with the Trinity. So now all of my life is Trinitarian. God the Holy Spirit – He is in me enabling me to live a Trinitarian life, by the Spirit, through the Son, to the Father.

2. Trinitarian life is loving

Unless we know who love is, where love comes from, and what love is, how are we going to go out and love? Trinitarian love is for the well being, for the honoring, for the serving, and for the cherishing of the other, not using. The Trinity loves perfectly, fully.

