

Doctrine of the Trinity

Compelling Reasons to Believe in the Trinity

The Nicene Creed AD 325

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made.

Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life; who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic [universal] and apostolic church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen

Creed of Chalcedon

AD 451

We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable [rational] soul and body; consubstantial [co-essential] with the Father according to the Godhead, and consubstantial with us according to the Manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, according to the Manhood; one and the same Christ, Son,

Lord, Only begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, inconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the unity, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ; as the prophets from the beginning [have declared] concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself has taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.

1. Simply stated, the doctrine of the trinity may be stated as that term of Christian belief which teaches the unity of three Persons in the one God.
2. The Christian doctrine maintains there is only one God, one divine nature and being but this one divine Being is tri-personal, involving the distinctions of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are united partakers of the same divine nature and majesty of God.
3. The doctrine of the trinity is one of Scriptural revelation for in the Holy Bible God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are each presented as being co-equal, co-eternal and possessing all of the same divine attributes.
4. Admittedly the doctrine of the trinity is a great mystery and surpasses finite comprehension. Nevertheless, belief in the trinity is essential to a proper understanding of the Scriptures and the person and work of Jesus Christ.
5. It has been said that if a person were to try to comprehend the deep mystery of the trinity he might lose his mind but if he denies the trinity he will lose his soul.
6. Many truths may be found in *Scripture* concerning God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus is God in whom is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God....14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

The Father is called God. *Philippians 1:2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Holy Spirit is called God. *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? 4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*

- Jesus is called Creator. *John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. Colossians 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

The Father is called Creator. *Isaiah 64:8 But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.*

The Holy Spirit is called Creator. *Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.*

- Jesus has power to resurrect. *John 2:19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. John 10:17 Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again.*

The Father has power to resurrect. *1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.*

The Holy Spirit has power to resurrect. *Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

- Jesus indwells the believer. *Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:*

The Father indwells the believer. *2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*

The Holy Spirit indwells the believer. *John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

- Jesus is omnipresent which means He is everywhere. *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

The Father is omnipresent. *1 Kings 8:27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?*

The Holy Spirit is omnipresent. *Psalms 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.*

- Jesus is omniscient which means He knows all things. *John 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. John 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

The Father is omniscient. *1 John 3:20 For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.*

The Holy Spirit is omniscient. *1 Corinthians 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

- Jesus sanctifies. *Hebrews 2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he [Christ] is not ashamed to call them brethren,*

The Father sanctifies. *1 Thessalonians 5:23 And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Holy Spirit sanctifies. *1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*

- Jesus gives life. *John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

The Father gives life. *Genesis 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.*

The Holy Spirit gives life. *2 Corinthians 3:6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. 7 But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: 8 How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?*

- Jesus enters into fellowship with the believer. *1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.*

The Father enters into fellowship with the believer. *1 John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

The Holy Spirit enters into fellowship with the believer. *2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.*

- Jesus is Eternal. *Micah 5:1 Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek. 2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he [the Messiah, Jesus Christ] come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.*

The Father is eternal. *Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

The Holy Spirit is eternal. *Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

- Jesus has will. *Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

The Father has will. *Luke 22:42 Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.*

The Holy Spirit has will. *1 Corinthians 12:11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

- Jesus speaks. *Luke 5:20 And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. Luke 7:48 And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

The Father speaks. *Matthew 3:17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Luke 9:25 For what is a man advantaged, if he gain the whole world, and lose himself, or be cast away?*

The Holy Spirit speaks. *Acts 8:29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. Acts 11:12 And the spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house: Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.*

- Jesus searches the heart. *Revelation 2:23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.*

The Father searches the heart. *Jeremiah 17:10 I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

The Holy Spirit searches the heart *Romans 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me; 31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints; 32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.*

- Jesus belongs to the saints and the saints belong to Him. *John 17:6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*

The Father belongs to the saints and the saints belong to Him. *John 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.*

The Holy Spirit belongs to the saints and the saints belong to Him. *Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

- Jesus is to be served. *Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

The Father is to be served. *Matthew 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.*

The Holy Spirit is to be served. *1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.* When the Holy Spirit is obeyed He is served.

- Jesus is to be believed in. *John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

The Father is to be believed in. *John 14:1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. John 14:11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

The Holy Spirit is to be believed in. *John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*

- Jesus gives joy. *John 15:11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

The Father gives joy. *Psalms 51:12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

The Holy Spirit gives joy. *Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.*

- Jesus judges. *Revelation 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*

The Father judges. *Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*

The Holy Spirit judges. *John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.*