

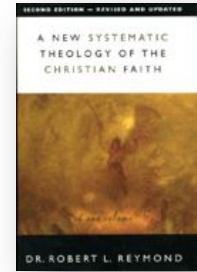
THE TRINITY

THE DOCTRINE OF
THE TRINITY
GOD IN 3 PERSONS

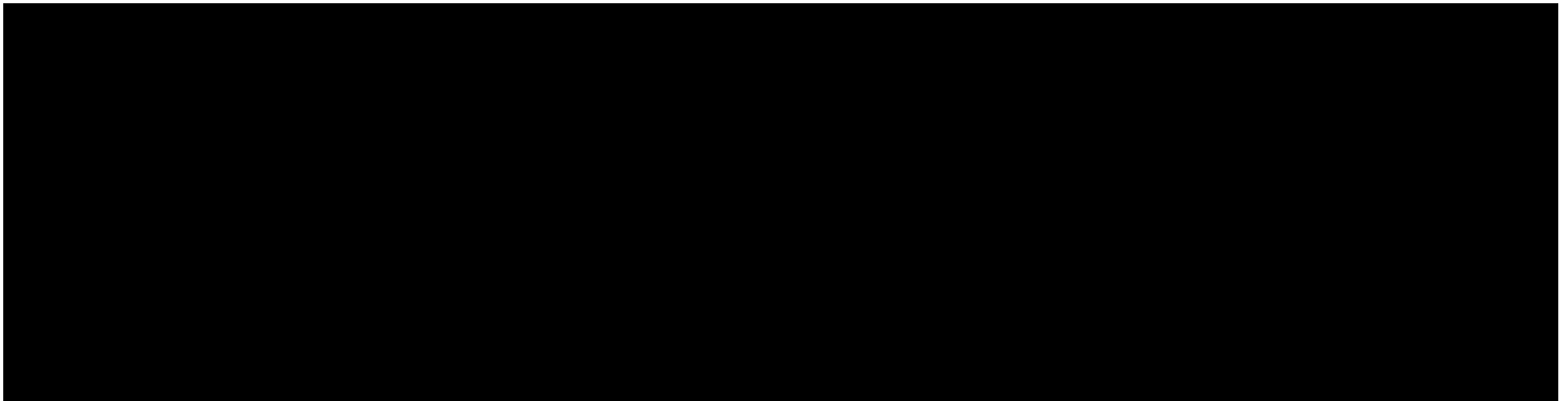


Systematic Theology

A theological study that is topical in nature, addressing the foundational truths of biblical Christianity as communicated by the Scriptures as a whole.



*Robert L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1998), xxv.



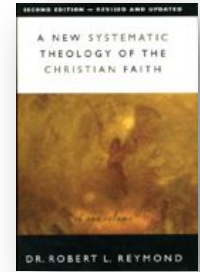
What if you got all your beliefs about God from just one verse in the Bible?

- *John 17:3 – And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.*
- *1 Timothy 2:5 – For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*
- *Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

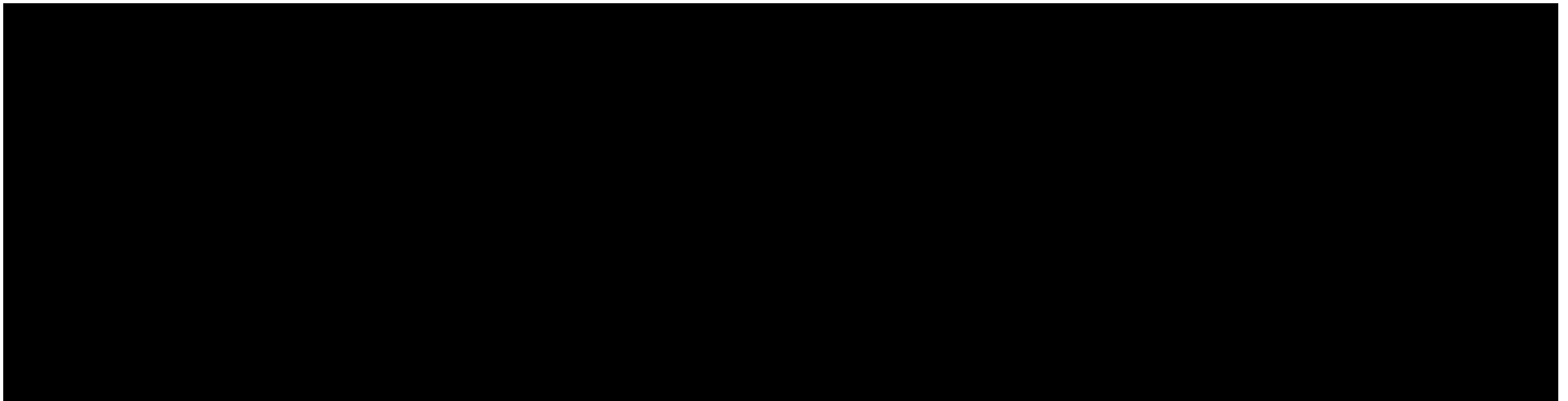


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WHY IS THIS DOCTRINE SO IMPORTANT?

1. We must worship God in truth in order to truly worship Him.
2. We must believe in the God of the Bible or we do not believe in the true God.
3. We must humbly surrender to the ultimate authority of God's Word, even when our minds fail to fully grasp its teaching.



I. THE TRINITY DEFINED

“God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.”¹



“The Father is God, the Son is God the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods, but one God.”²

“Trinity means that the one divine nature is a unity of three persons and that God is revealed as three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”³

¹Wayne A. Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* (Leicester, England; Grand Rapids, MI: Inter-Varsity Press; Zondervan Pub. House, 2004), 226.

²Mark Water, *Hard Questions About the Bible Made Easy*, The Made Easy Series (Alresford, Hampshire: John Hunt Publishers Ltd, 2000), 60.

³Stanley Grenz, David Guretzki, and Cherith Fee Nordling, *Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 116.

“Among the religions of the world, the Christian faith is unique in making the claim that God is one and yet there are three who are God.”

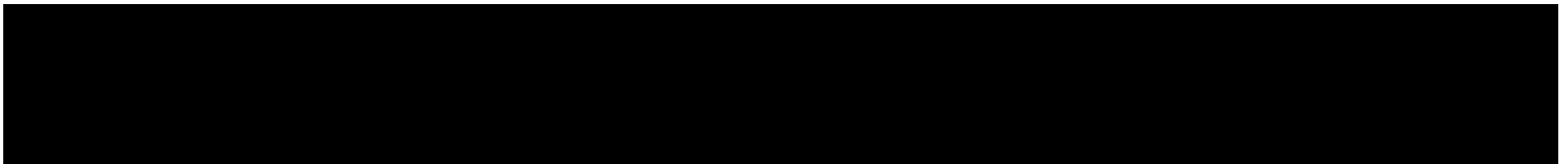


Millard J. Erickson, *Christian Theology.*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1998), 347.

II. THE TRINITY OBSERVED

“Let us not be misled by the foolish argument that because the *term* ‘Trinity’ does not occur in the scriptures, the *doctrine* of the Trinity is therefore unscriptural” (F.F. Bruce).

A. God is One



Deuteronomy 4:35 – To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord is God; there is no other besides him.

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 – “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Isaiah 45:5–6 – I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶ that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.

Romans 3:29–30 – Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, ³⁰ since God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

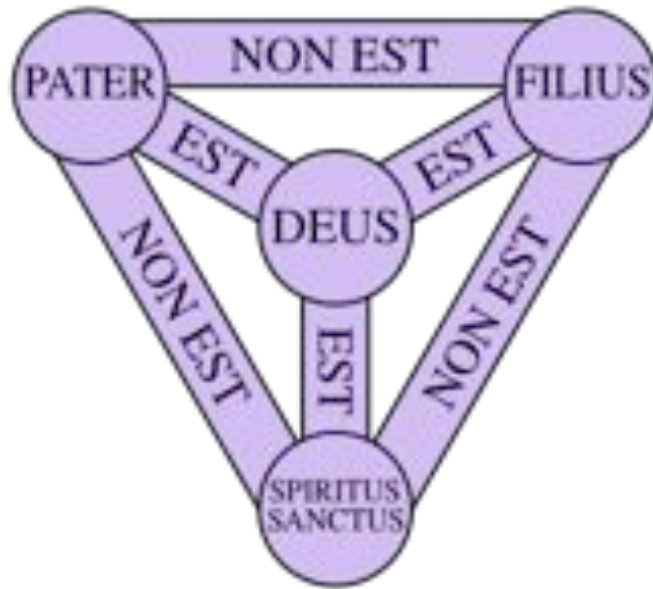
¹ Timothy 2:5 – For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

James 2:19 – You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

II. THE TRINITY OBSERVED

A. God is One

B. Yet there are Three Who are God



II. THE TRINITY OBSERVED

Is this illogical?

There is no logical contradiction.

The Bible does not say:

- There is one God and three Gods.
- There is one Person and three Persons in the Godhead.

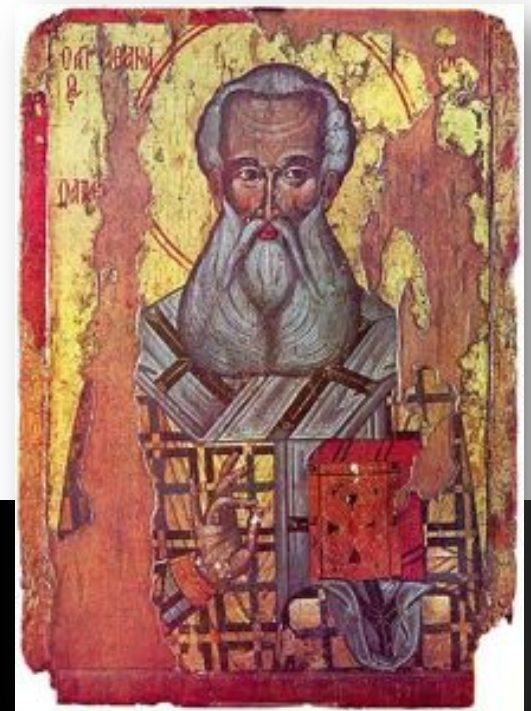
Instead it states:

There is one God in Three Persons.



THE ATHANASIAN CREED

“And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance [Essence]. For there is one Person of the Father: another of the Son: and another of the Holy Spirit. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is: such is the Son: and such is the Holy Spirit ... For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord: So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion: to say, There be [are] three Gods, or three Lords.”

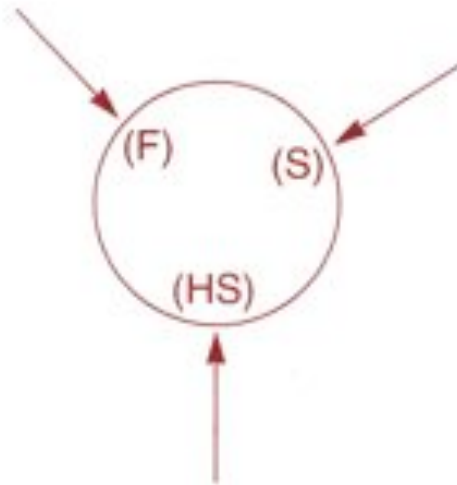


III. THE TRINITY DENIED

Two errors that appear in the history of the consideration of the doctrine are **tritheism** and **unitarianism**.

Emphasis tends to center either on God's Oneness or God's Threeness.

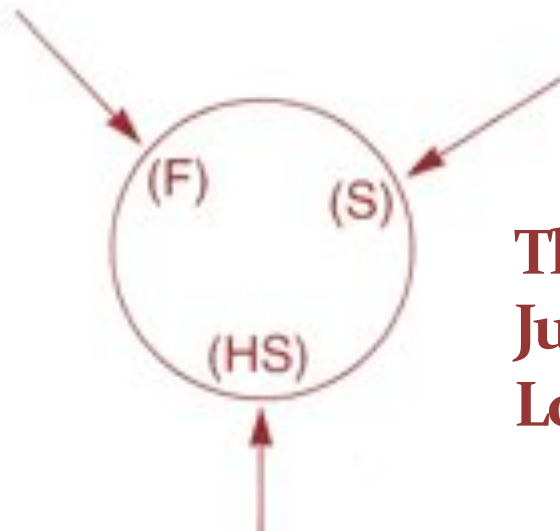
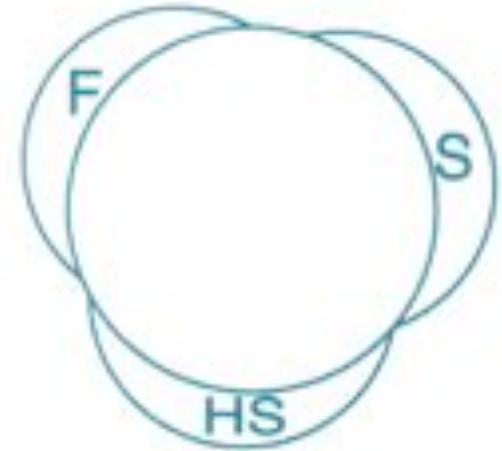
A common de-emphasis of God's Threeness comes from *Modalism*.



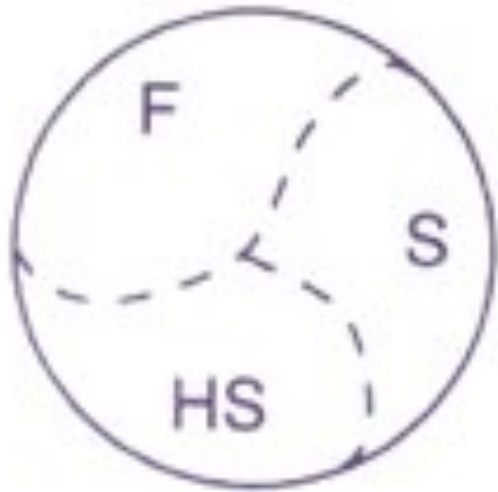


God's Being Is Not Divided Into Three Equal Parts Belonging to the Three Members of the Trinity

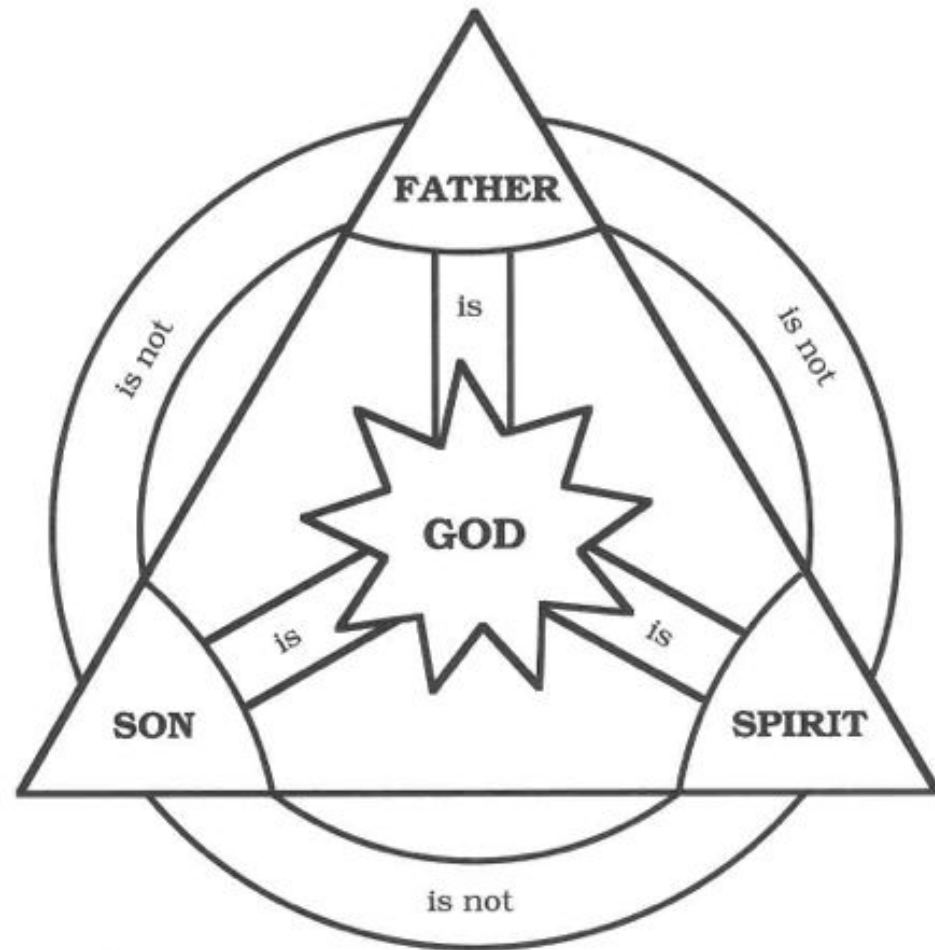
The Personal Distinctions in the Trinity Are Not Something Added Onto God's Real Being



The Persons of the Trinity Are Not Just Three Different Ways of Looking at the One Being of God



**There Are Three Distinct Persons,
and the Being of Each Person Is
Equal to the Whole Being of God**



IV. THE TRINITY EXPLAINED



The Use of Analogies

- Each illustration either focuses more on God's Oneness or God's Threeness.
- Each illustration taken to its logical conclusion illustrates a heretical view of the Trinity better than an orthodox one.
- All analogies for the Trinity break down because they are illustrations from creation—and God is separate from it.

THE TRINITY