

Part 2. The Nature and Work of God

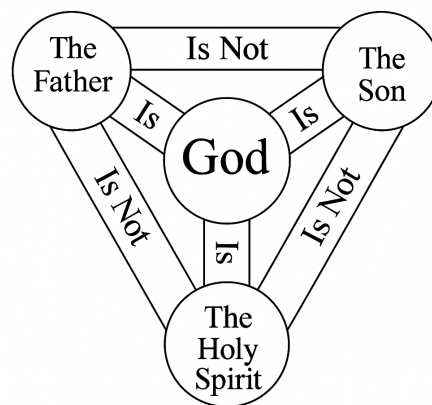
Lesson 1: God in Three Persons

Lesson Summary

The doctrine of the Trinity teaches that the one, true God eternally exists as three coequal and coeternal Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). While the term “Trinity” is not found in Scripture, the truth is revealed throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Distinctions among the Persons are seen in passages where the Lord is distinguished from the Lord (Gen. 19:24), the Redeemer from the Lord (Isa. 59:20), and the Spirit from the Lord (Isa. 48:16).

Orthodox Christianity affirms this biblical view, rejecting heresies such as modalism (God as one Person appearing in different modes) and polytheism (belief in multiple gods).

Revelation chapters 12–13 describe Satan’s counterfeit—the “unholy trinity” of the Dragon (Satan), the Beast (Antichrist), and the False Prophet—who imitate God in order to deceive. Unlike the Holy Trinity, marked by truth and life, the counterfeit system is marked by deception, rebellion, and destruction. Yet Scripture promises that God will judge and defeat this false trinity, and that His Kingdom will ultimately prevail (Dan. 7:21–22; Rev. 20:10).



Key Takeaways

- **Trinity defined:** One God in three distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).
- **Scriptural support:** The Son is distinguished from the Lord (Isa. 59:20), the Spirit from the Lord (Isa. 48:16), and the Lord from the Lord (Gen. 19:24).
- **Orthodox view:** Each Person is fully God, coequal and coeternal—rejected errors include modalism and polytheism.
- **Counterfeit revealed:** Revelation 12–13 describes Satan, the Antichrist, and the False Prophet as a demonic “unholy trinity.”
- **Victory assured:** God’s Kingdom triumphs over Satan’s counterfeit (Dan. 7:21–22; Rev. 20:10).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q:** What does the doctrine of the Trinity teach?
A: That one God eternally exists as three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19).

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2. **Q:** Where do we see distinctions among the Persons in the Old Testament?

A: Gen. 19:24 (the Lord distinguished from the Lord), Isa. 59:20 (Redeemer distinguished from the Lord), Isa. 48:16 (Spirit distinguished from the Lord).

3. **Q:** What is modalism, and why is it heretical?

A: The belief that God is one Person appearing in different modes (Father, Son, Spirit). It denies the Trinity.

4. **Q:** What is the “unholy trinity” in Revelation?

A: Satan (dragon), the Antichrist (beast from the sea), and the False Prophet (beast from the earth) (Rev. 12–13).

5. **Q:** How does God ultimately deal with Satan’s counterfeit system?

A: He defeats and judges them, giving the Kingdom to His saints (Dan. 7:21–22; Rev. 20:10).

The Trinity reveals the mystery of the one true God—Father, Son, and Spirit—while Satan’s counterfeit is destined for defeat.