

# FOUNDATIONS

## LESSON 8: THE TRINITY

“My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” Isaiah 55:8-9

**Main Idea:** God has eternally existed as Trinity, which is a glorious mystery that affects every area of our lives.

### I. Trinity Basics

- A. The word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible.
- B. The God of the Bible is the only one true God.  
(Deuteronomy 6:4–5, Isaiah 44:6–8, 45:5-7, 45:22; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; James 2:19)
- C. The **One** true God eternally exists as **three** distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. They share the same essence, yet are distinct in their persons.
- D. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not three different **gods** who work for the same purpose.
- E. God is not **one** person, the Father, with Jesus as a creation and the Holy Spirit divine energy.
- F. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not **one** person who merely appear as three different persons.
- G. Church history has been marked by the “blessedness of heresy” which has helped Christians formalize in creedal form what the Bible teaches about the Trinitarian nature of God.  
(cf. Apostles’ Creed, Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed)

### II. Trinity In the Old Testament

- A. Who is God Talking To? (Genesis 1:26-27, 3:22, 11:7, Isaiah 6:8)
- B. What Does It Mean for God To Be One? (Echad (אֶחָד) and Yahid (יְהִיד))

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## III. Trinity In the New Testament

1. The three persons of the Trinity possess the divine nature while maintaining distinct personhood and roles.
2. All things flow *from* the Father, *through* the Son, *by* the Holy Spirit.

### A. Trinity Together in the New Testament

- i. Great Commission – Believers are to baptized in the name (singular) of the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit (three distinct persons). **Matthew 28:16-20**
- ii. Jesus' Baptism – Jesus the Son was anointed by the Holy Spirit to do the work of the Father who affirmed Him. **Mark 1:9-12**
- iii. Upper Room Discourse – As Jesus prepared to go to the cross and back to the Father, He promised His disciples the Father would send the Holy Spirit to them in His Name. **John 14:23-26, 15:26, 16:13-15**
- iv. Salvation – We have peace with God the Father through Jesus His Son even in the most trying times because the Holy Spirit reassures us of His love. Romans 5:1-8
- v. Salvation – Clearly Trinitarian. The Father chose us and predestined us in eternity past (v3-6), the Son redeemed us through His blood and grants us forgiveness of sins (v7-12), and the Holy Spirit seals us as a pledge that God will fulfill His promises (v13-14). All is done for God's glory (v6, 12, 14). **Ephesians 1:3-14**
- vi. Consummation – We have the great hope of one day seeing the face of God the Father (v4), but until that day the Spirit and the Son call for unbelievers to come and drink of the water of life (v17). **Revelation 22:16-21**