

# FOUNDATIONS

## LESSON 9: THE PERSONS OF THE TRINITY

**Main Idea:** The doctrine of the Trinity reveals the personal nature of God, which is reflected in every area of life.

### I. Trinity Basics Revisited

- A. The word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible.
- B. The God of the Bible is the only one true God. (**Dt 6:4–5, Is 44:6–45:22; Jn 17:3; 1 Cor 8:4-6; Js 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 Spirit as an energy or force.
- F. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not **one** person who merely appear as three different persons.

### II. The Persons of the Trinity

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

#### A. God the Father

1. The Father is the head of the Trinity. He made plans in eternity past and is working them out now according to His timing (Acts 1:7; Matthew 24:36; 1 Corinthians 11:3).
2. Our heavenly Father is the source of all things (John 5:26) and the One to whom all things return (1 Corinthians 15:24). One way this is seen is that the Father foreknows, chooses and predestines people (Eph. 1:4; 1 Pt. 1:2; Rom. 8:28-30) whom He gives to the Son to redeem (Jn 6:37-40) and then entrusts all judgment to the Son (Jn 5:22).
3. There is no inferiority between the Father, Son, or Spirit. Each are fully God, yet have unique roles. God is the perfect balance of authority (John 10:29, 14:28), submission (John 5:30), and glory-sharing love (John 3:35, 5:20, 14:31, 15:9-10, John 17:5, 24 / Isaiah 42:8). God the Father commands the Son to act according to His will (Jn 12:49-50) and sends the Spirit to live within believers and conform them to the image of the Son (John 3:34; 14:16; Romans 8:29).
4. We most normally relate to the Father (Mt. 6:5-13; John 16:23) through the intercessory work of the Son (John 14:13-14; Hebrews 4:14-16), in / by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20).

#### B. God the Son

1. Jesus is directly and indirectly referred to as God throughout the New Testament.

(Mt 26:63–65, 28:9-20; Jn 1:1–18, 5:17-23, 8:58-59, 10:30–39, 12:37–41 [cf. Is 6:9–11]; 120:28–29; Acts 20:28; Rom. 9:5; 1 Cor. 8:4–6; Col 1:13–19, 2:8–9; Philip. 2:5–11; 1 Tim. 6:15; Titus 1:3-4, 2:13; Heb. 1:1-14; 2 Pt 1:1; 1 Jn 5:20; Rev. 1:8–18, 22:13-16 [cf. Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12], 17:14 and 19:16 [cf. Deut. 10:17; Ps 136:3; Dan. 2:47]).

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2. Jesus willingly submitted to the will of the Father in order to please Him and show Him love. (John 4:34; 5:19, 30; 6:38; 8:28-29; 8:49-50; 14:31; 15:9-10, 15:15; Romans 3:24-25)
3. God has given Jesus the authority, power, and right to judge all people. (John 5:22-27; Acts 10:42, 17:31; cf. Daniel 7:9-14)

### C. God the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit is God. (Mt 12:30-32; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor 3:16-18; 2 Tim 3:16 / 2 Pt 1:20-21; Isa 6:8-9 / Acts 28:25; Ps. 95:7 / Heb. 3:7; Jer 31:3 / Heb 10:15)

We must be clear, the Holy Spirit is not a force, feeling, emotion, or spiritual rush. He is the third person of the Trinity. When a person lies to the Holy Spirit, it is the same thing as lying to God (Act 5:3-4). Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is an unforgivable sin and is worse than speaking against the Son (Matthew 12:30-32).

The Holy Spirit is said to be eternal (Heb 9:14), omniscient (1 Cor 2:10-11), and omnipresent (Ps 139:7-8). He speaks the words of God and inspires the Scriptures (Is 6:8-9 / Act 28:25; Ps 95:7 / Heb 3:7; Jer 31:3 / Heb 10:15; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16). He also raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18).

2. The Holy Spirit is a distinct divine person.

The Spirit teaches and reminds God's people of the truth Jesus has given through the Apostles (Jn 14:26, 1 Cor. 2:10-13). He testifies (Jn 15:26, Rom. 8:16) and helps us (Rom 8:26). He intercedes for us (Rom 8:27), convicts the world of sin (Jn 16:7) and guides believers in obedience to God (Jn 16:13, Acts 10:19, 11:12, 13:2, 21:11).

He has feelings and emotions (Act 15:28) and can make decisions (Act 13:2, 16:6). He has His own mind (1 Cor. 2:10-14, Rom 8:27) and determines who He gives gifts to (1 Cor. 12:8-11). He generates love among Christians (Rom. 15:30, 2 Cor. 13:14) and can be grieved (Eph. 4:30), insulted (Heb. 10:29) and quenched (1 Thess. 5:19).

3. The Holy Spirit exists in submission to the Father and the Son and serves to bring them glory. (John 16:13-14)

### III. Trinity In Everyday Life