



Thoughts on God as Trinity

**Seminar Series
Westminster Presbyterian Church
October 2021
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What's the Trinity mean to you? For You? This most significant doctrine of our faith is often misunderstood, and it can easily leave us mystified. In these four sessions, we'll engage this mystery of God's nature as three-in-one. Come with your own thoughts and questions, and see how focusing on the triune reality of God can help deepen our faith, our relationships, and our approach to life in this world!

October 10	The Mystery of Mysteries
October 17	Enigmas and Issues: The Oneness of the Three
October 24	"Specialties": The Threeness of the One
October 31	The Trinity in Our Lives and Our Faith

** Image from Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA) Website*

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- 1.1** We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.
- 1.2** We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
- 1.3** We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THOUGHTS ON THE TRINITY



(Image from Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA) Website)

KARL BARTH



“He who reveals Himself according to the Scriptures is to be loved and feared; to be feared because He can be God; to be loved because He can be OUR God!”

RICHARD ROHR



[Referring to God's grace]

“God does not love you because you are good. God loves you because *He is good!*”

Thoughts on the Trinity



1. The Mystery of Mysteries
2. Enigmas and Issues: The Oneness of the Three
3. “Specialties”: The Threeness of the One
4. The Trinity in our Lives and Our Faith



The Mystery of Mysteries!

The Mystery of Mysteries



Two Arguments against the Trinity:

1. The concept of the Trinity seems implausible.

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1??$$

THE MYSTERY OF MYSTERIES



Some Arguments against the Trinity:

- 1. The concept of the Trinity seems implausible.*
- 2. The concept has no practical benefit.*

IMMANUEL KANT



“The doctrine of the Trinity provides nothing, absolutely nothing, of practical value, even if one claims to understand it;...It costs the student nothing to accept that we adore three or ten persons in the divinity...

Furthermore, this distinction offers absolutely no guidance for his practical conduct.”

KARL BARTH (Again)



[The doctrine of the Trinity] “marks off the Christian concept of revelation as Christian, in face of all other possible doctrines of God and concepts of revelation.”

Christology Led to Trinity!



1. Jesus must be more than just a great man.

Christology Led to Trinity!

“Step 1”: Jesus Christ



“though he was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited... God also highly exalted him...[so that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord... *(Phil 2:5-11)*”

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” *(John 1:1)*

“[God’s Son] is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being” *(Hebrews 1:1-3)*

Christology Led to Trinity!



1. Jesus must be more than just a great man.
2. The Spirit is closely tied to Father and Son.

Christology Led to Trinity!

“Step 2”: The Spirit



“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” *(Acts 13:2)*

“When the Advocate [*Paraclete*] comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf.”
(John 15:26)

“Likewise the Spirit helps us...for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.” *(Romans 8:26)*

Christology Led to Trinity!



1. Jesus must be more than just a great man.
2. The Spirit is closely tied to Father and Son.
3. All three must somehow be divine.
 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” *(Matthew 28:19)*

Rodrick Durst



1. Father / Son / Spirit (24%)
2. Son / Father / Spirit (20%)
3. Spirit / Father / Son (19%)
4. Son / Spirit / Father (15%)
5. Father / Spirit / Son (12%)
6. Spirit / Son / Father (10%)

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” *(II Corinthians 13:13)*

*Glory Be to You,
O God,*



*Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit!*