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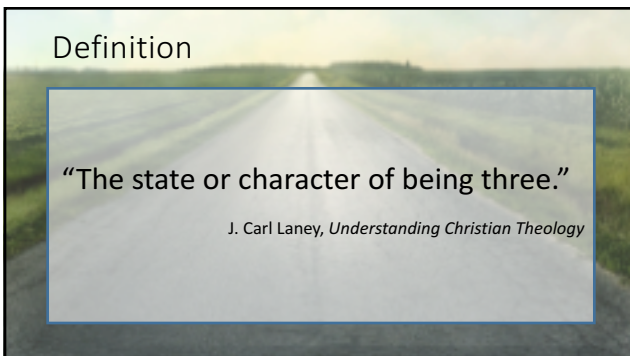
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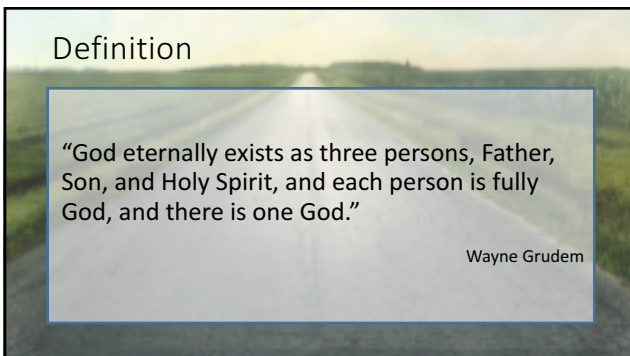
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## Three Helpful Terms

1. Distinction
2. Equality
3. Unity

God eternally exists as **three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (DISTINCTION)**,  
and **each person is fully God (EQUALITY)**,  
and **there is one God (UNITY)**.

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## Monotheism

### There Is Only One True God

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one."

Deuteronomy 6:4

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## Three Divine Persons in One Godhead

1. The Father is God.

"... yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist..."

1 Corinthians 8:6

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### Three Divine Persons in One Godhead

1. The Father is God.
2. The Son is God.

"But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.'"

Hebrews 1:8

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### Three Divine Persons in One Godhead

1. The Father is God.
2. The Son is God.
3. The Spirit is God.

"But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.'"

Acts 5:3-4

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### Evidence for Triunity

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:13-17

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### Evidence for Triunity

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

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### Evidence for Triunity

#### Old Testament

~~Genesis 1:26~~

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### Evidence for Triunity

#### Old Testament

Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there. And now the Lord God has sent me, and his Spirit.

Isaiah 48:16

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## Illustrations

1. Egg
2. Three-Leaf Clover
3. Water, Ice, Steam
4. Neopolitan Ice Cream

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## Illustrations

"We must be careful with these illustrations since they are imperfect and inadequate to describe this great mystery of God."

J. Carl Laney, *Understanding Christian Theology*

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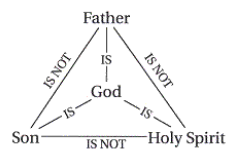
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## Trinitarian Triangle




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## Overview of Trinitarian History

1. Ebionism: Originated from a Jewish-Christian sect. States that Jesus was a human only, and as a revolutionary zealot was martyred for attempting to effect change in corrupt first-century Judaism. DENIES THE DEITY OF JESUS.
2. Docetism – An idea embraced by Gnostics. Gnosticism holds that the material world is bad and the spiritual realm is good; therefore, docetists held that Jesus only appeared (*δοκέω*, *to seem, imagine*) to be human, but was in fact a spirit. DENIES THE HUMANITY OF JESUS.

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## Overview of Trinitarian History

3. Adoptionism – A Monarchian view, asserts that Jesus was adopted by the Father at his baptism because of his piety he was considered worthy to become the Son of God. REJECTS EQUALITY.
4. Modalism – A Monarchian view, claims that God is one, yet manifests himself in three different modes, that the Father acted as the Son, then the Spirit. REJECTS DISTINCTION.

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## Overview of Trinitarian History

5. Sabellianism – An offshoot of modalism, holds that God the Father became the Son in the New Testament, then became the Spirit in the church. REJECTS DISTINCTION.
6. Arianism – Arius, an early presbyter of Alexandria, believed that the Son was created by the Father and did not share the same divine substance as the Father. REJECTS EQUALITY.

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## Response to Arianism

The Council of Nicea (AD 325) – Affirms that Jesus Christ is “the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only begotten, that is of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father.”

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## Nicean Creed

We believe in one God, the Father all governing, creator of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father as only begotten, that is, from the essence of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, True God from True God, begotten not created, of the same essence as the Father, through whom all things came into being, both in heaven and in earth; who for us men and for our salvation came down and was incarnate, becoming human. He suffered and the third day he rose, and ascended into the heavens. And he will come to judge both the living and the dead. And we believe in the Holy Spirit.

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## Overview of Trinitarian History

6. Apollinarianism – Apollinarius, a fourth-century bishop of Laodicea, declared that in his incarnation Christ took on a human body and soul but not a human mind or spirit. DENIES THE UNITY OF JESUS' TWO NATURES.
7. Nestorianism – Although Jesus was one person, his two natures existed side by side and hence were separable. Held that Jesus the human died on the cross, but not Jesus the divine. DENIES THE UNITY OF JESUS' TWO NATURES.

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## Overview of Trinitarian History

8. Eutychianism – Eutyches interpreted the church's confession that Jesus was "one person" with the idea that our Lord possessed only "one nature." As a result, Eutyches conceived Jesus as one in whom divinity and humanity mingled to form a new body. DENIES THE DISTINCTION OF JESUS' TWO NATURES.

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## Response to Christological Heresies

The Council of Chalcedon – A council of Christian bishops that met in AD 451. They emphasized the oneness of Christ's person and the distinction of His full two natures, divine and human, in unity with each other.

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## Groups That Reject the Trinity

Jehovah's Witnesses  
Mormons

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So What?

### Creation

1 Corinthians 8:6  
Acts 17:24-26  
Ephesians 1:11  
John 1:3  
Genesis 1:2

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So What?

### Incarnation

John 4:24  
Colossians 1:15  
John 1:14  
Matthew 3:16  
Acts 10:38  
Matthew 12:28

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So What?

### Salvation

1 Peter 1:2  
Ephesians 1:4-7  
John 16:8  
Ephesians 1:13-14

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So What?

### Revelation

2 Peter 1:21  
 Revelation 1:1  
 2 Timothy 3:16  
 John 16:13-14  
 1 Corinthians 2:10

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So What?

### Prayer

Matthew 6:9  
 John 16:23-24  
 John 14:14  
 Romans 8:26-27

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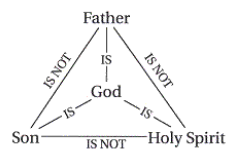
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Trinitarian Triangle




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Definition

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

Wayne Grudem

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