



The Doctrine of God the Father

“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
(A. W. Tozer)

God is *bigger* than we can imagine

*How great is our Lord! His power is absolute!
His understanding is beyond comprehension!*
Psalm 147:5

- Omniscient: he knows everything that there is to know, past, present, future.
- Omnipresent: is not bound or limited by space.
- Omnipotent: has unlimited power.

God is *better* than we can imagine

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, “The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness...”
Exodus 34:6

- Merciful: a feeling word, like feeling a mother or father has for their children.
- Gracious: action word. Means to show favor, carries idea of helping someone in need.

God is *closer* than we can imagine

Come close to God and God will come close to you.
James 4:8

- If we had to sum up in a single word what God is up to, what his goal is in creating the universe and people who inhabit it, that word would be relationship.
- To see why relationships matters so much to God, we have to go way back, back before earth and humans were created, think about what life was like for God before anything else existed.
- The Doctrine of the Trinity: the Bible that Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist as three persons, and yet are one God. Perfect oneness, yet three persons, each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality.

God Exists as a Trinity

We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons – a Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality.

God is One

- *The LORD our God, the LORD is one.* (Deuteronomy 6:4)

- *I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.* (Isaiah 46:9)

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all called God

- *The Father is God: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.* (Romans 1:7)

- *Jesus is God: Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"* (John 20:28)

- *The Spirit is God: "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied to men but to God."* (Acts 5:3-4)

Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct from one another

- **Jesus is distinct from the Father:** *After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: "Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.* (John 17:1-3)

- **The Spirit is distinct from the Father:** *But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.* (John 14:26)

- **The Son is distinct from the Spirit:** *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.* (John 14:16-17)

Glimpses of the Trinity throughout Scripture

God speaks of himself as "us" in four places in the Old Testament.

Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Isaiah 6:8

All three persons were involved in creation.

Father – Hebrews 1:2; Son – Colossians 1:15-16; Holy Spirit – Genesis 1:2

We're baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

All three persons were present at Jesus' baptism & birth announcement.

Mark 1:10-11; Luke 1:35

All three persons were part of Jesus resurrection.

Father – Acts 3:26; Son – John 2:19; Spirit – Romans 8:11

Paul's prayer in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

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

Jesus promise to his disciples in John 14:16-17.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.