

International Conversation Café

Community Group: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Someone once said that if we could figure everything out about God, he would not be God. Since God is greater than us in strength and ability, it stands to reason there are things about God we will never really comprehend fully. One of those things has to do with who God is and how he expresses himself.

There are some facts we can be certain about. One of those facts is that there is only one God.

Scriptures for the oneness of God

“The Lord our God is one Lord.” Deuteronomy 6:4 This fact is the cornerstone of the Jewish faith. It is also the cornerstone of the Islamic faith. Though widely misunderstood, Christians also believe in the unity of the Godhead. Believing that God is one means that there is only one divine substance and that substance is spirit. God is not ordinarily perceived by our physical senses; sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch.

What is reassuring about the existence of only one God?

What is difficult about God's substance being spirit?

Next comes the confusing, mind boggling part.

Scriptures identify three persons as God, but never calls them three separate gods.

When people read the Bible they observe the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each called God and each do only things that God can do.

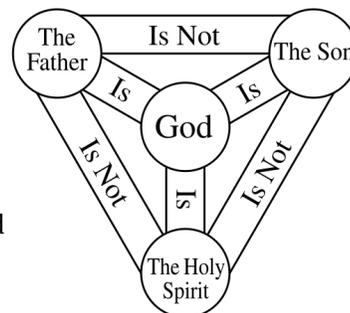
- a. **The Father has the abilities and nature of God.** I Corinthians 8:6 “Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.”
- b. **The Son has the abilities and nature of God.** Colossians 1:15 “all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things and in him all things hold together.”
 - i. The term “son” in the Bible does not refer to birth.
 - ii. It is talking about relationship as with two kings who are close allies, in agreement and like each other.
 - iii. It has the idea of having the same qualities as each other. “Son of righteousness” means that this person demonstrates righteousness. “Son of God” means that person demonstrates God likeness.
- c. **The Holy Spirit is also named as God.** II Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

Explain this concept in your own words.

What questions do you have?

The Shield of the Trinity is a diagram that demonstrates the thought behind the concept of the trinity.

See if you can explain the diagram to one another.

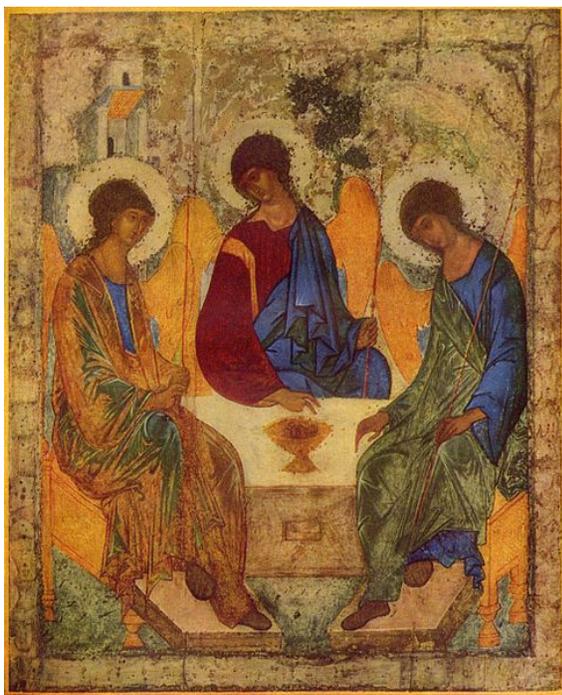


Though we may not understand this concept fully, it is easy to understand why the trinity exists.

The trinity is a beautiful picture of harmony and love in relationship. There is no conflict; no one taking advantage of another, no struggle for recognition, no envy or greed. Jesus explained this harmony many times in the gospels.

John 5 “Jesus answered, “What I’m about to tell you is true. The Son can do nothing by himself. He can do only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does. This is because the Father loves the Son. He shows him everything he does. Yes, you will be amazed! The Father will show him even greater things than these.

“The Father raises the dead and gives them life. In the same way, the Son gives life to anyone he wants to.”



Describe how this Scripture speaks about the harmony and unity between the Father and the Son?

Think about this. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit enjoy a perfect relationship that we are invited to join.

*What do you think we bring to this fellowship?
Why would God invite us to join him?*

The painting/icon on the right was painted by the Russian, Andrey Rublov, around 1410 AD. It was originally painted to depict Abraham and the two angel visitors. Later, it came to express the fellowship of the trinity. The invitation to join them is depicted by the open spot on the fourth side of the table.

How will you respond to the invitation?