

“What Is the Trinity?”

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Automaker Henry Ford asked electrical genius Charlie Steinmetz to build the generators for his factory. One day the generators ground to a halt, and the repairmen couldn't find the problem. So Ford called Steinmetz, who tinkered with the machines for a few hours and then threw the switch. The generators came to life. Ford got a bill for \$10,000 from Steinmetz. Flabbergasted, the rather tightfisted car maker inquired why the bill was so high. Steinmetz's reply: For tinkering with the generators, \$10. For knowing where to tinker, \$9,990. Ford paid the bill.

Today is “Trinity Sunday”, it's a time to celebrate the Trinity of God. Of all Christian doctrines, Trinity is the most difficult to comprehend, it's a mystery of mysteries! So, what's Trinity mean? **Trinity means Three in One.**

While a complete understanding of the doctrine of the “Trinity” confuses us, we see God's actions daily and believe in Him even though we don't completely understand how He could be Three in One! People have used examples of an Apple, a 3 leaf clover, but those just didn't work in explaining, because there was something left out.

The term “Trinity” doesn't appear in the Bible. Tertullian, a writer and apologist for the Church coined the phrase “Trinity” in about 200 AD. Tertullian also provided a definition that was true to the Bible. He said, *“The Son is distinct from the Father, and the Spirit from both the Father and the Son, but are one God.”* This definition showed the Three in One, but didn't try to solve the mystery. His definition was confirmed by the whole Church universal in 325 at the Council of Nicaea, and was included in the Nicene Creed.

Open your Bibles to Genesis 1. The Trinity was there at the very beginning of creation of all things. Verses 1-2, *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”*

Creating land, plants, clouds, water, and animals is incredible, but God saved His most incredible work for the 6th day. Look at verse 26, *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”* Did you catch it? Let “US”! The Trinity, the Three in One, was present at the beginning!

Just as there are three persons in the Trinity, so there are three overarching qualities of God. These qualities have been seen since the very beginning. We're going to define each quality.

The first, **Omniscient – All Knowing!** There is nothing that God does not know! That sin you've done or do that you hide and think no one else knows about? God knows! The situation you're facing and you don't know how you're going to be able to handle? God already has a plan and knows how it's going to go for your best!

You and I sin and are in need of forgiveness. God knew that when He put Adam and Eve into the Garden at creation. He knew they would follow their freewill and fall into temptation. But He had a plan. As He told the Devil and Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, He was going to send His Son to pay the price not only for them but for all mankind, including you!

Second, **Omnipotent – All Powerful!** God showed His power from the very beginning. The whole creation was done with God just speaking! He said, “Let there be” and there was! He sent a flood that covered the whole world and caused a new beginning for a sinful world! He separated the waters and a whole nation could walk

through to safety and a new land! On the hillside, He took two tiny fish and five lunch rolls and fed 5,000 completely with 12 baskets of left overs! He heals, He protects, He controls all things as we live each day!

Third, **Omnipresent – He’s Everywhere!** There’s no place you can go that God isn’t already there! He’s been where you’ve been. He’s where you are now! He’ll be there, wherever you go! Even if you’d try to escape His presence, you couldn’t! This isn’t because He doesn’t trust you, He’s always there because He loves you! He knows when and where you’re going to need Him and He wants to be there for you! As you run into difficult situations in life and are in need of His presence, He’s never surprised or caught off guard! He’s always there, no matter where it is!

As we think about our Triune God, and look at His Word and look how He’s affected our lives, there are so many things we could say about Him because He’s that incredible! I know I only put four blanks after the words, ‘He is’ but there are far more than four words to describe Him. I’m going to give quite a few, so fill up the lines with them! If I miss something you think of that means a lot to you, write it down too!

Here are some I thought of: He is: **loving, caring, forgiving, giving, Holy, divine, guiding, leading, holding, trustworthy, talented, wise, faithful, there!**

How do we define the Trinity? In reality, it’s about worship, and worship is relationship! A relationship between us and Him, and a relationship between each other. He’s God, and we’re His people! We need to treasure His Word and trust in Him

God reveals Himself as complex, and full of paradoxes, from the Trinity to Jesus being 100% God, and 100% man at the same time. He tells us He washes us clean of all sin, as we’re joined to His death and resurrection in the waters of Baptism. He proclaims His death for us, as we take and eat His body and drink His blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine, for our forgiveness in the meal we share together!

May you realize Who your Triune God is. May you rejoice in all He’s done for you and continues to do! Adore Him as your Almighty, Triune God, and be filled with His love and peace, knowing by faith alone in Him, life now and heaven forever is yours!