

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-5 The Trinity—God in Three Persons

The chemical formula for a molecule of water is H₂O—one oxygen atom is bonded to two hydrogen atoms. The formula is the same whether the water is in the form of steam, liquid, or ice. It is still water. This is an illustration that may help understand the Trinity.

God is one God. However, he is also three persons. The Bible speaks of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These are not three separate gods; they each are God. When we pray to the Father, to Jesus, or to the Holy Spirit, we are praying to God. We call the three persons of the Godhead, the Trinity.

Our verse from the Bible for this lesson, 2 Corinthians 13:14, mentions the Trinity: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” God the Father designed the world and knows all that will happen in the future. God the Son came to earth to bring salvation by dying on the Cross for our sins. God the Holy Spirit is always with those who believe on Jesus as Savior. He guides and teaches us and convicts us of sin. God, in three persons, loves us and is always with us.

The three persons, the Trinity, are clearly seen in the Baptism of Jesus. The Gospel writer, Mark, tells us that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John the Baptist in the Jordan River. “As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased’” (Mark 1:10-11). In this passage, we see God the Father speaking from heaven, the Holy Spirit appearing in the form of a dove, and Jesus the Son being baptized in the river.

We also see the Trinity referred to in Genesis, the very first book of the Bible. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters” (Gen1:1-2). Genesis 1 continues with the creation of day and night, the sky, oceans, dry land, trees and plants, sun, moon and stars, and animals as God spoke. On the sixth day, God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...So God created mankind in his own image...male and female he created them” (Gen 1:26-27).

The Gospel writer, John, also refers to God the Son when he writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made” (John 1:1-3). John writes again in Revelation referring to God the Son saying, “He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God” (Rev 19:13).

God the Father is described as the Planner, Designer, and Creator of all things. God the Father sees ahead throughout time and eternity. First Peter 1:2 speaks of the “foreknowledge of God the Father.” God the Father looks ahead and knows what will happen in the future.

God the Son was present at creation, and came to earth for the purpose of bringing salvation to mankind. God the Son, in human form, is Jesus. His name means “Savior.” Christ, another name for God the Son, means “anointed one,” speaking of his divine nature. When we speak of him as Jesus Christ, we acknowledge that he was both God and man when he died for our sins. He is also called the Word of God, meaning the eternal expression of God. Jesus is always and everywhere present according to Matthew 28:20, “Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

God the Holy Spirit should never be called ‘it.’ He is the third person of the Trinity and shares the same characteristics of God the Father and the Son. God the Holy Spirit performs many important tasks in our lives. Jesus called God the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, when he told his disciples, “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 Holy Spirit also reminds us when we do something wrong. He convicts us of sin. He also is our sanctifier, separating us to God and helping us to continue the process of becoming more like Jesus.

Our second *Statement of Faith* is, once more: “We believe the one true God has revealed himself as the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior of mankind. He has further revealed himself as one being in three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Our Memory Verse is: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2Cor 13:14).

This lesson is **important** because it explains several places in the Bible that help us to understand how God is one—yet three.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that God exists in three persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Let’s **review** this lesson:

1. Name the three persons of the Godhead. [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered, “God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit,” you are correct.
2. How is the Trinity clearly seen in the baptism of Jesus? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered, “God the Son was baptized, God the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove, and God the Father spoke from heaven affirming his Son,” you are correct.
3. Name one important role that each member of the Godhead has. [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered that God the Father is the Planner, Designer, or Creator, you are right. If you answered that God the Son is our Savior and came to die for our sins, you are correct. If you answered that God the Holy Spirit is our Counselor, convicts of sin, and helps us in becoming more like Jesus, you are right.

Your **assignment** is to be able to say from memory our first two *Statements of Faith*:

1. “We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God. They are the revelation of God to man, the unchanging rule of faith and conduct.”
2. “We believe the one true God has revealed himself as the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior of mankind. He has further revealed himself as one being in three persons— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

For this lesson, please learn the Bible verse from Second Corinthians 13:14, which is, “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2Cor 13:14). Share with two other persons what the work of each member of the Trinity is.