

GOD WHAT IF...?

We believe in one God, who is creator and sustainer of life, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; each of whom is equal in power and glory. (Matt. 3:16,17; Matt. 28:19; I Pet. 1:2)

GOD IS: Existence (Heb 11:6) "I am that I am" (Exodus 3:14)

God created "ex nihilo"; He is not part of creation, He is outside of it

God does not need anyone or anything; He didn't create us because He was lonely

GOD IS ONE: Deut 6:4; Isaiah 43:10 **Not compartmentalized like the idols**

"There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, 'This is mine! This belongs to me!'" - Abraham B. Kuyper

GOD IS THREE IN ONE: One in essence, three coequal persons. **One "what" and three "whos"**

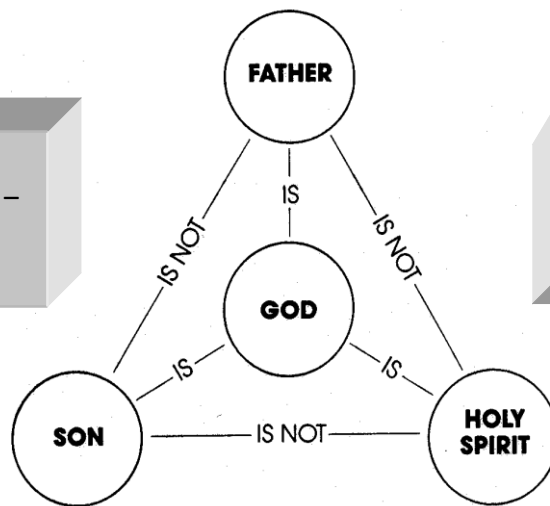
As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.

And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)

God is perfect relationship and has existed forever as three persons – Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. Bible believing Christians recognize that the Scriptures reveal God as tri-unity: three distinct persons, yet one in essence. This doctrine is known as the Trinity, and is a foundational belief of Christianity. Therefore to understand the Christian faith, one must come to terms with the Trinity. The Trinity has been defined by saying, *"There is one only and true God, but in the unity of the Godhead, there are three coeternal and coequal persons, the same in substance but distinct in subsistence* (BB Warfield in the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)." The diagram describes the Trinity. We may never realize the mechanics of how it works from this side of eternity, but we must, by faith accept it.

The Trinity is not:
Father, Son, and Mother (Mary) –
**a misperception many Muslims
hold to**



The Trinity is:
One God – **Isaiah 43:10**
Three Persons –
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

THE CONTEXT...

The three distinct persons of the godhead are articulated in Jesus' charge to His followers after His resurrection and just prior to His ascension to heaven; *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."* Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

For through him (Christ) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Ephesians 2:18 (NIV)

Jesus was a great man – recognized as a prophet, teacher and miracle worker according to Christian and non-Christian sources. However, He was more than just a man, and Scripture states that He is God.

Some verses conveying this message are Hebrews 1:3,8...

³*The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.*

⁸*But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom." (NIV)*

Scripture also confers divinity upon the Holy Spirit. The following verses, Hebrews 10:15-17, are quoted from the Old Testament (Jeremiah 31:33) which is attributed to "the LORD." However, the Hebrews quote attributes the Holy Spirit with the words...

The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says:

"This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds."

Then he adds:

"Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." Hebrews 10:15-17 (NIV)

Monday morning...so what?

The doctrine of the Trinity draws a line between Christianity and pseudo-Christianity. If the Son and the Spirit are not God, they could not fulfill their promises or live up to their "job" descriptions.

- Jesus had to be God to live a sinless life and be a perfect sacrifice.
- The Holy Spirit must be God to understand and reveal the mind of God.

The Christian life: 1 Peter 1:2 – Chosen by Father; sanctified by Spirit; for obedience to Christ

Community: God exists perfectly happily as 3-in-1. He didn't make us because He was lonely.

Subordination and equality:

Prayer: We pray to the Father through the Son empowered by the Spirit

May 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 (NIV)