

Explain the doctrine of the Trinity, and provide its biblical basis

Some common trinitarian heresies:

- a. Tri-_____ : Three separate gods.
- b. _____ (Monarchianism): God manifests or reveals himself through different modes or forms. In the Bible, God has revealed himself as Father, or as Son, or as Holy Spirit. Out of this heresy came another heresy known as Patripassianism which teaches that the Father died on the cross taking the form of the Son.
- c. Trinitarian _____ : The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all “parts” of the totality of the Godhead. The Godhead is complete only when the Three are together. Therefore, each member of the Trinity is only “partially” God.
- d. _____ : This heresy affirms the oneness of God but denies Trinitarian diversity and the deity of the Son and the Spirit.
- e. _____ : denies the deity of the Son.

Our Historical Confession

“The doctrine of the Trinity affirms that there is only One living and true God. This God exists externally in Three Persons, namely, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These Three persons are One God, possess the same divine essence, power and glory. Yet, they are distinct. This means that the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Father, and the Holy Spirit is neither the Son nor the Father. Each of the members of the Trinity possesses its own personhood. However, they are not three separate gods, but One God who exists in Three.”

The Catechism of the Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689

Q. Are there more gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God (Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10)

Q. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory...yet distinct.

In other words, we are monotheists (Deut. 6:4, 32:39; Is. 44:8). However, God has revealed himself in Scriptures as Triune.

There is only one God: denies _____

Who eternally exists in three Persons: denies _____, _____

The three are fully God: denies Trinitarian _____

Distinct: denies _____

Of the same essence: denies _____, Trinitarian _____

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Question 7

The doctrine of the Trinity is not a doctrine based on one passage of Scripture but a _____ of several teachings found throughout the Bible. The doctrine of the Trinity is the natural outflow of systematic theology done well. This synthesis includes at least six main biblical categories:

Biblical Basis

The undeniable _____/uniqueness of God

- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Isaiah 45:4-6;
- 1 Cor. 8:4, 6

Trinitarian _____ in the Old Testament

- Who created the world? The OT replies by telling us that the world came into existence by a Trinitarian cause: _____ created the world through his _____ and by the sending of His _____ (Gen. 1:2, 3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24, 26).
- The Word of God created the world (Psalm 33:6, 9; cf. John 1:3). And his Wisdom was a workman during creation (Prov. 8:22ff; cf. 1 Cor. 1:24).
- The Spirit was also fully involved in creation (Psalm 104:30, Job 26:13; 33:4)

Multiple ascriptions of _____:

- To the Father: Romans 15:6; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 1 Peter 1:3
- To the Son: John 1:1, 14; 20:28; Acts 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13
- To the Holy Spirit: Psalm 95:3 [Hebrews 3:7-11]; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11

Intra-Trinitarian _____/relations

- John 15:26; 16:13-15; Mt. 3:16-17

Important Trinitarian _____

- Benediction (2 Cor. 13:14)
- Christians encouragement (Phil. 2:1)
- Baptism (Mt. 28:19)

Only God saves (Ps. 3:8) yet our salvation is the work of _____ Persons

- Ephesians 1:3-14
 - The Father _____, _____ and _____ (eternal plan)
 - The Son _____ (historical fulfilment)
 - The Holy Spirit _____ and guarantees glorification (present and future application)

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Why is this doctrine important for counseling?