



God Is & Is Known :: Existence and Knowability

God is Like us & Wonderfully Unlike Us :: Attributes

One God, Three Persons :: Trinity

Welcome to this Saturday Theology Session! We pray that this time is an encouragement to you, and – by the end of the morning – you will know God better and even love Him more. The topic this morning is grand! God can – and will be – contemplated for all eternity. We have a few hours today. So, we'll walk through some Scripture to help us both know and love God. Since there is always more that could be covered as we seek to apply the Word to our lives, two excellent websites which cover all kinds of things Biblical and theological are:

Desiring God Ministries: www.desiringgod.org
The Gospel Coalition: www.thegospelcoalition.org

God Is & Is Known :: Existence and Knowability

We know God and that He is because ...

... **God shows us through His creation** — *wonder of the world around us*
Romans 1

... **God shows us through our conscience** — *universal moral law within us*
Romans 2

... **God shows us through His Word → Christ** — *written & Resurrected Words given to us*
Romans 3

Excursus: Arguments for God's Existence are Evidences of God's Reality

The Christian Life is an apologetic to then clarify along life's way: 1 Peter 3:15

... God shows us through his creation — *the wonder of the world around us*

Cosmological Argument: From the necessary cause of the universe

Teleological Argument: From the Intelligent Design of the world. Purposeful Fine-Tuning.

Ontological Argument: God **is**; "that than which no greater can be conceived"

... God shows us through our conscience — *universal moral law within us*

Moral Argument: No God, no universal grounding for morality — no right, no wrong

- (1) If God does not exist, objective moral values and duties do not exist.
- (2) Objective moral values and duties do exist.
- (3) Therefore, God exists

(William Lane Craig <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxiAikEk2vU>)

Are (1) and (2) true?

Can't an atheist be good without believing in God?

	Common Virtue	True Virtue
Motive		
Means		
Ends / Goal		

... God shows us through His Word: Christ — written & Resurrected Words given to us

~ Discussion and Break ~

Bryan O'Neal
Moody Bible Institute

Attributes of God

Key attribute: Holiness
Isaiah 40:18-26

Bonus attribute: "Integrity"

Incommunicable Attributes

God is different from us in relationship to:

Being itself

Permanence

Time

Place

Excursus on "Image bearing"

Communicable Attributes

We can grow in conformity to the character of God in:

Mind

Morality

Power

~ Discussion and Break ~

Bryan O'Neal
Moody Bible Institute

Trinity

The Fundamental Problem of Unity and Diversity

Biblical Evidence:

The Biblical evidence for the unity of God

The Biblical evidence for the deity of the Father, of the Son, of the Spirit

The Biblical evidence for the distinction between the Father, the Son, and the Spirit

The Trinitarian formulation: "One God, Three Persons"

Biblical Models for Understanding and "Embodying" the Trinity

Marriage

The Church

TRINITY

*God eternally exists as three persons,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God,
and there is one God.*

THREE FOUNDATIONS

THERE IS ONLY

ONE GOD

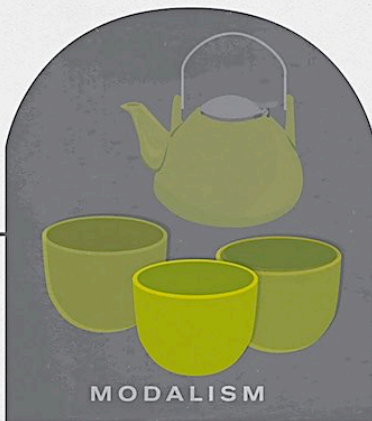
THERE ARE

3 DIVINE PERSONS

THE PERSONS ARE

**COEQUAL
<AND>
COETERNAL**

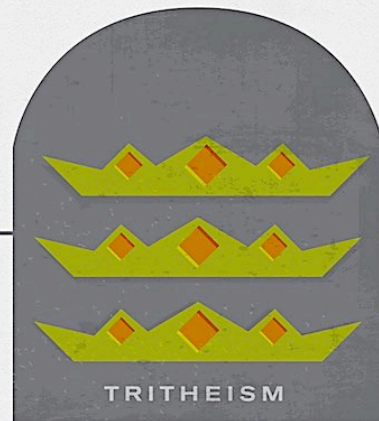
THREE ERRORS



Modalism claims that there is one person who appears to us in three different forms or modes.



Subordinationism claims that the Son and Holy Spirit are subordinate to the Father in nature and being.

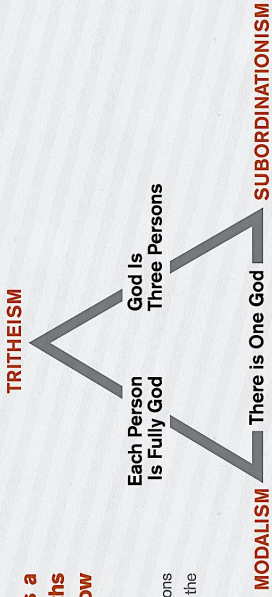


Tritheism denies that there is only one God and instead claims that there are three Gods.

*In the doctrine of the Trinity
beats the heart of the whole
redemption of God for the
redemption of humanity.*
HERMAN BAVINCK

Each of the three sides of the triangle is a foundational truth. When any of these truths is denied, the other two sides make an arrow that points to the resulting error.

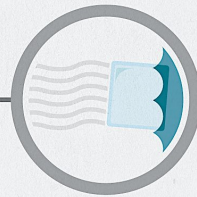
Example: If you deny the equality of each of the three persons of the Godhead [thus removing that line from the triangle], the other two lines now point to the error of subordinationalism.



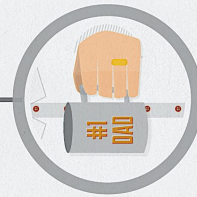
BAD ILLUSTRATIONS



Three-Leaf Clover
Illustration The Trinity is like a three-leaf clover because the clover has three parts yet remains one plant.
Error Polytheism
Explanation Each leaf is only part of the clover & cannot said to be the whole clover. In the Trinity, each person is fully God.

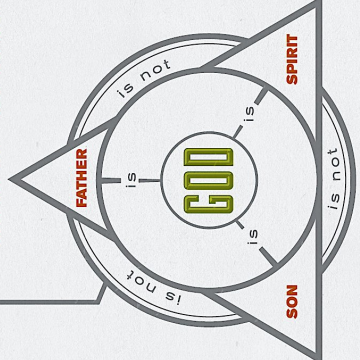


Water/Ice/Steam
Illustration The Trinity is like water because water can be ice, steam, or water and remain H2O.
Error Modalism
Explanation Water is never all three forms at the same time. In the Trinity, God is always and at all times each person.



Father/Son/Husband
Illustration The Trinity is like a man who is at the same time a father, a son and a husband. He is one man, but has three roles.
Error Modalism
Explanation Father, son and husband describe functions or roles of one person. In the Trinity, God is three distinct persons rather than one person in three modes or roles.

ONE GOOD ILLUSTRATION



FUNCTIONS OF THE TRINITY

God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God. Yet each of the persons of the Godhead is distinct in his primary function in relating to the world through creation and redemption: The Father plans, the Son executes, the Spirit applies.

God the Father is the great Architect of creation, redemption and consummation, who plans, directs and sends. The Son and Holy Spirit are willingly subordinate to him in role even while equal in deity.

God the Son obeys the Father, accomplishes redemption, and with the Father sends the Holy Spirit to apply the work he has begun. In all things he glorifies the Father.

God the Holy Spirit brings to completion the work planned by the Father and begun by the Son. In all things he works to glorify the Son.

The doctrine of the Trinity is the differentiating doctrine of the Christian Faith.
 D. MARTYN LLOYD-JONES

Resources
 The Forgotten Trinity | James White
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit | Bruce Ware
 Systematic Theology | Wayne Grudem


 WWW.CHALLIES.COM