

THE GRACE OF GOD

Grace is the love and mercy of God in action. Mercy is negative, and love is positive; ; both together mean grace. To show mercy in love is grace. God showed mercy in love when He sent His Son to bear our sin in His own body on the cross - John 3:16

1. The grace of God saves forever: **John 3:16; Romans 8:38-39**
2. The grace of God is unconditional; that is, we are not saved on the condition that we “hold out unto the end” or that we “fail not” or that we “do our best.” We are saved by the grace of God, ***apart from works***.
3. The grace of God is sufficient: **II Cor. 12:9**
4. The grace of God makes no discrimination: **Revelation 22:17**
5. The grace of God justifies: **Romans 3:23-24**
5. The grace of God makes every believer an heir – **Titus 3:7**
6. The grace of God teaches the believer how to live: **Titus 2:11-12**

The grace of God is nothing less than the unlimited love of God expressed in the gift of His Son, our Savior. It is the undeserved love of God toward sinners.

THE TRINITY OF GOD

How Does the Bible Teach the Doctrine of the Trinity?

By the Trinity of God, we mean His tri-personal existence as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – three distinct persons in one God.

- The Father is recognized as God – (**I Peter 1:2**) and is all the fullness of the Godhead invisible (**John 1:18**)

- The Son is recognized As God (Hebrews 1:8) and is all of the fullness of the Godhead manifested in the flesh (John 1:14)
- The Holy Spirit is recognized as God (Acts 5:3, 4) and is all the fullness of the Godhead acting upon man, convicting him of sin (John 16:7-11) and guiding the believer into all truth (John 16:12-15)

The doctrine of the Trinity is not explicit in the Old Testament, but is rather implied, ***“and God said, Let US (Elohim) make man in our image”*** (Genesis 1:26)

The doctrine of the Trinity is revealed in the New Testament. In Matthew 3:16, 17, we have Christ being baptized in water, the Father speaking from heaven, and the Holy Spirit descending as a dove. We are to baptize in the “name (not names) of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19)

From the Second Century to our present age, many people have found the biblical doctrine of the Trinity hard to understand. The doctrine of the Trinity recognizes that God is one God, co-existing in three distinct Persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In our material existence, the concept that God is One God, yet exists as three distinct persons, is foreign to us. However, the doctrine of the Godhead (Trinity) is without question revealed in God's word.

The biblical term "Godhead" (theiotes) is used three times in Scripture, Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9.

The word “Trinity,” which is the theological word Christians use to refer to the Godhead, is not found in Scripture.

- ***“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device”*** (Acts 17:29).
- ***“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse”*** (Romans 1:20)
- ***“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”*** (Colossians 2:9)

The doctrine states that the Godhead, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, consists of three distinct Persons, yet these three are one God. There are many arguments espoused by those that deny

the Trinity, but the most prevalent is: **How can God be One God and at the same time be three Persons?**

The problem with that question is that it is based in ignorance of what God has said about Himself. The Bible, the Word of God, plainly states the plurality of God and that God is One God. To accept His Word means to believe what God has revealed.

The truth of the Trinity is a revealed truth that is established in the credibility of God Himself. In **Matthew 28:19-20**, Jesus gave His disciples the Great Commission, stating that they were to teach and baptize in the names of the Godhead,

Matthew 28:19-20: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Further **1 John 5:7** states:

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

The fact God did not inspire the writers of Scripture to use the modern word "Trinity" does imply that it is not a biblical truth. However, there are many words and phrases that Christians use to express biblical doctrines that are not found in the Bible.

One is the word "rapture." This word also is not found in Scripture, but the phrase "shall be caught up" (harpagēsometha) is used in **1 Thessalonians 4:17** and means to "catch away" or in Latin "rapiēmur" meaning to be snatched away.

In fact, the word "Bible" is also not found in the Scriptures. Would we dismiss the existence of the Bible because the word is not found in Scripture? Those that deny the Trinity are denying the Godhead. They argue that it is physically impossible for three distinct persons to be only one.

This teaching will show that they are both right and wrong. They are right in the sense that it is impossible for us to explain how this can be a reality in our physical/material world. But they are wrong in denying that God is a Triune God.

The approach of this session will be first to authenticate the biblical doctrine by presenting biblical statements attesting to this truth.

One reason those who deny the Trinity do so is the Bible clearly teaches monotheism, meaning that God is One God. (Deut. 4:35-36, 6:4)

- ***“Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice, that he might instruct thee: and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire.”*** (Deuteronomy 4:35-36)
- ***“And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:”*** (Deuteronomy 6:5-6)
- **1 John 5:7** says, ***“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”***

Some Bible critics have stated that this passage is not authentic because it is not found in some older manuscripts. This verse is found in mss, 61, 88mg, 629, 634mg, 636mg, omega 110, 429mg, 221, and 2318) along with two lectionaries (60, 173) and four fathers, Tertullian, Cyprian, Augustine, and Jerome mention it. However, the biblical doctrine of the Trinity does not rest on one verse of Scripture but is found throughout the Old and New Testaments.

This verse accurately states the doctrine of the Trinity that God is One God in three Persons.

- ***“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”*** (Isaiah 44:6)
- ***“I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.”*** (Isaiah 43:11)

The Scriptures unmistakably refer to the plurality of God in that He as exists in Three Persons.

This session will present a practical explanation of the doctrine in human terms.

Overwhelmingly, the Bible teaches the Trinitarian concept of one God existing as three persons.

1. The Bible does not teach polytheism, which says that there are three separate Gods called the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. Nor does the Bible say God is one person who took three forms or that the God the Father became the Son, who then became the Holy Spirit, as is taught by some false churches.

3. The Bible does not teach that God is only one person or that Jesus is not God, but only God's procreated son.

4. The word of God does not teach that Jesus was created. The Bible specifically states that God is Spirit and was never a man.

- ***“God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?”*** (Numbers 23:19)

- ***“And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent.”*** (1 Samuel 15:29)

5. The Bible further plainly states that Jesus Christ, being God, is eternal, as is the Father. The Apostle John states clearly that Jesus, the Word, was with God in the beginning of the Universe.

- ***“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”*** (John 1:1-4)

Jesus Himself plainly refers to eternity.

- ***“Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.”*** (John 8:58)

6. Arianism is the heretical teaching of Arius (AD 250–336), a Christian presbyter from Alexandria, Egypt. He taught that Jesus did not always exist, but was created by God the Father.

7. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. In the following verse the term Alpha and Omega are defined by God Himself by the phrase “the beginning and the end” (verse 8) and “the first and the last” (verse 11).

- ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. . . . Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”*** (Revelation 1:8, 11)

- *“And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.”* (Revelation 21:6) • *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.”* (Revelation 22:13)

Passages in the Old Testament that Teach Plurality in the Oneness of God.

- Deuteronomy 6:4 *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD”* The Bible, in this verse, emphatically states there is only one God.
- *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD”* (Mark 12:29). Literally, the verse says, “Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our Elohim is a united Jehovah.”

The Bible is the inerrant inspired Word of God and this statement can only be understood in that God is telling us He is One God. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21). Yet, this does not mean that within the Godhead there is not a plurality. Scripturally, plurality means, that God is One God existing in three distinct Persons.

The Hebrew word for one is Echad and “stresses unity while recognizing diversity with that oneness.”⁵ This same word is used in Genesis 2:24,

Genesis 2:24 *“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one (Echad) flesh.”*

Therefore, God says that two individuals, Adam and Eve, were one flesh.

Exodus 24:3 states *“ . . . All the people answered with one (Echad) voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do.”*

Note that all the people, which were a great multitude, replied with one voice. There are many other instances where the word is used to show the oneness of many individuals. In other words, the Hebrew word Echad allows for plurality within oneness, allowing God, who is emphatically described as one God, to be three Persons who are One God.

Even creation implies the doctrine of the Trinity. In creation, we have space, matter, and time in one creation. In space, we have length, breadth, and height in one space. In matter, we have energy, motion, and phenomena in one substance. In time, we have past, present, and future in one time. In man, we have body, soul and spirit in one man (1 Thess. 5:23)

In the Holy Trinity, we have Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one God.

The following chart shows some of the many passages in the Bible from which the doctrine of the Trinity is derived. Note that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all called God, and all have the same attributes, which are attributes that only God has.

THE TRIUNE GODHEAD PRESENTED IN SCRIPTURE

	FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
Called God	Phil. 1:2	John 1:1,14; Col. 2:9	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isa. 64:8; 44:24	John 1:3	Gen. 1:2
Resurrects	1 Thess. 1:10	John 2:19, 10:17	Rom. 8:11
Indwells	2 Cor. 6:16	Col. 1:27	John 14:17
Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matt. 28:20	Psa. 139:7-10
All knowing	1 John 3:20	John 16:30; 21:17	1 Cor. 2:10-11
Sanctifies	1 Thess. 5:23	Heb. 2:11	1 Pet. 1:2
Life giver	Gen. 2:7; John 5:21	John 1:3; 5:21	2 Cor. 3:6,8
Fellowship	1 John 1:3	1 Cor. 1:9	2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1
Eternal	Psa. 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Rom. 8:11; Heb. 9:14
A Will	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Cor. 12:11
Speaks	Matt. 3:17; Luke 3:22	Luke 5:20; 7:48	Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:2
Love	John 3:16	Eph. 5: 25	Rom. 15:30
Believe in	John 14:1	John 14:1	
Gives joy	John 15:9-11	Luke 1:14, John 15:11, 17:13	
Judges	John 8:50	John 5:22, 30	