

## The Trinity

### Some Terms and Definitions

**The Trinity** – The Scriptures reveal One Being who is God, existing in three distinct hypostases; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each being co-equal, co-essential, and co-eternal.

**Essence** – The intrinsic or fundamental nature of something, that which makes something what it is.

**Hypostasis** – Supporting foundation, to stand under, to undergird, that without which something could not be.

### The Three Foundations

**One Being** – There is one being or essence who is God.

**Three Persons** - There are three personal distinctions (or “persons”) within the one undivided essence.

**Equality of the Persons** – Each of the three persons in the God-head is equal to the other.

### Common Heresies

**Polytheism** – The belief that there are many Gods.

**Modalism** – The belief that God is one person who manifests himself in successive roles, that of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, like an actor in a play who puts on different masks to play different roles. Sometimes called Sabellianism.

**Subordinationism** – The belief that there is a hierarchy within the God-head. The equality of the persons is denied. The Son is subordinate to the Father. This is sometimes called Arianism. The belief that there was a time when “the Son was not.”

**Strict Monotheism** – The belief that there is one God, but the internal distinction of persons is denied. This is the god of Judaism and Islam.

## Scripture Verses

**One God** – Isaiah 44:6, Deuteronomy 6:4, John 17:3

**Co-essential** – The Father is God – 1 Peter 1:2

The Son is God – Hebrews 1:8-12

The Holy Spirit is God – Acts 5:3, 4

**Co-eternal** – The Father is eternal – Psalm 90:2

The Son is eternal – Micah 5:2

The Holy Spirit is eternal – Hebrews 9:14

**Co-equal** – The Father is God of all – 1 Corinthians 8:6

The Son is equal to the Father – Philippians 2:6, 7

The Holy Spirit is equal to the Father – Luke 1:35

## The Trinity in Scripture

2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Romans 14:17, 18;

Colossians 1:6-8; Ephesians 2:18; Ephesians 3:16, 17; Ephesians 4:4-6; Matthew 28:18-20