

***Fix Your Eyes on Jesus' Identity: "You Are My Beloved Son"***

***Focus Passage: Mark 1:1–11***

**Sermon Recap**

In answering the question, "Who is this Jesus?" Mark responds by announcing that Jesus is the long-awaited unbelievably powerful ultimate King who has arrived. Mark presents Jesus as the Christ (Literally "anointed one", a term used for the expected Messiah King.) Jesus is also the Son of God. John the Baptist in the wilderness preparing the way of Jesus by saying, "Prepare the way of the LORD—YHWH."

Mark also answered the question, "What kind of King is Jesus?" Jesus is a holy King. He is so holy that John the Baptist declares himself unworthy to even perform the humblest task of untying Jesus' sandals. In Jesus' holiness, He is also a loving King. Mark is revealing the Trinity—one God in three persons. He is taking us back to the Genesis account of creation in which God spoke creation into existence. "The Spirit of God hovered over the waters in creation, and in Jesus' baptism, the Spirit of God hovers over Jesus. Not three gods working together as one and not one God manifesting Himself in different forms at different times. No, this is one God in three eternally existing persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three persons of the One God glorify one another. They commune with one another, love one another, defer to one another, and exalt one another.

Jesus was not baptized because He needed to be cleansed of any sin of His own. He was baptized to identify with human beings in our sin we would see He is taking our place and inviting us into a beautiful dance with the triune God.

Mark also wants us to see that Jesus is a victorious King. After the Holy Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, Jesus walked away without sin, victorious. Mark is taking readers back to the early chapters of Genesis once again. There, Satan tempted Adam and Eve to be self-centered rather than God-centered, to trust their own designs rather than trust God's words. They sinned by choosing selfish rebellion over communing with, loving, deferring to and exalting God. Rather than revolving around God, they expected God to revolve around them. When tempted, not in an idyllic garden but in a desolate desert, Jesus refused to put Himself at the center and remained true to God's words.

How can we be in relationship with this King? We orbit our lives around Jesus the King rather than centering our lives on ourselves. We welcome Him to have full access to every aspect of our lives, nothing held back.

**Interpretive Helps**

- Be sure to check out the .pdf document "Trinity Study Aid – Challies" accessed from Tim Challies.
- There are also two Right Now Media resources on The Trinity with links listed below in the Further Resources section. Viewing these at your convenience will help you deepen your understanding of The Trinity.

**Group Gathering**

**Group Check-in** — Care, Celebration, Encouragement (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. Informal conversation to allow individuals to catch up with one another.

2. Discuss how it went as everyone tried to take steps of obedience to what they sensed God saying to them.

**Allow the Word to Speak** — Be Hearers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

**READ Mark 1:1–11**

1. What from the passage or sermon was most impactful to you?
2. Were you left with any questions or confusion about the passage or sermon?
3. How does Mark portray the presence of the Trinity at the baptism of Jesus?
4. What parallels do we see between Mark 1:1–11 and the creation account of Genesis 1?

**Put the Word into Practice** — Be Doers of the Word (About 1/3 of meeting time)

1. How have you seen the three persons of The Trinity at work in your life to bring about new creation?
2. At The Chapel, we value unity in the midst of diversity. More than a slogan, it is a reflection of the character of God. How do you see that value rooted in The Trinity?
3. Ask the LORD to bring to mind any ways you are living as if God orbits around your life rather than orbiting your life around God's. Are there areas of your life you're holding back from The Trinity's direction? If the Spirit reveals specifics to you, confess your sin and repent.
4. Ask others what practices they have found helpful in keeping The Trinity at the center of their lives? What concrete step(s) can you take to orbit your life more around The Trinity than around yourself?

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:**

- The Chapel will host the Community of Faith Mission's homeless shelter from January 10 – 17. You may find more information and a sign-up [here](#).
- Other opportunities to serve during the Christmas season at the Chapel, with Grove Christian Outreach, and The Salvation Army, or to participate in a Red Cross blood drive at the Chapel can be found [here](#).

**Further Resources** – Illustrations and quotes from the sermon can be found on the "Sermon Slides" link at the bottom of [www.wcchapel.org](http://www.wcchapel.org)

The Mystery of the Trinity – R. C. Sproul <https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/466>

Defenders—Doctrine of the Trinity – William Lane Craig  
<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/Series/224920>

# 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.



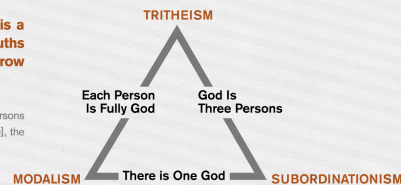
Tritheism denies that there is only one God and instead claims that there are three Gods.

*In the doctrine of the Trinity  
beats the heart of the whole  
revelation 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 subordinationism.



## 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 H<sub>2</sub>O.

**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.



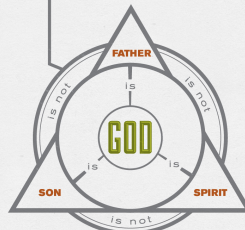
### Father/Son/Husband

**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