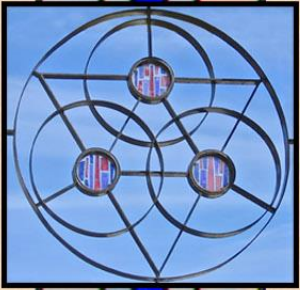
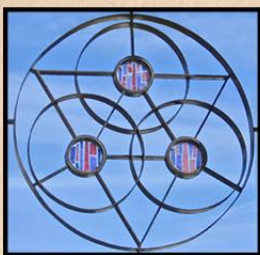


# THE TRINITY







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Why Christians Believe in the Trinity

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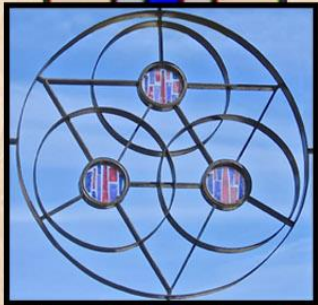
Are *Father*, *Son*, and *Spirit* Just Different Titles?

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# What Christians Believe about the Trinity

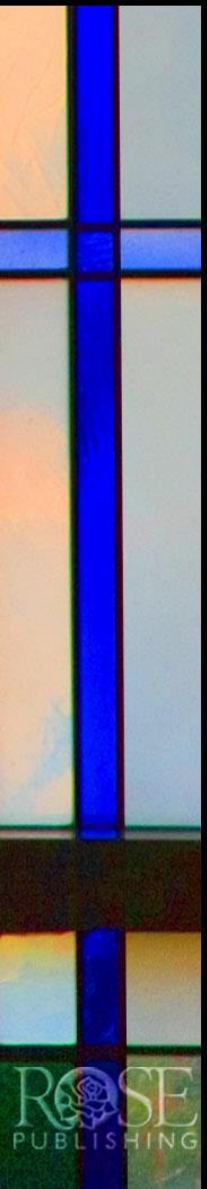




# What Christians Believe

## **Christians believe:**

- There is only one God, and this one God exists as one essence in three Persons.
- The three Persons are:
  - God the Father
  - God the Son
  - God the Holy Spirit



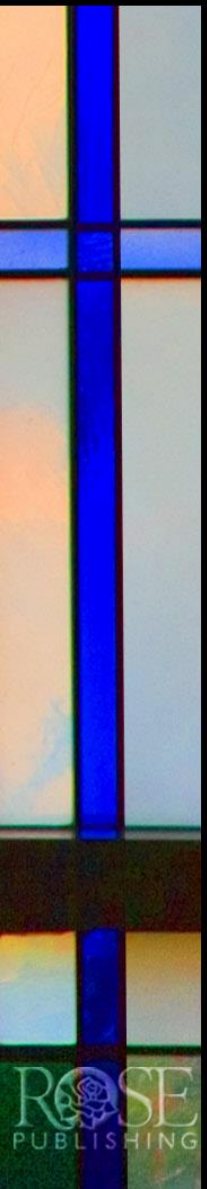




# What Christians Believe

## Christians believe:

- God is one absolutely perfect divine Being in three Persons.
- His being is what God is, in relation to the universe he created.
- The three are called Persons because they relate to one another in personal ways.



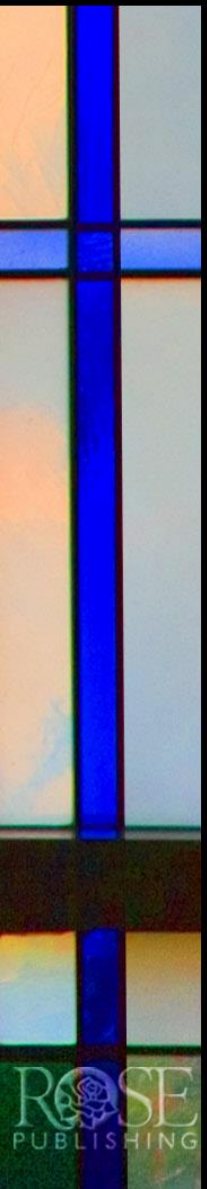




# What Christians Believe

When Christians talk about the Trinity, they do not mean:

- 1 God in 3 Gods
- 3 Persons in 1 Person
- 3 Persons in 3 Gods
- 1 Person in 3 Gods



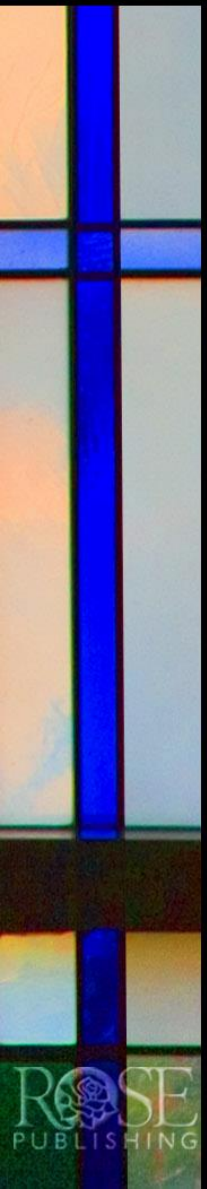


# What Christians Believe

Rather, they mean:

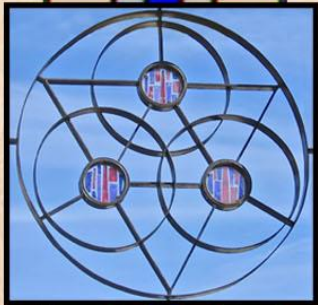
- 1 God in 3 Persons
- The Father is God—the first Person of the Trinity.
- The Son is God—the second Person of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is God—the third Person of the Trinity.

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# Why Christians Believe in the Trinity

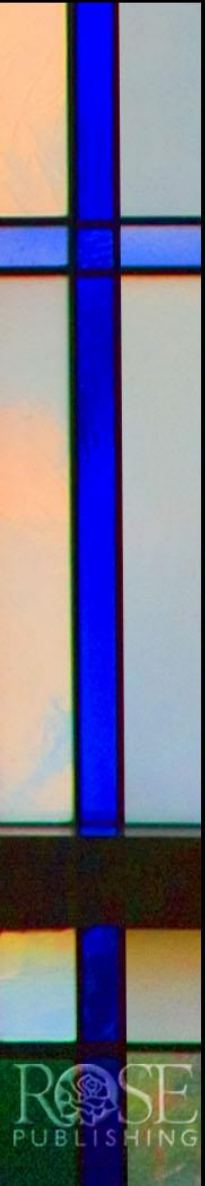
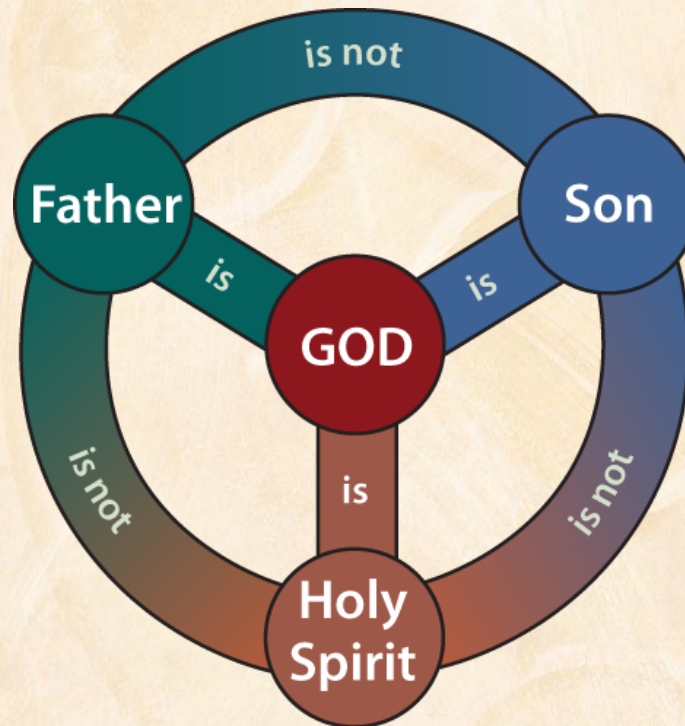






# Why Christians Believe

The Bible teaches that there is only one God, yet all three Persons are called God.



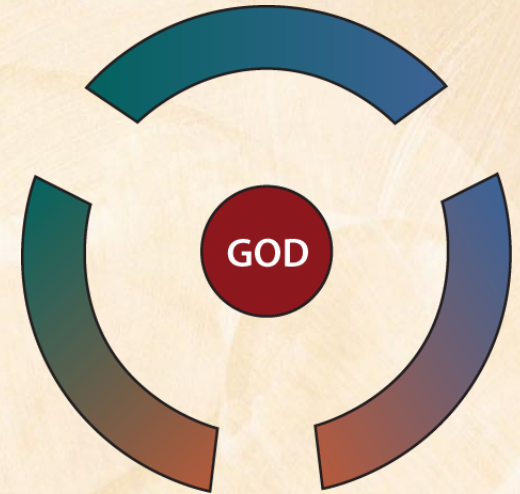




# Why Christians Believe

## There is only one God.

- “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”  
– Deuteronomy 6:4
- “Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.”  
– Isaiah 43:10



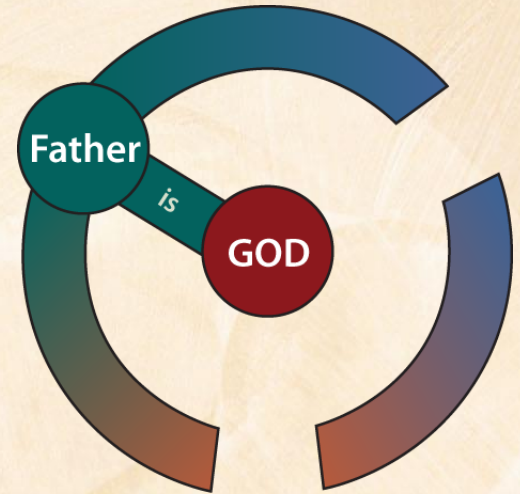




# Why Christians Believe

## The Father is God.

- “Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live.”  
– 1 Corinthians 8:6
- “One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”  
– Ephesians 4:6



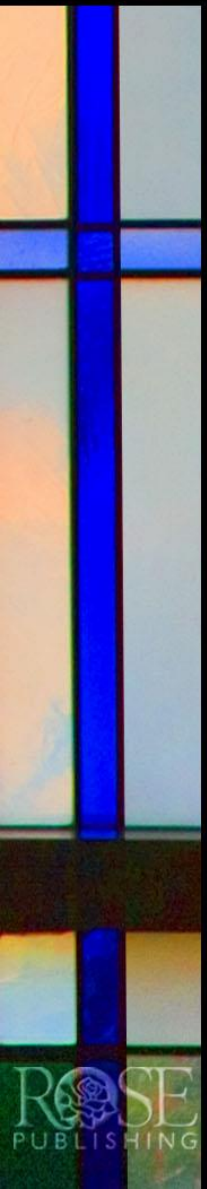
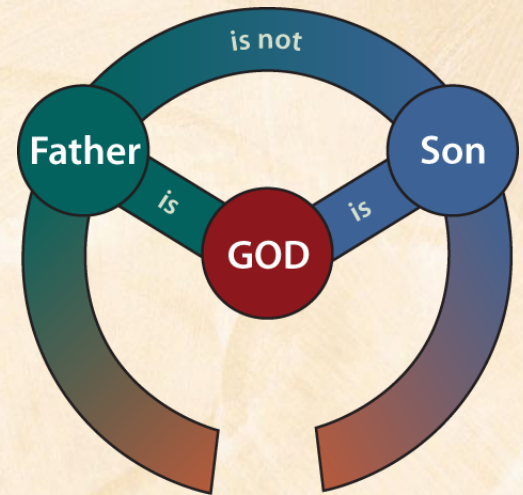




# Why Christians Believe

## The Son is God.

- “The Word [Jesus] was God.” – John 1:1
- “I [Jesus] and the Father are one.” – John 10:30
- Jesus’ disciple Thomas addressed Jesus as “My Lord and my God.” – John 20:28



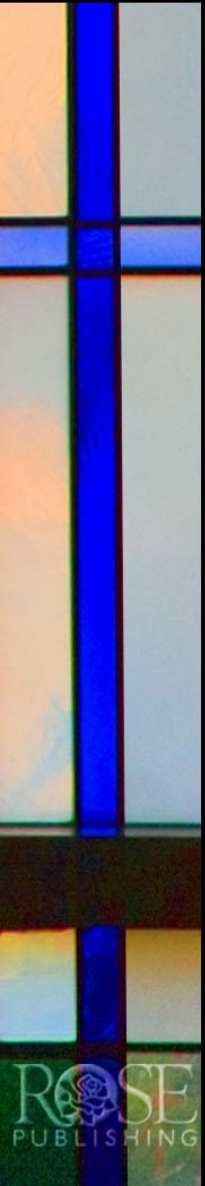
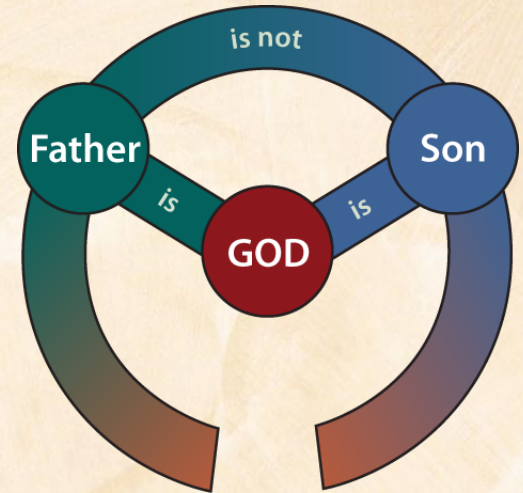




# Why Christians Believe

## The Son is God.

- “But about the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever,<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.’”  
– Hebrews 1:8



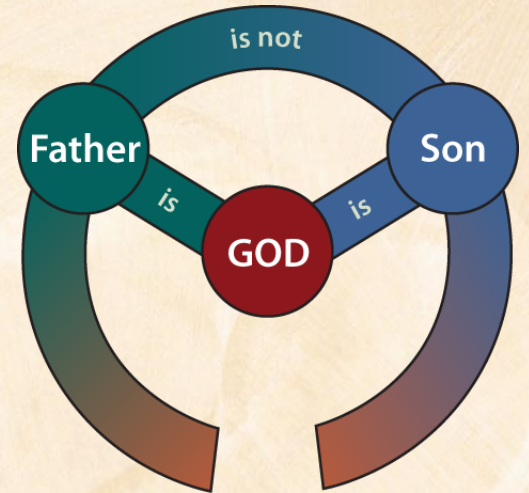




# Why Christians Believe

## The Son is God.

- “... at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.”  
– Philippians 2:9–11
- Paul, the writer of Philippians, is saying about Jesus what Isaiah 45:23 says about the Lord God.



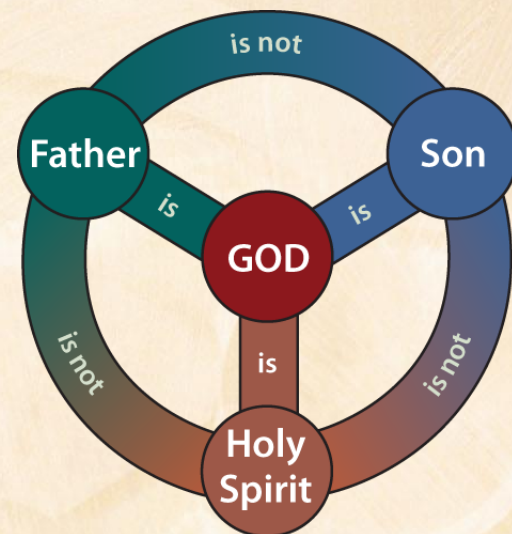




# Why Christians Believe

## The Holy Spirit is God.

- “Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit ... You have not lied to men but to God.’” – Acts 5:3–4
- “Now the Lord is the Spirit.”  
– 2 Corinthians 3:17 (“The Lord” refers to “the LORD” in Exodus 34:34.)



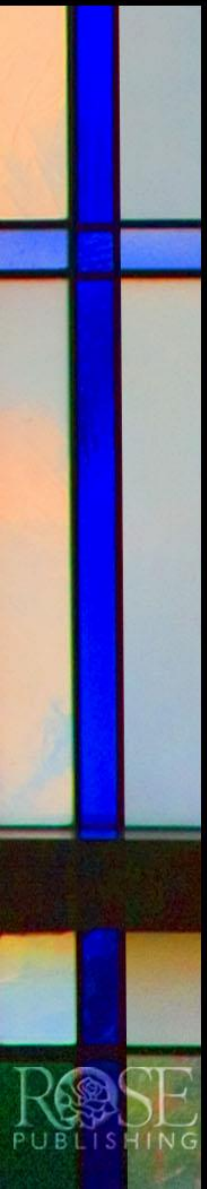




# Why Christians Believe

More than 60 Bible passages mention the three Persons together:

- “As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a **voice from heaven** said, ‘This is **my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”  
– Matthew 3:16–17

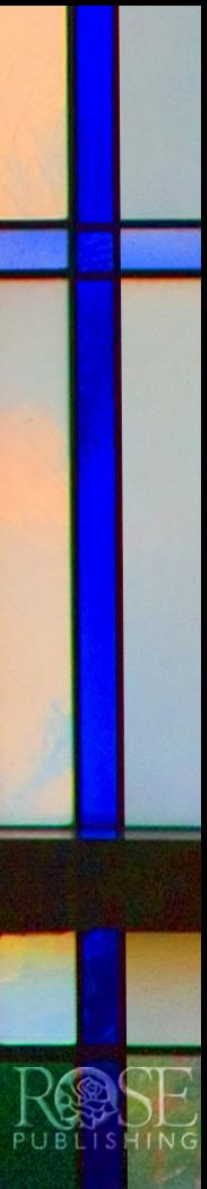




# Why Christians Believe

More than 60 Bible passages mention the three Persons together:

- “But when the kindness and love of **God our Savior** appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the **Holy Spirit**, whom he poured out on us generously through **Jesus Christ our Savior.**” – Titus 3:4–6







# Why Christians Believe

Divine Attribute	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Eternal	Romans 16:26	Revelation 1:17	Hebrews 9:14
Creator	Psalms 100:3	Colossians 1:16	Psalms 104:30
Omnipresent	Jeremiah 23:24	Ephesians 1:23	Psalms 139:7
Omniscient	1 John 3:20	John 21:17	1 Corinthians 12:11



# Why Christians Believe

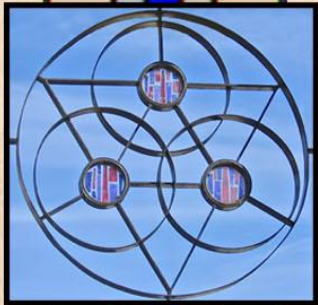
Divine Attribute	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Wills and Acts Super-naturally	Ephesians 1:5	Matthew 8:3	1 Corinthians 12:11
Gives Life	Genesis 1:11–31	John 1:4	Romans 8:10–11
Strengthens Believers	Psalms 138:3	Philippians 4:13	Ephesians 3:16

Menu



# Misunderstandings about the Trinity

## Was the Trinity Made Up?





# Was the Trinity Made Up?

## **Misunderstanding:**

“The word ‘Trinity’ does not appear in the Bible. It is a belief made up by Christians in the 4th century.”

## **Truth:**

It’s true that the word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible, but the Trinity is nevertheless a Bible-based belief.

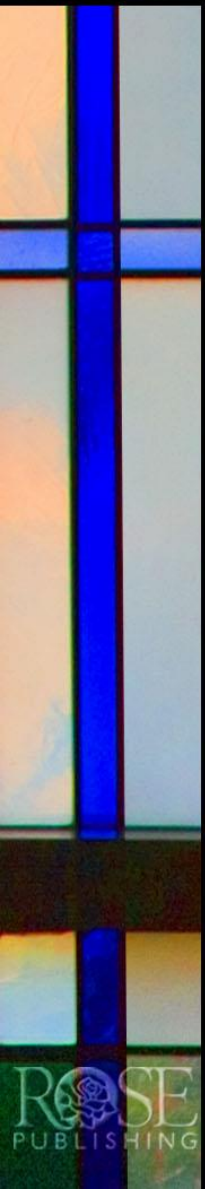




# Was the Trinity Made Up?

## Example:

- The word “incarnation” does not appear in the Bible either.
- But it’s used as a one-word summary of the belief that Jesus was God in the flesh.
- The word “Trinity” is used to explain the eternal relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

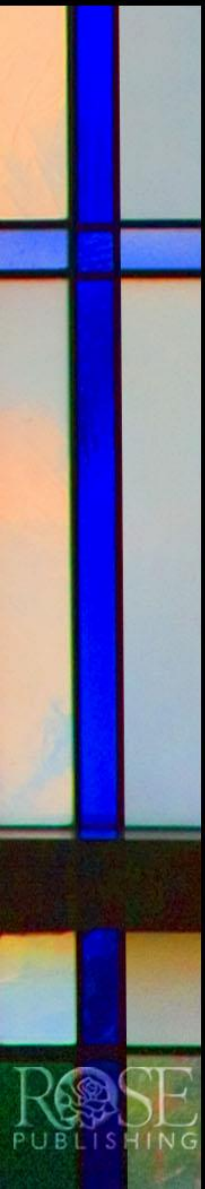




# Was the Trinity Made Up?

Early church leaders defended the doctrine of the Trinity long before the 4th century:

- Clement (AD 96) argued for the incarnation and writes that Christ was “God in the form of a man.”
- Ignatius (c. AD 90) describes Christ as “our God,” and “increate” which means uncreated.

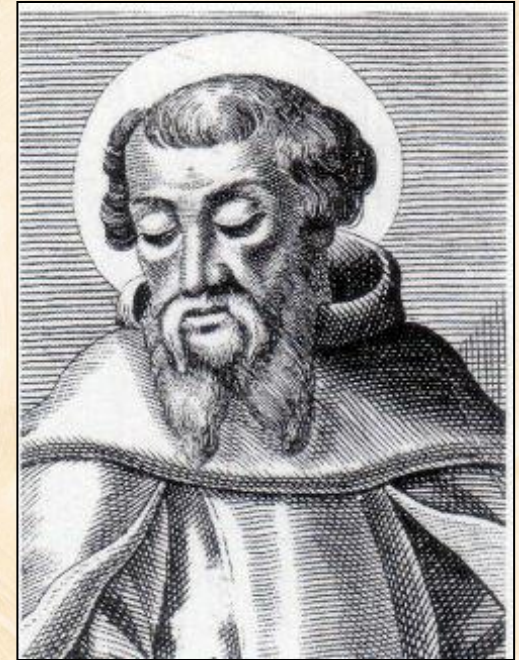




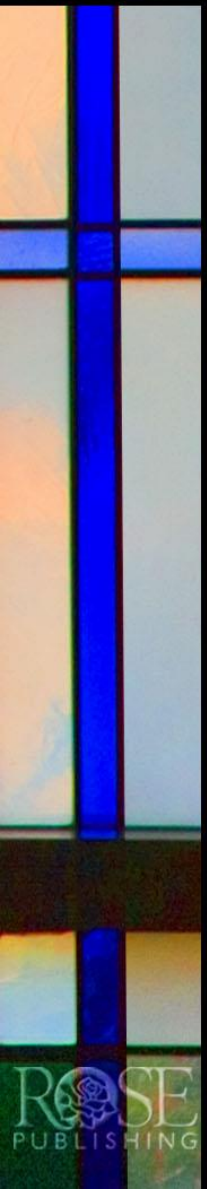


# Was the Trinity Made Up?

- Irenaeus (AD 177) writes, “Now the Church ... received from the apostles and their disciples its faith in one God, and the father Almighty ... and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who was made flesh for our salvation, and in the Holy Spirit ...”



Irenaeus  
c. AD 130–200

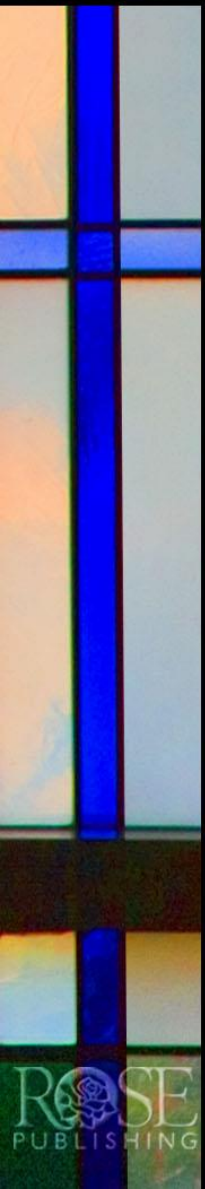






# Was the Trinity Made Up?

- Justin Martyr (AD 155) makes numerous references to how Christians honor the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.
- Theophilus (AD 168) is the first person known to have used the word “Trinity.”





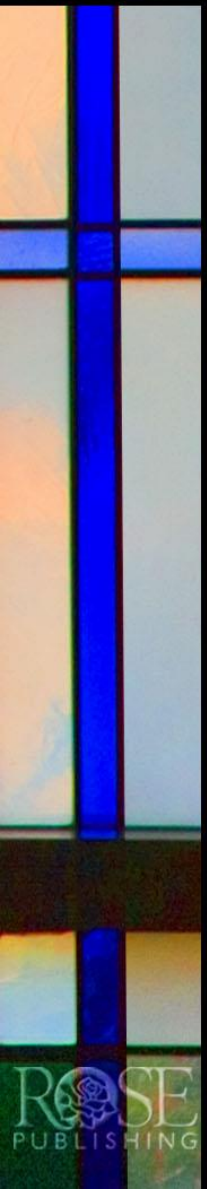


# Was the Trinity Made Up?

- Tertullian (AD 197) argued for the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit yet maintained that “We [Christians] believe in one only God.”



Tertullian  
c. 160–225



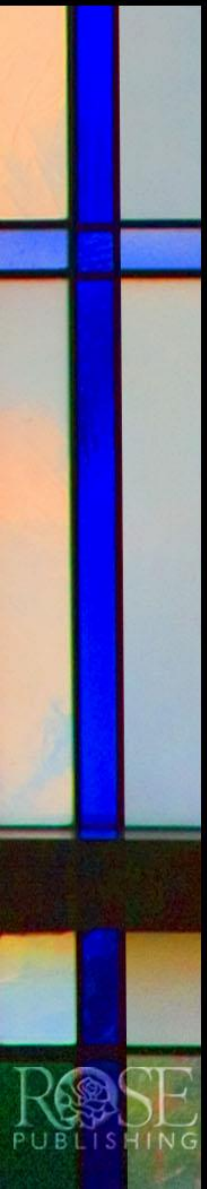




# Was the Trinity Made Up?

- Athenagoras (AD 177) describes Christians as those who acknowledge the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and “declare both Their power in union and Their distinction.”
- Gregory Thaumaturgus (AD 264) calls the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit the “perfect Triad” being all eternal and equal.

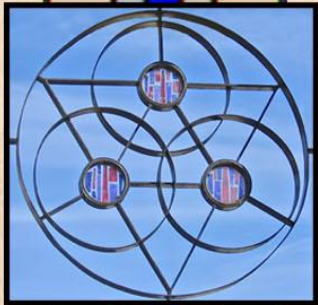
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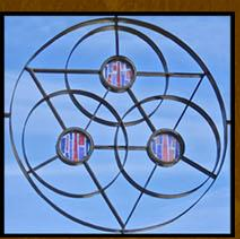


# Misunderstandings about the Trinity

## Are There Three Gods?







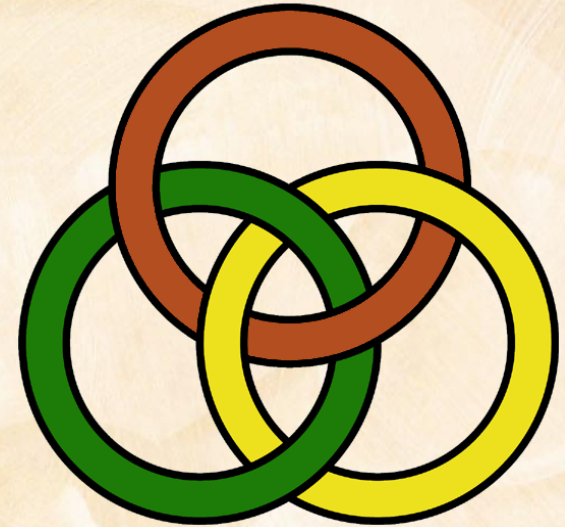
# Are There Three Gods?

## **Misunderstanding:**

“Christians believe there are three Gods.”

## **Truth:**

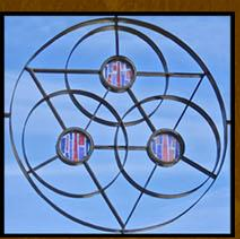
Christians believe in only one God.



A Trinity Symbol

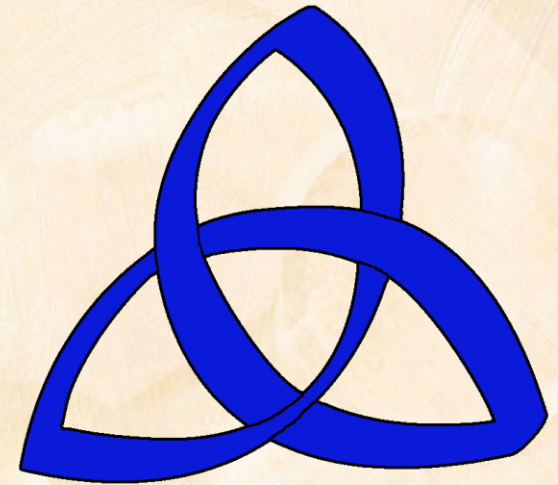




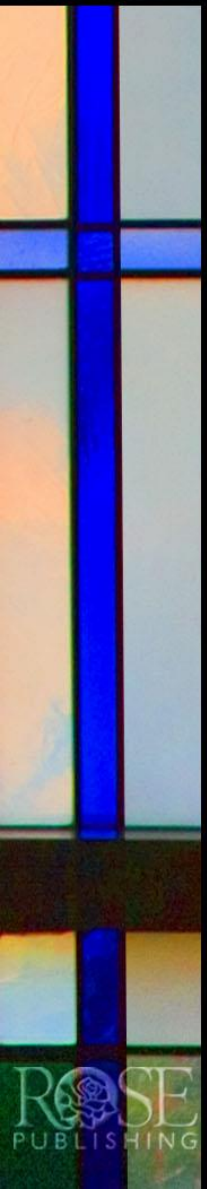


# Are There Three Gods?

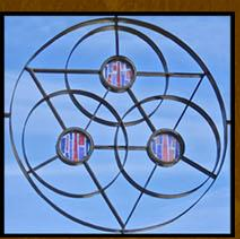
- Some people might believe that Christians are polytheists—people who believe in many gods.
- This may be because Christians refer to the Father as God, the Son as God, and the Holy Spirit as God.



A Trinity Symbol

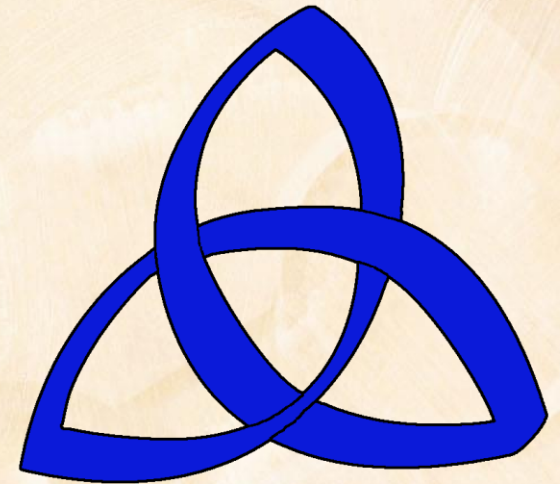




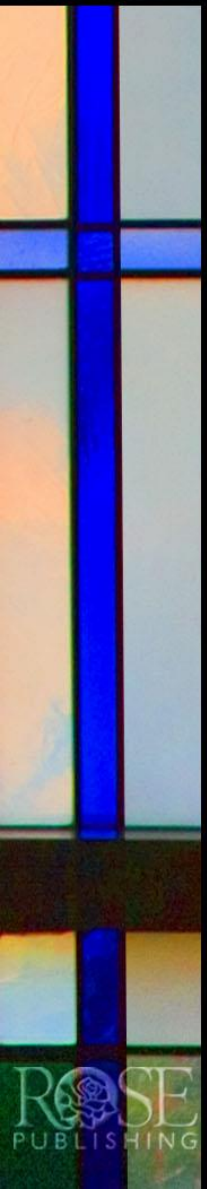


# Are There Three Gods?

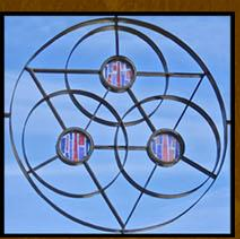
- But Christians believe in only one God.
- The Bible says there is only one God, but it also calls three distinct Persons “God.”



A Trinity Symbol







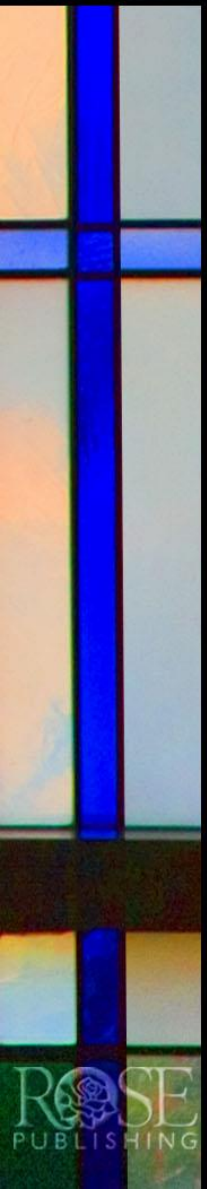
# Are There Three Gods?

## Illustrations:

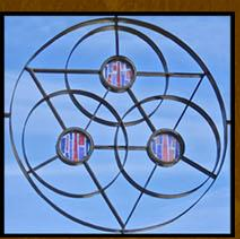
- Over the centuries people have tried to come up with simple explanations for the Trinity.
- There are limits to every illustration, but some are helpful.

It has been said that:

- God is not  $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$
- God is  $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$







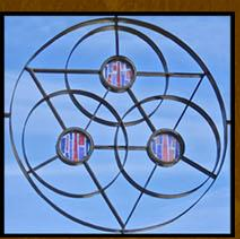
# Are There Three Gods?

## Illustrations:

- Ice, water, and steam all have the same nature, but they are still distinct from each other.
- However, the Trinity is different because the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are God *at the same time*.



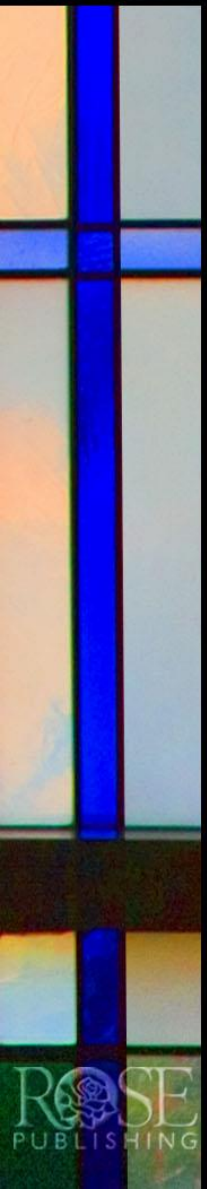




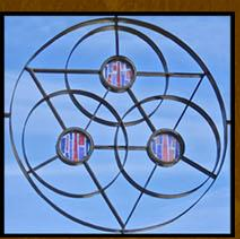
# Are There Three Gods?

## Illustrations:

- St. Patrick of Ireland used the shamrock to illustrate the mystery of the Trinity.
- He asks, “Is this one leaf or three? If one leaf, why are there three lobes of equal size? If three leaves, why is there just one stem?”







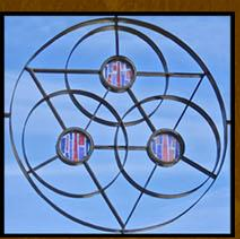
# Are There Three Gods?

## Illustrations:

- He concludes: “If you cannot explain so simple a mystery as the shamrock, how can you hope to understand one so profound as the Holy Trinity?”



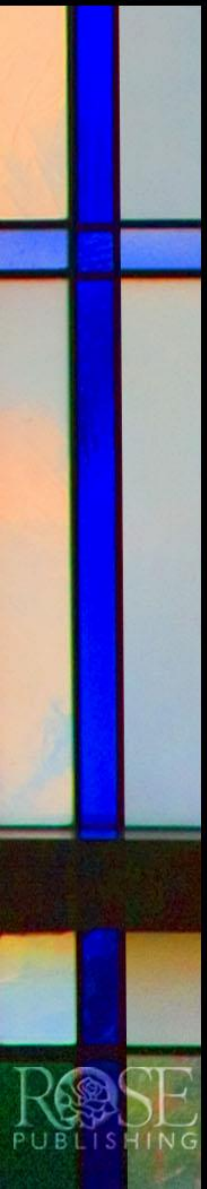




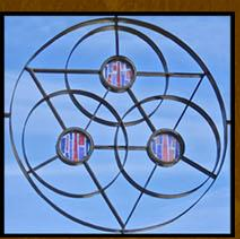
# Are There Three Gods?

## Faith

- The Trinity is a profound doctrine that must be accepted by faith.
- Accepting a doctrine by faith does not exclude reason, but it means that we cannot always apply the same logic that we use in mathematics.







# Are There Three Gods?

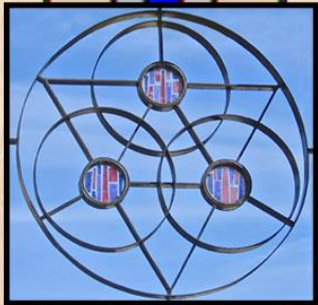
## Faith

- Without the Trinity, the Christian doctrine of salvation cannot stand.
- Some religious groups that claim to believe in the God of the Bible but reject the Trinity have an understanding of salvation that is based on good works.
- As both God and man, Jesus was the perfect sacrifice to completely atone for humanity's sin (Hebrews 7:26–27).



# Misunderstandings about the Trinity

## Is Jesus God?







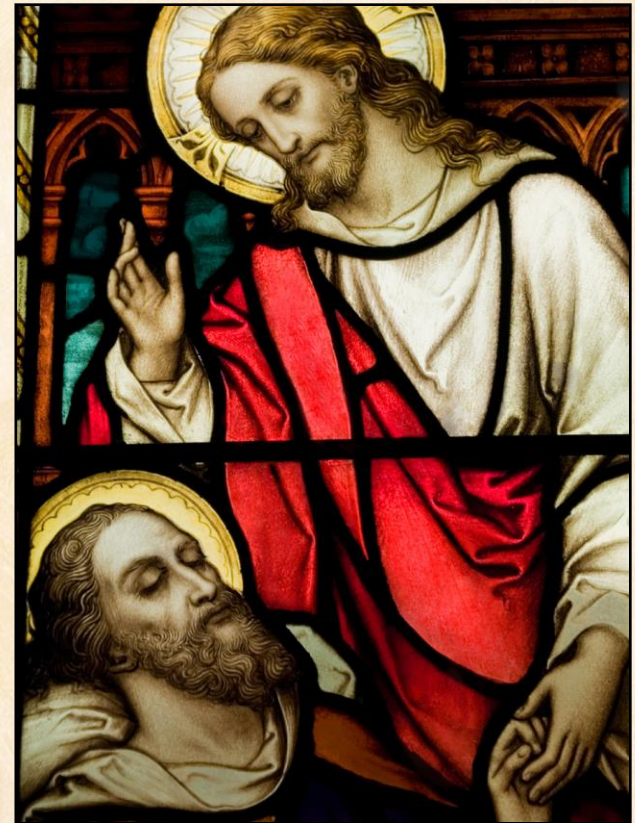
# Is Jesus God?

**Misunderstanding:**

“Jesus is not God.”

**Truth:**

Jesus is God, the  
Second Person of  
the Trinity.



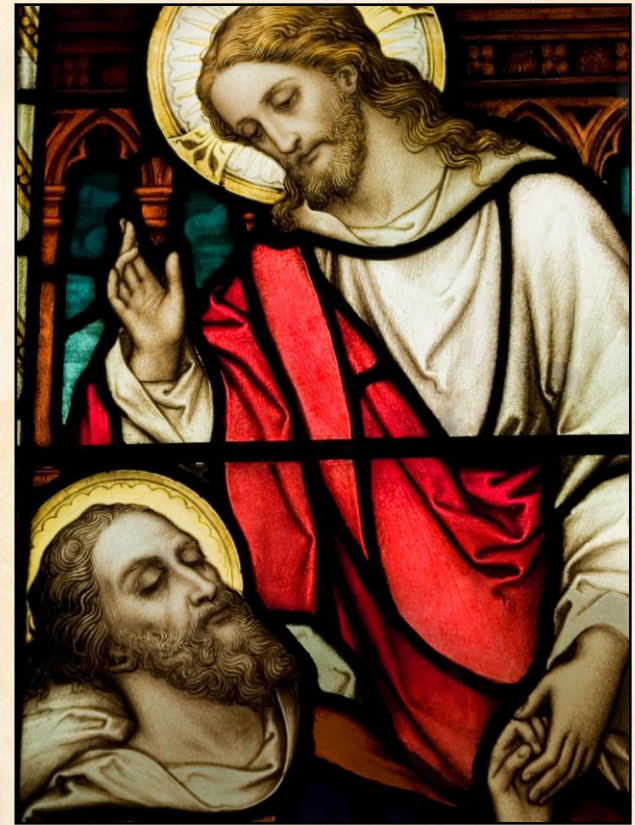




# Is Jesus God?

## Jesus forgave sin.

- We may forgive sins committed against us, but we cannot forgive sins committed against others.
- Jesus has the authority to forgive any sin (Luke 5:18–21).



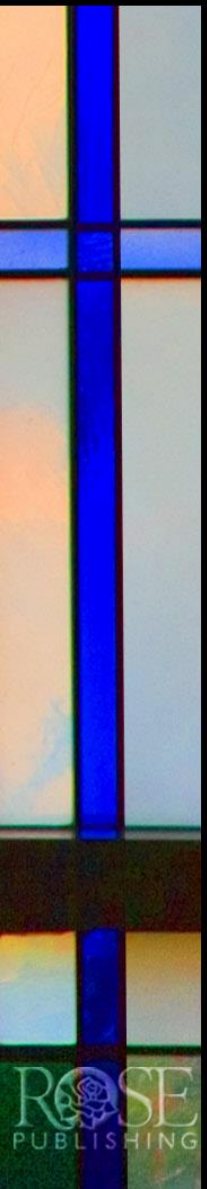




# Is Jesus God?

## **Jesus accepted worship as God.**

- “Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” – Matthew 14:33
- “Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.” – John 5:22–23



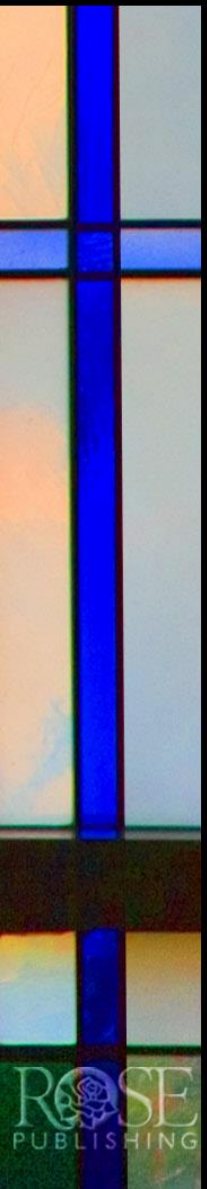




# Is Jesus God?

## **Jesus claimed to be the “Son of God.”**

- The chief priests who wanted to crucify Jesus said to Pilate, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” – John 19:6–7
- They rightly understood the title “Son of God” to be a claim to equality with God.





# Is Jesus God?

Traits Unique to God	Traits of Jesus
Creation is the “work of his hands”—alone (Genesis 1:1)	Creation is the “work of his hands”—all things created in and through him (Colossians 1:16)
Redeems from their sins a people for his own possession (Exodus 19:5)	Redeems from their sins a people for his own possession (Titus 2:14)
The “first and the last” (Isaiah 44:6)	The “first and the last” (Revelation 1:17)





# Is Jesus God?

Traits Unique to God	Traits of Jesus
Called "Lord of lords" (Deuteronomy 10:17)	Called "Lord of lords" (1 Timothy 6:15)
Hears and answers prayers of those who call on him (Jeremiah 33:3)	Hears and answers prayers of those who call on him (John 14:14)
Worshipped by angels (Psalm 97:7)	Worshipped by angels (Hebrews 1:6)
Unchanging and eternal (Psalm 90:2)	Unchanging and eternal (Hebrews 13:8)



# Is Jesus God?

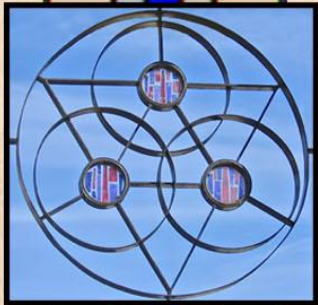
Traits Unique to God	Traits of Jesus
Judge of all people (Psalm 94:2)	Judge of all people (2 Corinthians 5:10)
Only God has divine glory (Isaiah 42:8)	Jesus has divine glory (John 17:5)
Only Savior; no other God can save (Isaiah 43:11)	Savior of the world; no salvation apart from him (Acts 4:12)

Menu



# Misunderstandings about the Trinity

## Is Jesus a Lesser God than the Father?







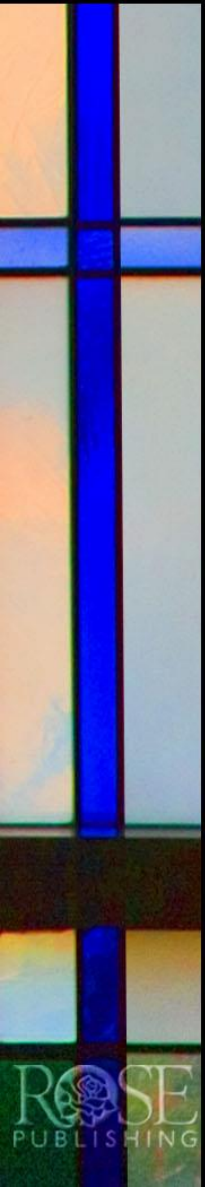
# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## **Misunderstanding:**

“Jesus is a *lesser* God than the Father.”

## **Truth:**

Jesus is co-equal with God the Father.







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his **one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

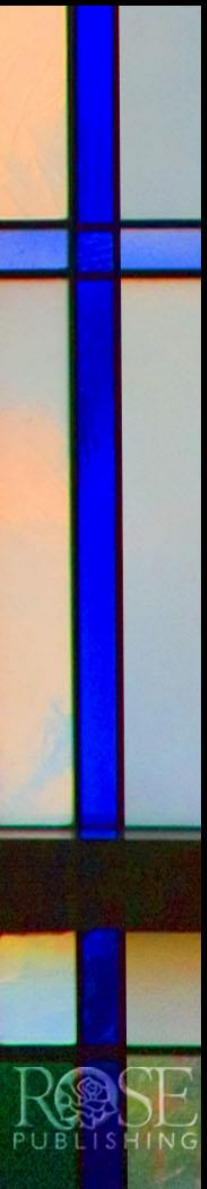
**John 3:16**

**Question:**

Does “one and only” mean Jesus had a beginning?

**Answer:**

No, “one and only” means that Jesus is God’s unique Son.







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## John 3:16

- In Hebrews 11:17, Isaac is called Abraham's "one and only" son, even though Abraham had other children (Genesis 22:2; 25:1–6).
- Jesus is God's unique Son because only Jesus is fully God and eternally the Father's Son (John 1:1–3, 14–18).



# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Colossians 1:15–17

“He [the Son] is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn over all creation.**

For by him all things were created; ... all things were created by him and for him.

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”





# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Colossians 1:15–17

### Question:

If Christ is the “firstborn” over all creation, was he created?

### Answer:

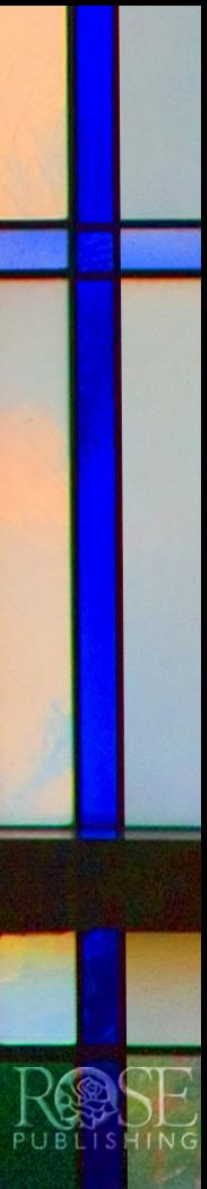
“Firstborn” cannot mean that Christ was created, because all of creation was made by and for Christ, and he exists before all creation.



# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Colossians 1:15–17

- The “firstborn” traditionally was the main heir.
- In context Paul is saying that Christ, as God’s Son, is the main heir of all creation (vv. 12–14).







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Proverbs 8:22–25

“The LORD brought me [Wisdom] forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I **was given birth** ... before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth.”



# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Proverbs 8:22–25

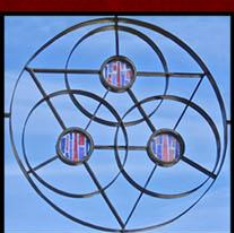
### Question:

Does this mean that Christ (“Wisdom”) was “created”?

### Answer:

This is not a literal description of Christ; it’s a personification of wisdom.





# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Proverbs 8:22–25

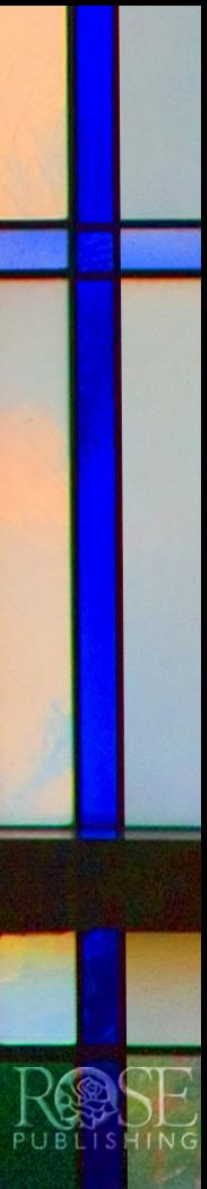
- For example, Christ did not dwell in heaven with someone named “Prudence” (8:12).
- He did not build a house with seven pillars (9:1).
- Rather, these verses says in a poetic way that God used wisdom in creating the world.



# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## John 14:28

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I.**”







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

**John 14:28**

**Question:**

If the Father is “greater than” Jesus, how can Jesus be God?

**Answer:**

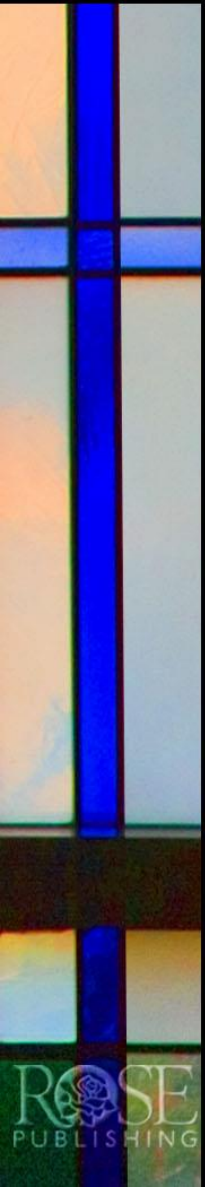
In his human life on earth Jesus voluntarily shared our natural limitations in order to save us.



# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## John 14:28

- After he rose from the dead, Jesus returned to the glory he had with the Father (John 17:4–5).
- In that restored glory, Jesus was able to send the Holy Spirit and empower his disciples to do even greater works than Jesus did while he was here in the flesh (John 14:12).







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Mark 13:32

“No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son, but only the Father.**”







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

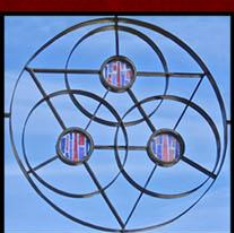
**Mark 13:32**

**Question:** If Jesus is God, how could he not know when he would return?

**Answer:** Jesus voluntarily lowered himself to experience the limitations of human life.







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## Mark 13:32

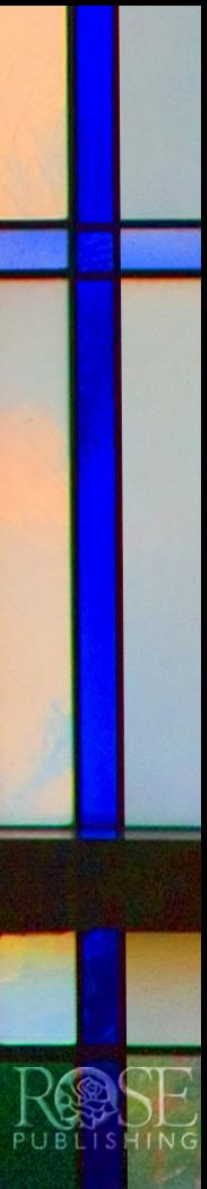
- Paradoxically, while Jesus continued to be God, he chose to limit his access to knowledge (John 16:29–30).
- Paradoxes like this are exactly what we would expect if, as the Bible says, God chose to live as a real human being.



# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## 1 Corinthians 15:28

“When he has done this, then the **Son himself will be made subject** to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.”







# Is Jesus a Lesser God?

## 1 Corinthians 15:28

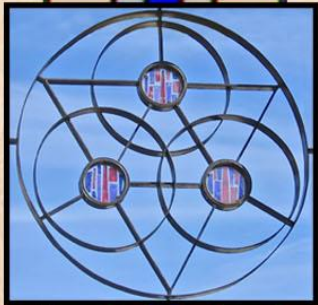
**Question:** If Jesus is God, why will he be subject to the Father?

**Answer:** Jesus voluntarily submits himself to the Father's will for a time, but as the pre-existent and eternal Son, he is co-equal with God the Father (Philippians 2:5–7).

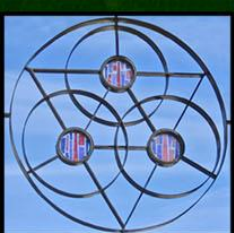
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# Misunderstandings about the Trinity

*Are Father, Son, and Spirit  
Just Different Titles?*







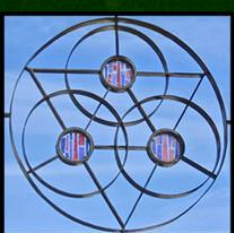
# Just Different Titles?

## **Misunderstanding:**

“The *Father*, the *Son*, and the *Spirit* are just different titles for Jesus, or three different ways that God has revealed himself.”

## **Truth:**

The Bible shows that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons.



# Just Different Titles?

## One God

- Some people think that the doctrine of the Trinity contradicts the truth that there is only one God.
- They argue that Jesus alone is the one true God.
- Therefore Jesus is “the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

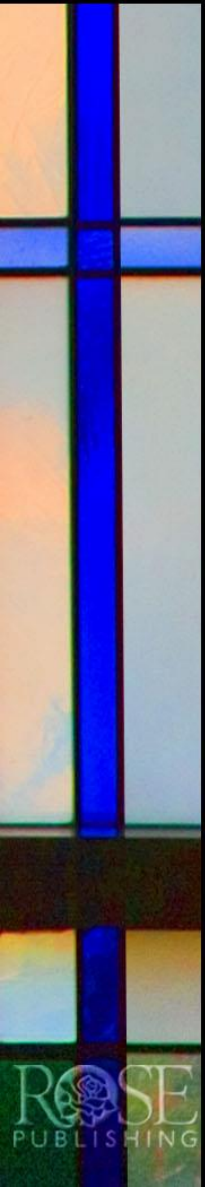




# Just Different Titles?

## One God

- While it's true that there is only one God, we must allow the Bible to define what this means.
- The Bible makes it clear that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons.



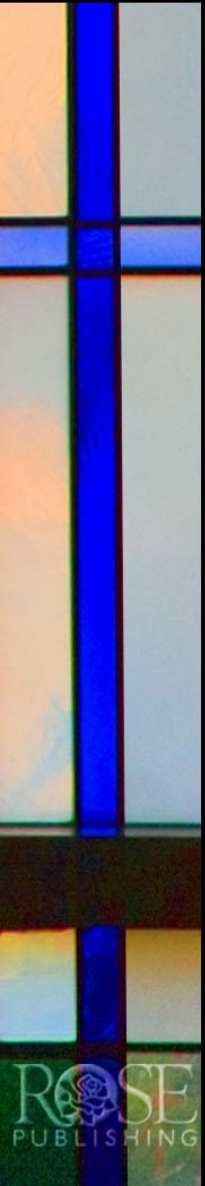




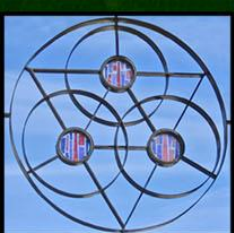
# Just Different Titles?

## Three Persons

- The Father sends the Son (1 John 4:14)
- The Father sends the Spirit (John 14:26)
- The Son speaks, not on his own, but on behalf of the Father (John 8:28)
- Jesus Christ is not the Father, but the Father's Son (2 John 3).



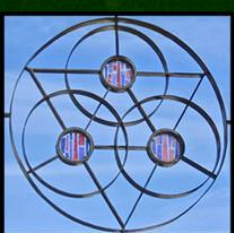




# Just Different Titles?

## Three Persons

- The Spirit speaks, not on his own, but on behalf of Jesus (John 16:13–14)
- The Father loves the Son, and the Son loves the Father (John 3:35; 14:31)
- The Father and the Son count as two witnesses (John 8:16–18)



# Just Different Titles?

## Three Persons

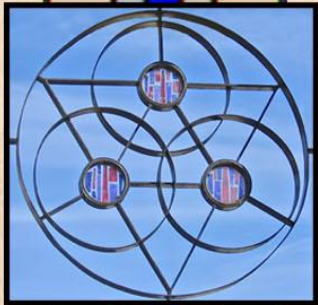
- The Father and the Son glorify one another (John 17:4–5), and the Spirit glorifies Jesus the Son (John 16:13–14)
- The Son is an advocate for us with the Father (1 John 2:1); Jesus the Son sent the Holy Spirit, who is another advocate (John 14:26)

Menu

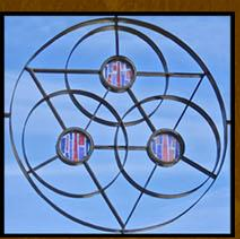


# Misunderstandings about the Trinity

## Was Jesus Fully God and Fully Man?







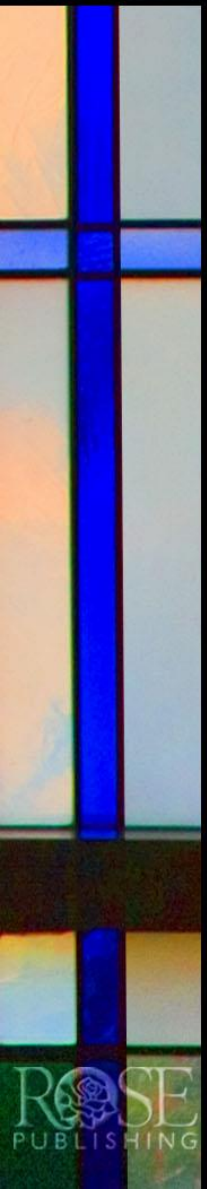
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## **Misunderstanding:**

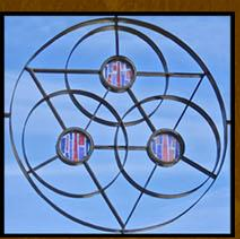
“Jesus wasn’t really fully God and fully man.”

## **Truth:**

God the Son became fully human and still retained his full deity.



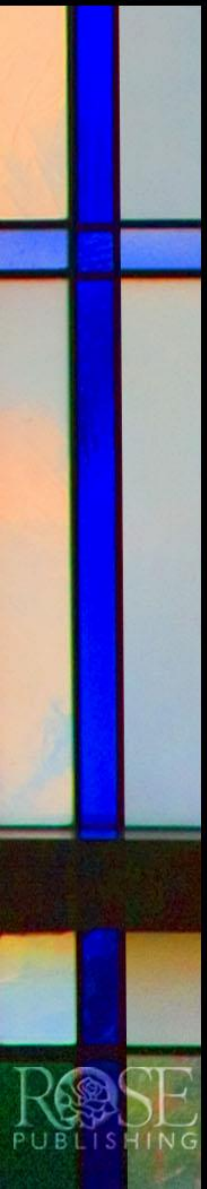




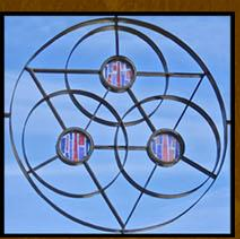
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## The Incarnation

- Throughout history many people have balked at the idea that Jesus is both fully God and fully man.
- They have tried to resolve this paradox by saying that Jesus was a mere man through whom God spoke, or that he merely *appeared* to be human.



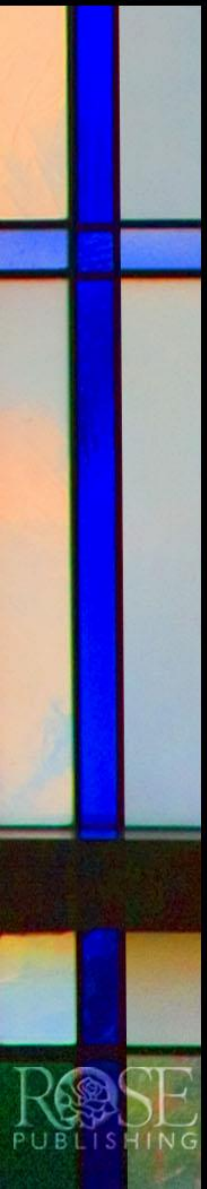




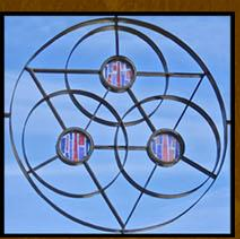
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## The Incarnation

- The idea that in Jesus, God became a man, is difficult for us to comprehend.
- But the Incarnation is the ultimate proof that nothing is too hard for God.
- This truth is clearly taught in the Bible.



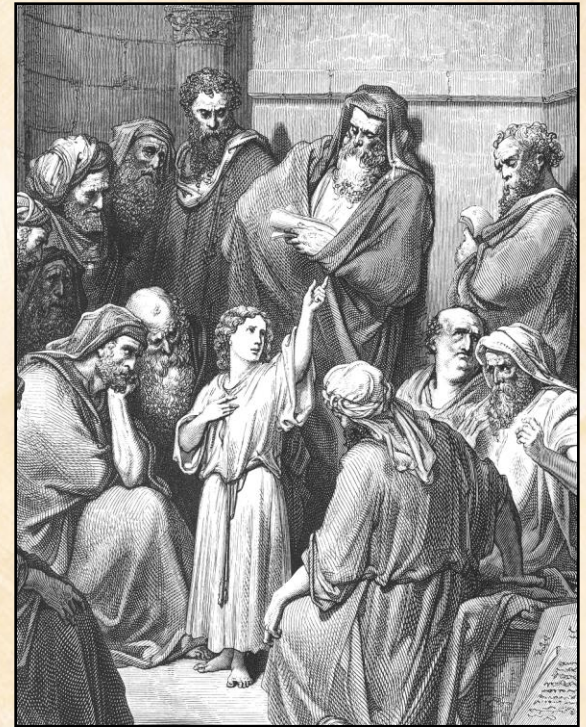




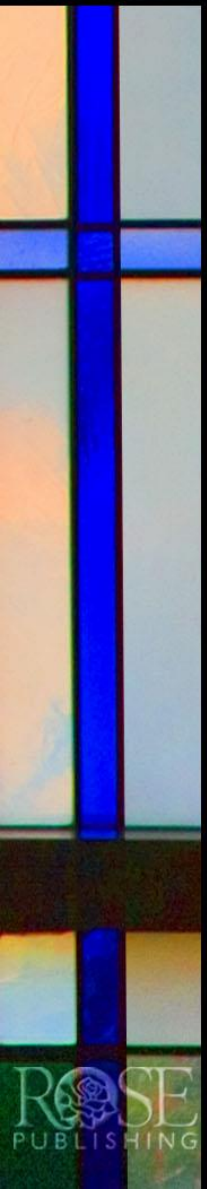
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## Jesus was fully human.

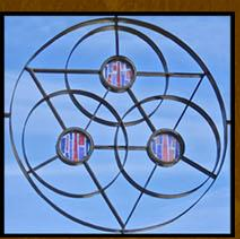
- As a child, he grew physically, intellectually, socially, and spiritually.
- “And the child [Jesus] grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.” – Luke 2:40



Jesus at age 12 in the temple court



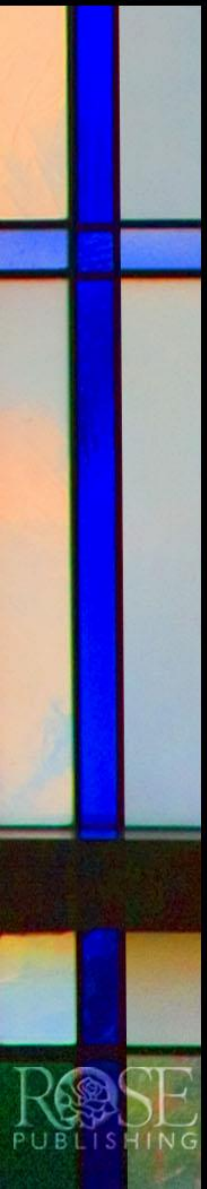




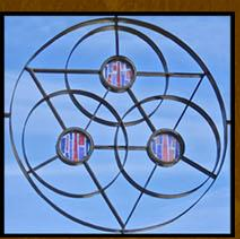
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## **Jesus was fully human.**

- He grew tired; he slept; he sweat; he was hungry and thirsty; he bled and died; his body was buried (Matthew 4:2; 8:24; Luke 22:44; John 4:6, 7; 19:28–42).
- After he rose from the dead, he ate and drank with people and let them see his scars and touch his body (Luke 24:39–43; John 20:27–29; Acts 10:41).







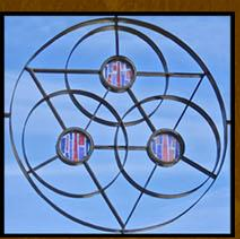
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## Jesus was fully God.

- Jesus commanded the forces of nature (Matthew 8:23–27; 14:22, 33),
- He forgave sins (Mark 2:1–12).







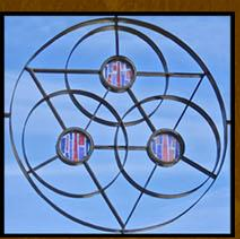
# Was Jesus God and Man?

## Jesus was fully God.

- He claimed to be superior to the Sabbath law (John 5:17, 18).
- He gave life to whomever he pleased (John 5:19–23).





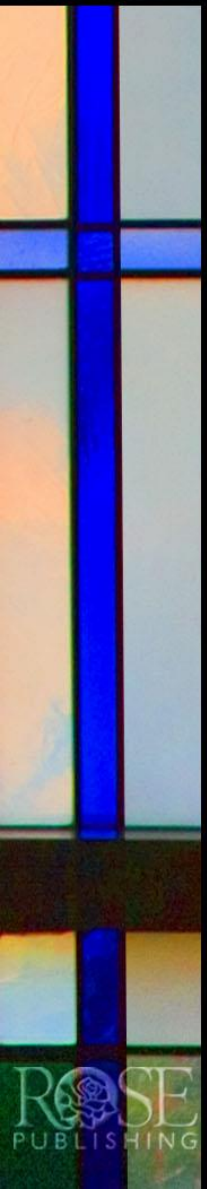


# Was Jesus God and Man?

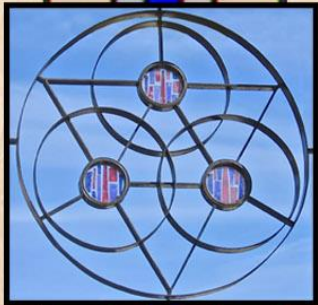
## Jesus was fully God.

- Paul said that God purchased the church with his own blood (Acts 20:28).
- Paul also said that the rulers of this world crucified the Lord of glory (1 Corinthians 2:8).
- All the fullness of God's nature and being resides in Jesus' risen body (Colossians 2:9–10).

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# How Early Christians Dealt with Misunderstandings







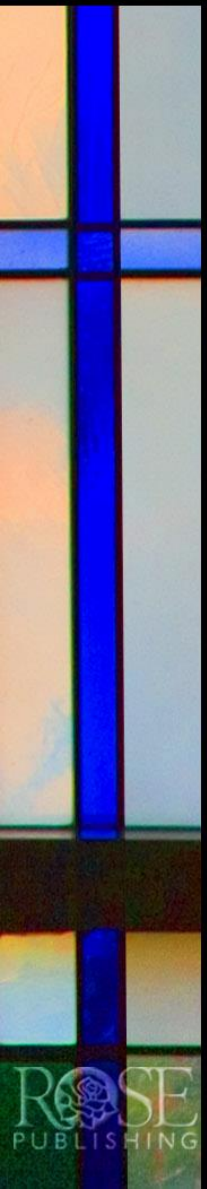
# Early Christians

Christians of the first two centuries faced several threats:

- Persecution from the Roman Empire—until the early AD 300s, Christianity was illegal and Christians were often viciously persecuted.



Roman coin of Emperor Nero (AD 37–68) who was known for his harsh persecution of Christians



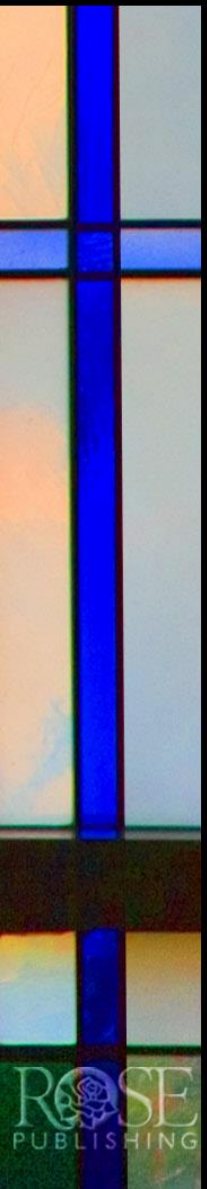




# Early Christians

Christians of the first two centuries faced several threats:

- Heresies attacked basic Christian beliefs, especially the deity of Jesus Christ and the nature of God.
- Early Christians formulated statements of belief—creeds—to clarify and safeguard what they believed.

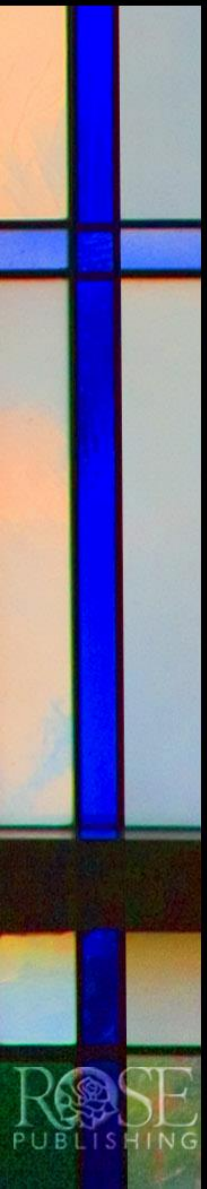






# The Apostles' Creed

- The Apostles' Creed is one of the earliest statements of faith crafted to clarify basic Christian beliefs.
- Known as the “Rule of Faith,” it was developed in the AD 100s.
- It emphasizes the true humanity—including the physical body—of Jesus.



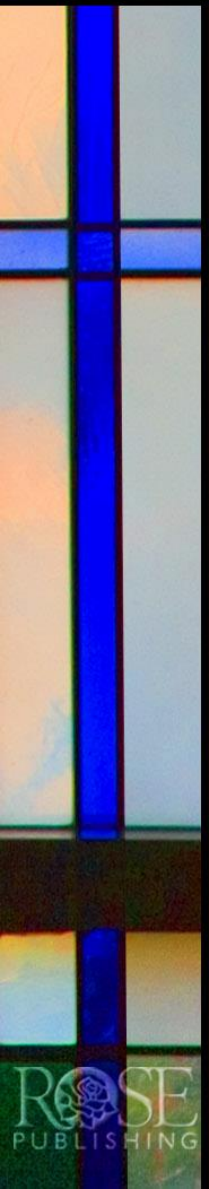




# The Apostles' Creed

“I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;

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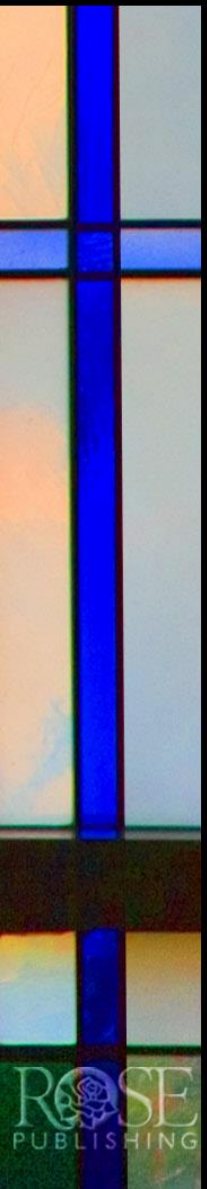




# The Apostles' Creed

from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

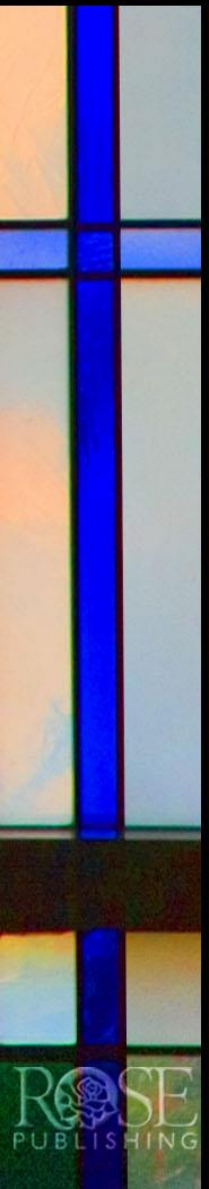
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.”





# The Nicene Creed

- The Nicene Creed was written by church leaders in AD 325, and later expanded.
- Arius was a church elder in Alexandria who claimed that Jesus was a created, inferior deity.
- Arius and his followers created much controversy in the 4th-century church.

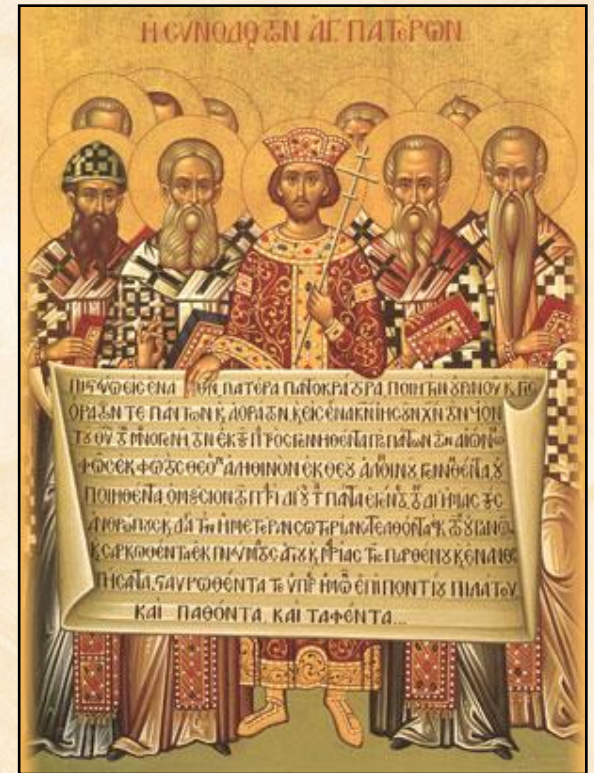




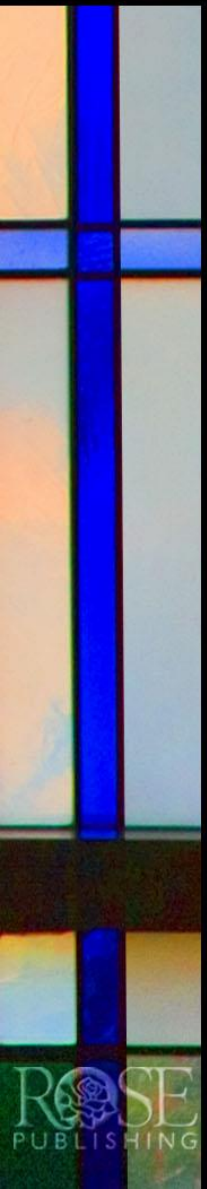


# The Nicene Creed

- Emperor Constantine called for a church council in Nicaea to restore church unity.
- This creed defended the church's belief in Christ's full deity and formally rejected the teachings of Arius.



Emperor Constantine  
with Church Fathers and  
the Nicene Creed

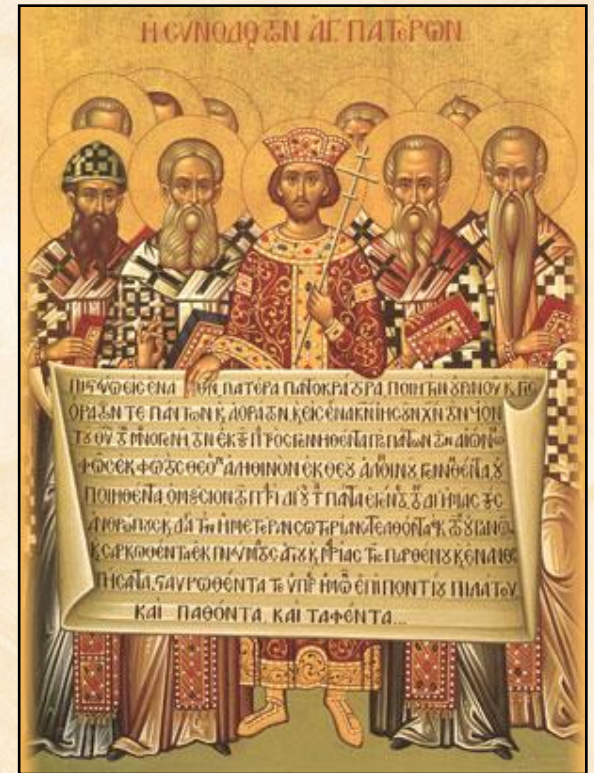




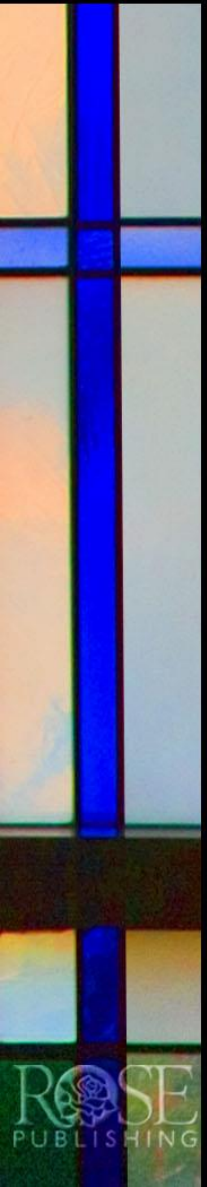


# The Nicene Creed

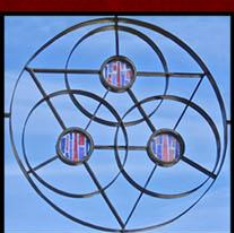
- All but two of the approximately 300 church leaders in attendance voted in favor of the Nicene Creed which clearly affirms Jesus' divinity.



Emperor Constantine  
with Church Fathers and  
the Nicene Creed







# The Nicene Creed

“We believe in **one God**, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, Light from Light, **true God from true God**, begotten, not made, of **one Being** with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; By the power of the Holy Spirit he became **incarnate** from the virgin Mary and was made man.

(Continued on next slide)



# The Nicene Creed

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried; on the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven. He is seated at the **right hand of the Father**, he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; with the Father and the

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# The Nicene Creed

Son he is **worshiped and glorified**; he has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.”

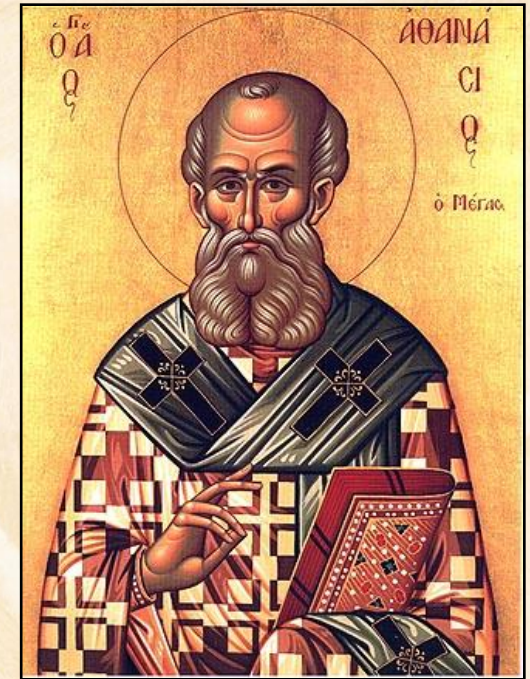






# The Athanasian Creed

- Written about AD 400; says the three Persons are not three Gods, but only one.
- Named after Athanasius of Alexandria, a great defender of the Trinity.



St. Athanasius  
c. 296–373

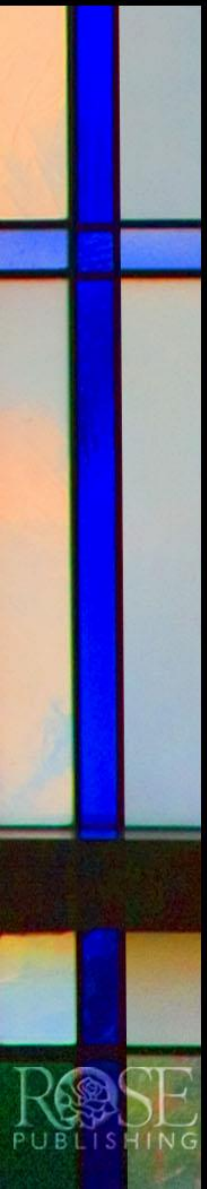


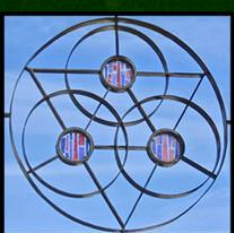


# The Athanasian Creed

“... [W]e worship one **God in the Trinity** and the Trinity in unity...For the Father is a distinct person; the Son is a distinct person; and the Holy Spirit is a distinct person. Still the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit have **one divinity**, equal glory, and co-eternal majesty. What the Father is, the Son is, and the Holy Spirit is. The Father is uncreated, the **Son is uncreated**, and the Holy Spirit is uncreated. ... The Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, and the Holy Spirit is eternal. Nevertheless,

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# The Athanasian Creed

there are **not three eternal beings**, but one eternal being. ... Thus the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. But there are not three gods, but one God. ... For according to Christian truth, we must profess that each of the persons **individually is God**; ... The Father is made of none, neither created nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made nor created, but begotten. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and

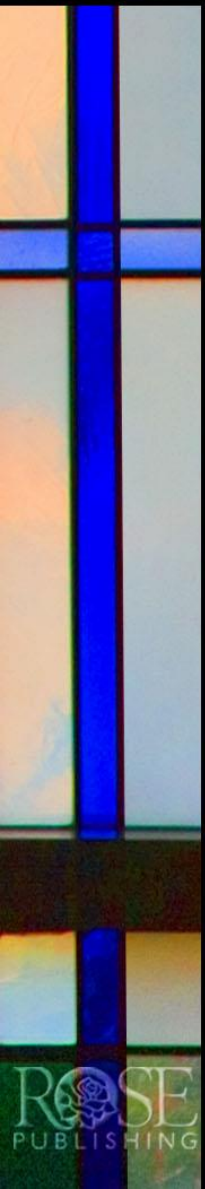
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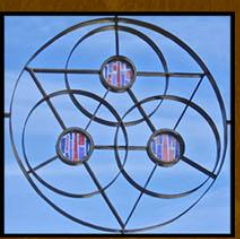




# The Athanasian Creed

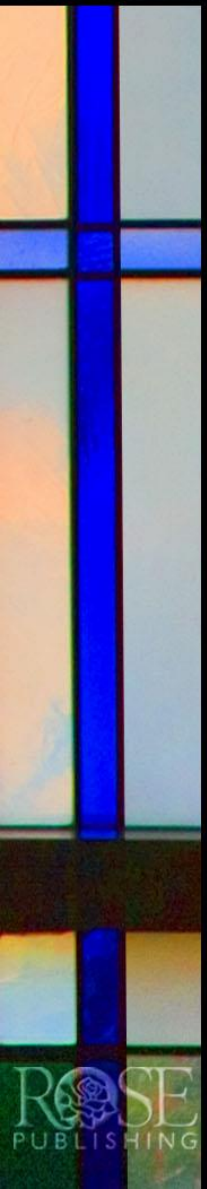
the Son; neither made, nor created nor begotten, but proceeding. ... But the whole three persons are co-eternal, and co-equal. So that in all things, as aforesaid, the **Unity in Trinity** and the **Trinity in Unity** is to be worshipped.”



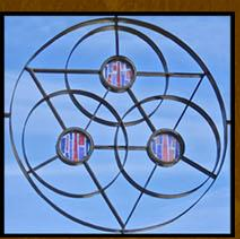


# The Chalcedonian Creed

- The Chalcedonian Creed was written in AD 451 to affirm the divinity and humanity of Jesus and reject the teachings of Eutyches.
- Eutyches taught that Jesus was divine, but did not have a human nature.
- The Chalcedonian Creed says that Jesus is fully God and fully man.





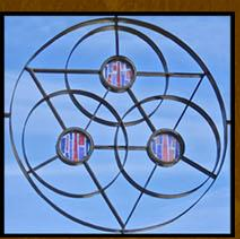


# The Chalcedonian Creed

“... [W]e all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, **truly God** and **truly man**, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of **one substance** with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages,

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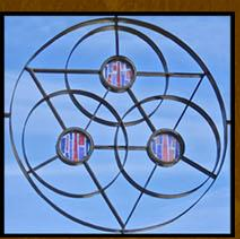


# The Chalcedonian Creed

but as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation of Mary, the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, **Only-begotten**, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the **distinction of natures** being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted

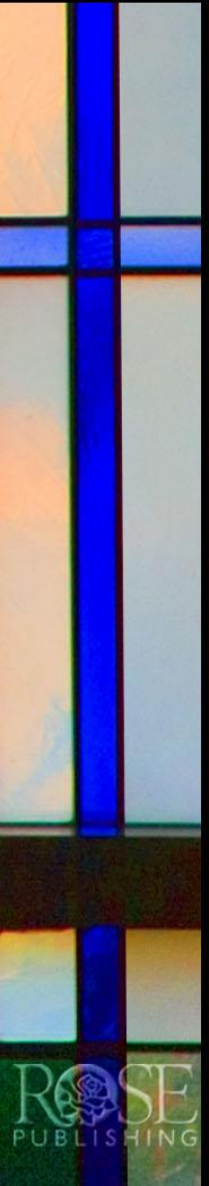
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# The Chalcedonian Creed

or separated into two persons, but **one and the same Son** and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the Fathers has handed down to us.”





## ***The Trinity PowerPoint®***

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Dates for the early church leaders: *The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*, edited by E.A. Livingstone (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977).

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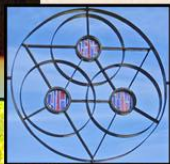
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# Hebrews 7:26–27

“Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

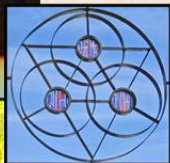
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# Luke 5:18–21

“Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. ... When Jesus saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven.’ The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, ‘Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?’”

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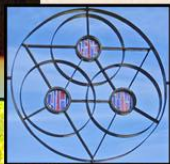




# Philippians 2:5–7

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God,<sup>[SEP]</sup> did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”

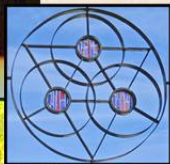
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# John 17:4–5

“I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

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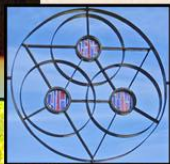




# John 14:12

“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”

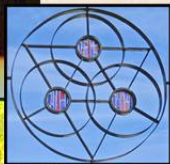
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# John 16:29–30

“Then Jesus’ disciples said, ‘Now you are speaking clearly and without figures of speech. Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.’”

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# Matthew 28:19

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

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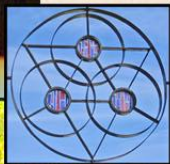


# John 1:1, 14

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

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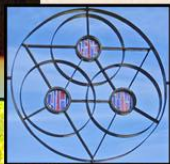




# 1 John 4:14

“And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

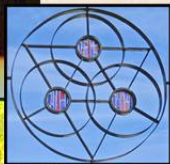
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# John 14:26

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

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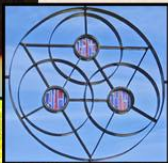




# John 8:28

“So Jesus said, ‘When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.’”

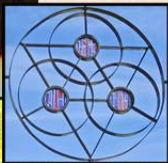
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# 2 John 3

“Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love.”

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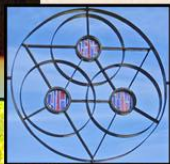




# John 16:13–14

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.”

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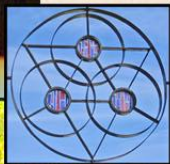


# John 3:35; 14:21

“The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.”

“Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

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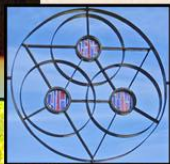




# John 8:16–18

“But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

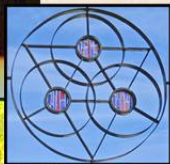
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# 1 John 2:1

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”

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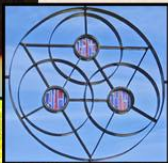




# Acts 20:28

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”

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# 1 Corinthians 2:8

“None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

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# Colossians 2:9–10

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

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