

Introducing the Trinity: God Is Three-in-One

Jesus Christ Course



Image in public domain

Mystery of the Trinity: God Is Three-in-One

- There are three Divine Persons in one God:
 - The First Person of the Trinity is God the Father.
 - The Second Person of the Trinity is God the Son.
 - The Third Person of the Trinity is God the Holy Spirit.



Image in public domain

Mystery of the Trinity: God Is Three-in-One (cont.)

- God: Three-in-One
 - same substance or essence
 - united as one . . . Divine Unity
 - inseparable
 - share the same attributes
 - distinct from one another
 - specific images of each Divine Person in the Scriptures



Image in public domain

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity

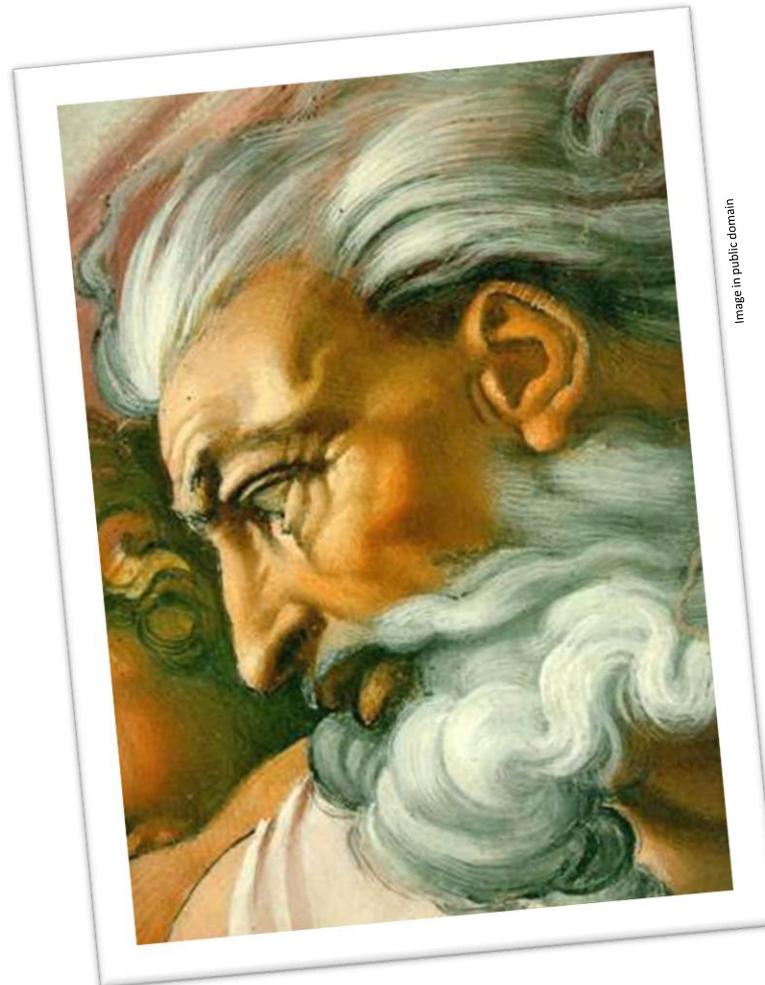


Image in public domain

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

God the Father: the Source of the visible and the invisible

Where can I hide from your Spirit?

From your presence, where can I flee?

If I ascend to the heavens, you are there;
if I lie down in Sheol, you are there too.

If I fly with the wings of dawn
and alight beyond the sea,

Even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand hold me fast.

(Psalm 139:7–10)



Image in public domain

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

The Creator

“In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth . . .” (Genesis 1:1).

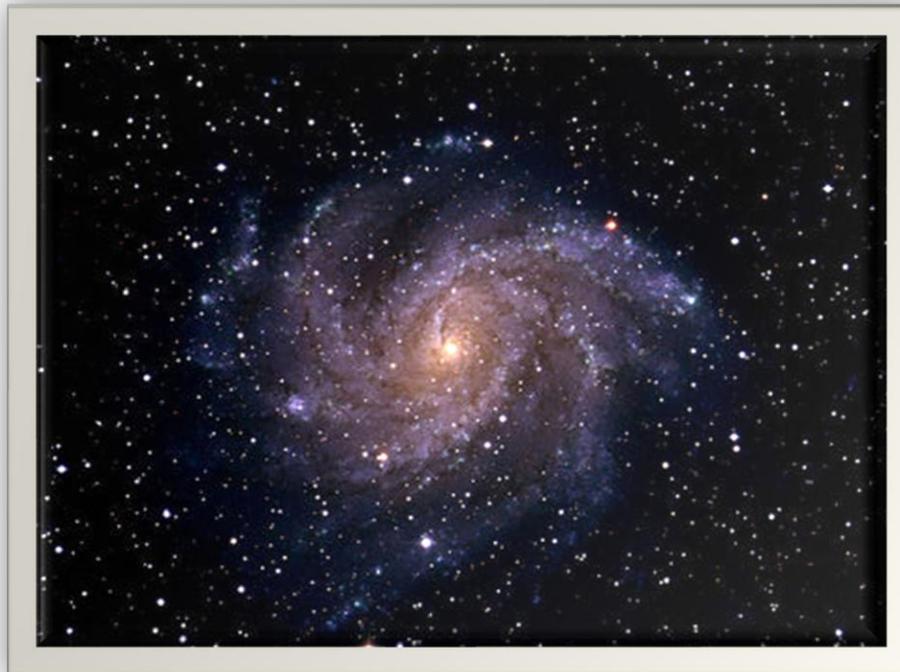


Image in public domain

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

The Potter

Yet, O LORD, you are
our father;
we are the clay and
you the potter:
we are all the work
of your hands.
(Isaiah 64:7)



God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

Almighty One

Who is this king of glory?

The LORD, a mighty warrior,
the LORD, mighty in battle.

.....

The LORD of hosts is the king of glory.
(Psalm 24:8,10)

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

[Jesus] said, “Abba, Father, all things are possible to you”
(Mark 14:36).

Abba

- This word for *father* comes from Aramaic.
- It is a term used by children to address their fathers.
- Jesus used this term to express his relationship with God.
- The term is affectionate and compassionate, like *Papa* or *Daddy*.
- Jesus used this term so that followers could understand God in a new way.

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

Why is the term *father*, not *mother*, used in the description of the Trinity?

- *Father* identifies the relationship of the First Person of the Trinity to the Second Person of the Trinity: God the Father and God the Son.
- Jesus used the word *abba*, meaning “father.”
- Addressing God as Father helps to identify our relationship with God as one of parent-child connection.
- Father is a common title that many religions at the time of Christ used for God. This likely arises from the patriarchal culture in which these religions were practiced.

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

As an eagle incites its nestlings forth
by hovering over its brood,
So he spread his wings to receive them
and bore them up on his pinions.
(Deuteronomy 32:11)

You spread out the heavens like a tent;
you raised your palace upon the waters.
You make the clouds your chariot;
you travel on the wings of the wind.
You make the winds your messengers;
flaming fire, your ministers.
(Psalm 104:2–4)

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

How many times I yearned to gather
your children together, as a hen gathers
her young under her wings.
(Matthew 23:37)

The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back,
the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal
[but the sleek and the strong I will destroy],
shepherding them rightly.
(Ezekiel 34:16)

God the Father, First Person of the Trinity (cont.)

You set a table before me
as my enemies watch;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

(Psalm 23:5)

He said: I love you, LORD, my strength,
LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer,
My God, my rock of refuge,
my shield, my saving horn, my stronghold!

(Psalm 18:2–3)

Jesus: God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity

- Jesus was eternally begotten, incarnate.
- The word *consubstantial* comes from the Latin words *cum* (“with”) and *substantia* (“substance”). The word describes the relationship with the Son as “one in being with” the Father.
- “The Father and I are one” (John 10:30).
- Jesus was born to a woman.
- Jesus died a human death.



<http://www.bridgebuilding.com>

Jesus: God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity

- “I am the bread of life” (John 6:35).
- “I am the light of the world” (8:12).
- “I am the gate for the sheep” (10:7).
- “I am the good shepherd” (10:11).
- “I am the resurrection and the life” (11:25).
- “I am the way and the truth and the life” (14:6).
- “I am the vine, you are the branches” (15:5).



<http://www.bridgbuilding.com>

God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity

- The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son.
- The Hebrew word *ruah*, meaning “wind,” may also be translated as “Spirit of God.”
- “The earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters” (Genesis 1:2).
- In the Old Testament, the Spirit was the creative aspect of God.
- “The LORD God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being” (Genesis 2:7).
- The Holy Spirit is the source of inspiration and power.
- “As he listened to this report, the spirit of God rushed upon him and he became very angry” (1 Samuel 11:6).



God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity (cont.)

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, / because the LORD has anointed me” (Isaiah 61:1).

- The Holy Spirit made God’s presence known in the community.
- The Holy Spirit is the Advocate who empowers and inspires.

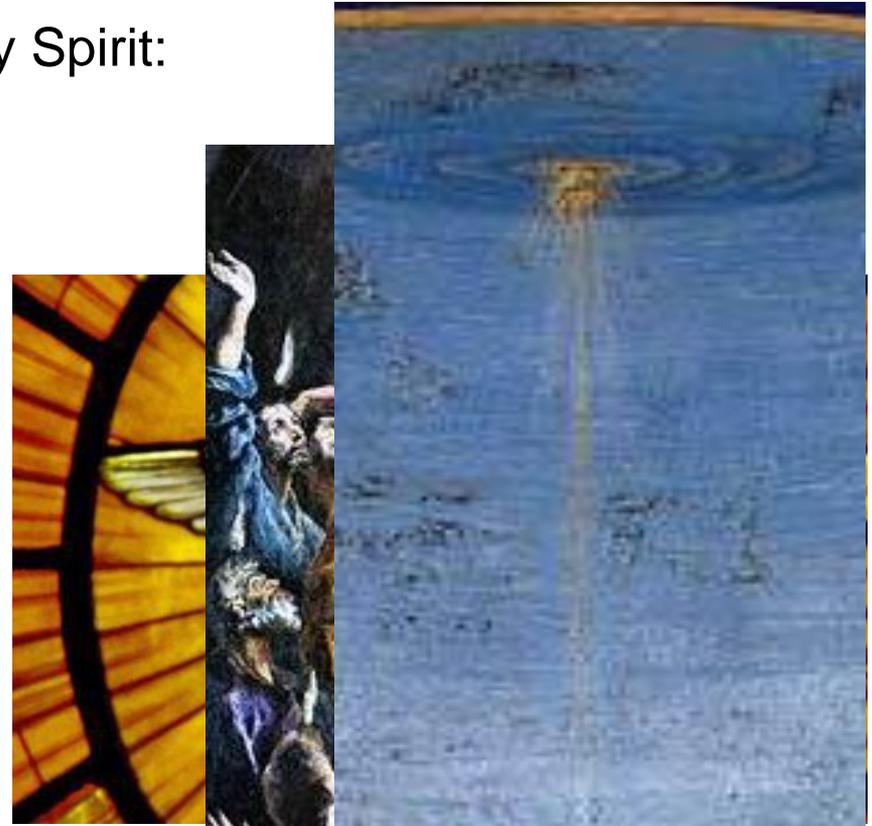
“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you” (John 14:16–17).



God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity (cont.)

Common images of the Holy Spirit:

- Wind
- Fire
- Dove



Images in public domain

God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity (cont.)



Image in public domain

- Manifestation of the Holy Spirit can be seen through the
 - Gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Fruits of the Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity (cont'd.)

Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Isaiah 11:2 describes the Gifts of the Holy Spirit:
 - Understanding
 - Knowledge
 - Counsel
 - Piety
 - Fortitude
 - Wisdom
 - Fear (Awe) of the Lord

God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity (cont.)

Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit

- God blesses us with positive virtues when we have opened our hearts and lives to God. These fruits are listed in Paul's Letter to the Galatians.
 - Love
 - Joy
 - Peace
 - Patience
 - Kindness
 - Generosity
 - Faithfulness
 - Gentleness
 - Self-control

Mystery of the Trinity: God Is Three-in-One

Veni, Sancte Spiritus (“Come, Holy Spirit”)

- V. Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of
your faithful
- R. And kindle in them the fire of your
love.
- V. Send forth your Spirit and they
shall be created.
- R. And you shall renew the face of the
earth.
- Let us pray. O God, who by the light .
. . . Amen. [Print entire prayer.]

