

The Doctrine of the Trinity, continued

Definition: “There is one only and true God, but in the unity of the Godhead there are three coeternal and coequal Persons, the same in substance but distinct in **subsistence**.” (B.B. Warfield, “Trinity,” *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, James Orr, ed. [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1930], 5:3012)

subsistence: real being : (2) : the condition of remaining in existence : an essential characteristic quality of something that exists

Trinity is, of course, not a biblical word. Yet, the doctrine of the Trinity is a biblical doctrine.

“The Old Testament emphasizes the unity of God in particular with intimations as to the trinity. The New Testament emphasizes the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—in particular with intimations as to the unity of God.” (Chafer)

“The fact that there are three Persons in One is a revelation which belongs to the sphere of Heaven’s perfect understanding, and while we can now believe and receive all that God has said to us, these truths cannot be compressed into the limited sphere of human understanding.” (Chafer)

New Testament references

Matt 28:19

¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.

The primary line of argumentation with regard to the Trinity in the NT will be to assert the Deity of Jesus Christ. No one argues against the deity of the Father.

“All men should honor the Son even as they honor the Father.” Jn 5:23

If Jesus was not coequal and coeternal with the Father, then this would be blasphemy of the highest order.

The Deity of Christ

Scriptures that explicitly assert the Deity of Christ:

All positions that deny the deity of Christ assume that the Bible is not authoritative or final in its revelation of this doctrine.

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

John 20:28

²⁶ And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put *it* into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

²⁸ **And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"**

²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and *yet* have believed."

Romans 9:5

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service *of God*, and the promises; ⁵ of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, **Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.** Amen.

Phil 2:6

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ **who, being in the form of God,** did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

Titus 2:13

¹¹ For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing **of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,** who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

1 John 5:20

²⁰ And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God and eternal life.**

Hebrews 1:8

⁸ But to the Son *He says*:

“Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

Divine Names or Titles attributed to Christ (OT references included)

Isa 9:6

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isa 40:3

³ A voice of one calling:
“In the desert prepare
the way for the LORD;
make straight in the wilderness
a highway for our God.

Jer 23:5-6

⁵ “The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will raise up to David
a righteous Branch,
a King who will reign wisely
and do what is just and right in the land.
⁶ In his days Judah will be saved
and Israel will live in safety.
This is the name by which he will be called:
The LORD Our Righteousness.

Joel 2:32 (cf. Acts 2:21)

And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.
For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance,
As the LORD has said,
Among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

1 Tim 3:16

¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:

God was manifested in the flesh,
Justified in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Preached among the Gentiles,
Believed on in the world,
Received up in glory.

Divine Attributes Ascribed to Christ (Both OT and NT)

Eternal Existence

Isa 9:6; John 1:1, 2

Rev 1:8

8 **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*”** says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

The Greeks had no numeral zero. For them to express something that had no beginning or no end, they would have said the “first and the last.” (alpha, first letter, omega, last letter)

Rev 22:13

¹² “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to give to every one according to his work. ¹³ **I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*”**

Omnipresence

Matt 18:20

¹⁹ “Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, **I am there in the midst of them.**”

John 3:13

³ No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, *that is*, the Son of Man **who is in heaven.**

Omniscience

John 2:24-25

²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because **He knew all men,** ²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, **for He knew what was in man.**

John 21:17

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, *son* of Jonah, do you love Me?” Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “Do you love Me?” And he said to Him, “**Lord, You know all things;** You know that I love You.”

Omnipotence

Phil 3:21

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

The creative work of Jesus Christ necessitates His omnipotence. (Jn 1:1; Heb 1:10)

Immutability

Heb 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.