

BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Theology Proper II

The Divine Nature

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God Is Personal

- ✓ Intellect—God knows and understands Himself and His creation
 - ❖ Knowledge, understanding, wisdom (Rom 11:33)
 - ❖ Wisdom in creation (Psalm 104:24)
 - ❖ Wisdom in salvation (1 Cor 1:24-25)
- ✓ Will—God acts with a sense of plan and purpose
 - ❖ Always does what He wants and plans
 - ❖ He does not react—He acts by His purpose
 - ❖ ULTIMATE PURPOSE: His own glory—Eph 1:5-6; Is 43:1-7

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God Is Personal

- ✓ Emotions—God displays dispositions (i.e. emotions and acts of the will) and emotions appropriate to interpersonal relationships
- ✓ Self-Consciousness—God reveals himself as a unique person and not an impersonal force.
 - ❖ Identifies Himself by name (Ex 3:14)
 - ❖ Jealous for His name (Isaiah 42:8)
- ✓ Relatedness—enters into relationships

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God Is an Infinite Spirit

- ✓ Noncorporeal—God's existence does not include a body—John 4:24
- ✓ Unextended—God does not take up space (yet is omnipresent)
- ✓ Invisible—cannot be perceived by human eyes
 - ❖ In His essence (1 Tim 6:16)
 - ❖ Basis for the prohibition of idolatry (Deut 4:15)
 - ❖ Jesus makes God visible (John 1:18; 14:9; Col 1:15)
 - ❖ We make God visible (1 John 4:12; John 13:35)
 - ❖ Biblical examples of seeing God (e.g., contrast Exodus 24:10–11 with John 1:18)

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God Is an Infinite Spirit

- Incorruptible**
God does not age or decay
- Indivisible**
God is not made up of parts
- Self-existent**
God cannot be out of existence

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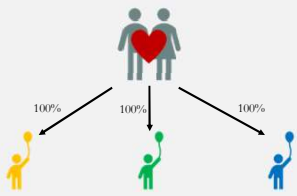
God Is a Trinity

The UNITY (oneness) of God

- ✓ **Definition:** There is but one essence in the Godhead and this one essence wholly and equally pervades each of the three persons in the Godhead without division or multiplication.
- ✓ God is the Father; God is the Son; God is the Spirit—the Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Spirit; the Spirit is not the Father

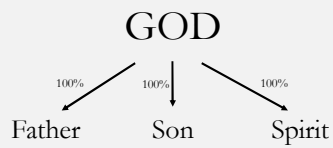
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God Is a Trinity



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God Is a Trinity

The UNITY (oneness) of God

- ✓ The Biblical Teaching
 - ❖ The Father is God
 - ❖ The Son is God—John 1:1; Titus 2:13; Heb 1:8
 - ❖ The Holy Spirit is God—1 Cor 3:16
 - ❖ Father and Son are One—John 10:30-33
 - ❖ Father and Spirit are One—1 Cor 3:16
 - ❖ Son and Spirit are One—Rom 8:9
 - ❖ Father, Son, Spirit are One—John 14:16-23

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God Is a Trinity

The TRINITY (three-ness) of God

- ✓ OT hints—
 - ❖ Plural pronouns (Gen 1:26; Gen 3:22; Isaiah 6:8). God talks to Himself, which is why language is even possible.
 - ❖ Use of Elohim as a plural noun is not evidence of plurality in God. Elohim is a plural of majesty.
 - ❖ Trinity (at least 2 of 3) in same passage (Gen 19:24; Ps 110:1; Isaiah 48:16; Isaiah 61:1-7)
 - ❖ Angel of Yahweh = God (Gen 22:11 with 22:12; Exod 13:21 with 14:24)
 - ❖ **Note:** OT does not establish three-ness, but it does establish plurality.

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God Is a Trinity

The TRINITY (three-ness) of God

- ✓ NT Understanding
 - ❖ Direct references (formulaic)—Matt 28:19; 2 Cor 13:14
 - ❖ Indirect references—Rom 15:16; Rom 15:30; 2 Cor 1:21; Eph 2:18
 - ❖ The Trinitarian Gospel: John—14:15-16; 16:13-15

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God Is a Trinity

The TRINITY and the New Covenant

- ✓ Understanding of the Trinity could not be fully accommodated with the Old Covenant framework
- ✓ Trinity assumed from beginning of NT
 - ❖ Jesus presented as God—Matt 1:23; Mark 2:5
 - ❖ Holy Spirit revealed with more clarity—Matt 1:20; Matt 3:11; 3:16; John 14:15–17, 25–26; 16:12–15

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God Is a Trinity

Functional Order of the Trinity

- ✓ Ontological Trinity (“ontological” = the study of being, existence)—the equality of the being of the Persons of the Trinity
- ✓ Economical (functional) Trinity—functional subordination seen in Scripture—1 Cor 11:3

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God Is Holy

- ✓ Most often listed as an attribute of God—holiness is bigger than an attribute, however.
 - ❖ OT (קדש; *qodes*)—the “otherness” of God
 - ❖ NT (ἅγιος/ἁγιάνθρωπος; *hagios/hagiarthos*)—sacred, set apart, pure
- ✓ Three Connotations (meanings) of Holiness
 - ❖ Majesty Holiness—the separation of God from all other—Isaiah 57:15—the unapproachableness of God—the quality of “Godness”
 - ❖ Purity Holiness—how holiness works itself out ethically—inviolable purity
 - ❖ Unprecedented Holiness

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