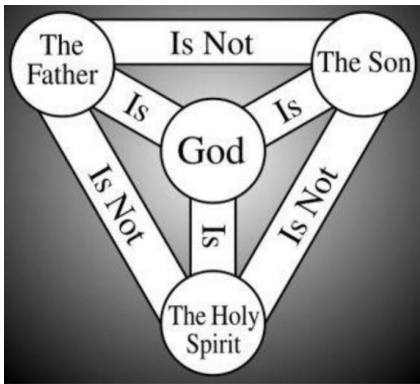


God is not a Trinity

I had never even heard the Trinity challenged until I was well into my walk in the faith once delivered. Oddly, I don't think I ever really believed in the Trinity, but just said it was true because it's so widely accepted. I don't recall believing that God and Jesus were the same being at any time in my life. After hearing so many people argue this point, I finally called my dad and asked. He converted to Catholicism to marry my mom more than 6 decades prior and is a devout Catholic. I asked him, "Dad, just one theology question. No arguing, I promise." He agrees and I let it fly, "Do you believe that God and Jesus are the same being?" Without hesitation his reply was "yes". For the record, I kept my end of the bargain and we had a nice conversation. Granted, this is anecdotal, but the question to my dad was me being introspective. When I started challenging this doctrine, I was flooded with quite a lot of comments of people who, indeed, believe that God and Jesus are the same exact being. Many said they were Trinitarian, some claimed other labels like "Oneness".

This message is meant to be very basic and easy to understand. More detailed messages on the Messiah and His relationship to Yahweh are at the link in the notes of this message. I'll put this one to bed right out of the gate in very simple terms. Look at this image:

Slide 2



This image is a widely used illustration to try to teach the Trinity. It shows the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as being three equal partners in a being called God. The problem with that is God, whom we call Yahweh, is **always superior** to Jesus, whom we call Yeshua. I cannot find a verse where Yeshua is superior to Yahweh. If they were literally equal, there would need to be some give and take. Not only can I not find any verses where Yeshua is greater to His Father, I can find probably a hundred or more where He is lesser. The co-equal idea is not real.

Slide 3



Slide 3 (still) "You heard that I said to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father, for the Father is greater than I." (Joh 14:28)

This is a very clear example of Yeshua being lesser than His Father, which makes sense. Most people who say they believe in the Trinity actually believe this, too. When it comes down to it, they don't actually believe in the Trinity at all, but think they do because the word is rather ambiguous and *it's a requirement for baptism in 99.9% of churches*. One must say they are Trinitarian to be members in the club.

There's a reason the doctrine of the Trinity is ambiguous. It was created to allow a whole lot of people with varying beliefs about the relationship between Yahweh and Yeshua to claim to believe the same doctrine. This is the net result here 1700 years later. Two people sitting in pews in the same church who say they are Trinitarian don't believe the Trinity the same. The shocking truth is the Trinity doctrine is actually a political dogma built to solve a political problem. Disputes about the nature of Yeshua and His relationship to Yahweh created full blown physical conflicts back in the third and early fourth centuries. Doctrine wars were literally wars. You can't have a universal church (Catholic really means universal) when people are openly disagreeing to the point of violence. So they came up with a doctrine that satiated almost everyone. And those who refused to believe, well, at a minimum they got disfellowshipped. A minimum.

We've established the hierarchal relationship between Yahweh and Yeshua. It just sounds shocking to say, though, because I'm refuting such a sacred doctrine. However, it was made sacred by men, not scripture. It doesn't appear a Trinity was the intended result of those who laid the foundation of this doctrine. For those who aren't up on their Christian doctrine history, the faith was pretty much the wild west until the turn of the 4th century. This is when church governance really took off. In the early 300's, Emperor Constantine wanted to unify the Roman Empire. And surely there was a desire among the clergy to unify the faith. So there was a council called at Nicea, where a large number of bishops (which just means overseers) were gathered, with the authority of the Roman empire, to settle some things. Let's take a look at the original Nicene Creed written in 325 AD, which was the outcome of this council:

Slide 4 We believe in one God, the father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one lord, Jesus the anointed, the only begotten son of God, begotten of the father before all worlds, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, being of one substance [homousion] with the father by whom all things were made. Who for us humans and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the holy spirit and the virgin Mary and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the father. And he shall come again to judge both the living and the dead. Whose kingdom shall have no end. [Microsoft Word - Creeds \(washington.edu\) https://faculty.washington.edu/ewebb/Creeds.pdf](https://faculty.washington.edu/ewebb/Creeds.pdf)

You know what? I *barely* disagree with this. If you follow the link on the slide (and I'll put it in the notes) you can see this creed expanded over decades. Does God change? No, He does not. The final formulation was decided until 451 AD. Does that mean those at Nicea weren't saved because they didn't have the whole creed down? Or does it mean these creeds, and the man-made doctrines supporting them, don't actually matter?

Yeshua is the anointed Son of God. Anointed means Messiah in Hebrew and Kristos in Greek. That's why He's called Jesus Christ. It means Yeshua the anointed. Yeshua does share substance from His Father since His birth was a miracle. He did come down from heaven and the rest of it seems just fine. The only part I have a problem with is the "not made" part. To be a son means to be created. In Hebrew, He's Yeshua ha Moschiach ben Elohim. He's the Messiah and the Son of God. Both of those terms indicate a clear separation, starting point, and subordination. To be a son means to come from a father (at least). To be Messiah means to have been anointed by Yahweh for a purpose, something the individual did not have at some point.

But this is really the nexus of the creed – the desire to give the belief that Yeshua was not created primacy and to silence any dissent on that point. Is that really something to generate a global council of bishops to create this statement? Does it really affect you if the person sitting next to you in church believes Yeshua doesn't have a beginning or does? How would you even know? And what about folks who change their mind on that through their walk and through their studies? It just seems incredible that this point was so important to cause a global controversy. And the shame of it today is the Trinity doctrine, which we can literally see it's creation over a century, has become a litmus test when it's not even a real doctrine.

This creed includes that He sits at the right hand of Yahweh, which we also agree with. Almost all of this is good and also allows people the freedom to recite the creed. Which was the ultimate point: make a universal belief system that people have to publicly reaffirm whenever the clergy demand. But there's something missing in this creed. Something pretty big. The Spirit isn't given primacy in the godhead language. This is not a Trinitarian creed. This was written in 325 AD, nearly 300 years after Yeshua's ascension back to His Father, and they did not believe the Spirit to be part of the Godhead or formula, or at least enough people didn't believe it that they left it out of the creed. There are many good reasons for leaving it out. Let's take a look at a couple examples:

Slide 5 Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (1Co 1:1-3)

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our beloved brother and fellow worker, and to Apphia our sister, and to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Phm 1:1-3)

James, a bond-servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes who are dispersed abroad: Greetings. (Jas 1:1)

The Apostles, more often than not, fail to mention the Spirit in the salutations or farewells of their letters. It's quite difficult to make an argument from silence, meaning arguing that the absence of something has a meaning, but in this case it is profound. This doctrine, which has become the chief doctrine of Christianity, doesn't appear to have been a consideration in the first century **at all**. If this doctrine is settled, and as important as it is made out to be today, then every salutation would start with "James, a servant of the Trinity" or "Paul, a prisoner of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit". But none of them say this. Not once.

So why is this important? Well, here you go:

Slide 6 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified." (Act 2:36)

This faith of ours requires one thing at its core. This faith that is called Christianity, is built on the fact that Jesus died and was resurrected by God. He had to really die and really be resurrected. The Trinity denies this because it makes Yeshua, Jesus, out to be incapable of death. While what we believe can be labeled in many different ways, and changes throughout our walk, please make sure that whatever you believe includes that Yeshua, the Son of God, really did die and really was resurrected. Because without that, we are fools destined to eternal death.