

# Challenge

*The Trinity is a Recent Concept*

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2-7-2017

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Isn't the Trinity an age-old theology?

**Challenge**

The theology of the Trinity is a recent development, being formulated in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century AD.

It was not known to the OT Jews.



Do you know what the Trinity is?

Do you know why you believe in the  
Trinity?

The Christadelphians don't accept  
the Trinity.

They believe that it's polytheism

Christadelphians believe that God is the creator of all things and the father of true believers, that he is a separate being from his son, Jesus Christ, and that the Holy Spirit is the power of God used in creation and for salvation.

Mormons believe the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are three separate deities, two of which possess separate bodies of flesh and bones, while the Holy Ghost has only a body of spirit; and that their unity is not physical, but in purpose.

What would NT Jews believe about the Trinity?

**Challenge**

“It is no secret that the Christian doctrine of the Trinity as such is not found in the Bible. It is systematized from various Biblical texts by later Christians to present one coherent and accurate teaching that attempts to unify all true believers.”





“Traditional Christianity holds that:

- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are One God (not three Gods)
- The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are equal in power and glory (same in essence).
- The Father functionally is superior to the Son and the Holy Spirit (both Son and the Spirit are obedient to the Father).”

“[T]he original Christ-following movement was still very Jewish and as such was not very interested in doctrines *per se*. What really concerned first-century Jews was not so much the details of correct beliefs, but rather the details of holy living.”

“[S]ome Jews even prior to Jesus thought of the relation between God and his Word in nearly identical terms as does John’s Gospel (John 1:1). Other pre-Jesus Jews, among many intriguing things, believed in the notion of 'the Son of Man' as eternal heavenly being whom God will one day seat on the throne of His glory.”

NT Jews:

**Challenge**

“[W]hile the Apostles did not think of the Holy Spirit as simply God’s power void of any kind of personality (as in Jehovah Witnesses’ theology) there is embarrassingly little about the divinity of the Holy Spirit in New Testament.”

“I therefore conclude that if the Apostles were presented with the Christian doctrine of Trinity in its traditional form they would be deeply puzzled as to why such a systematization was necessary or considered essential. But then after being pressed for an answer they would have with some hesitation agreed that the basic ideas presented to them were correct.”

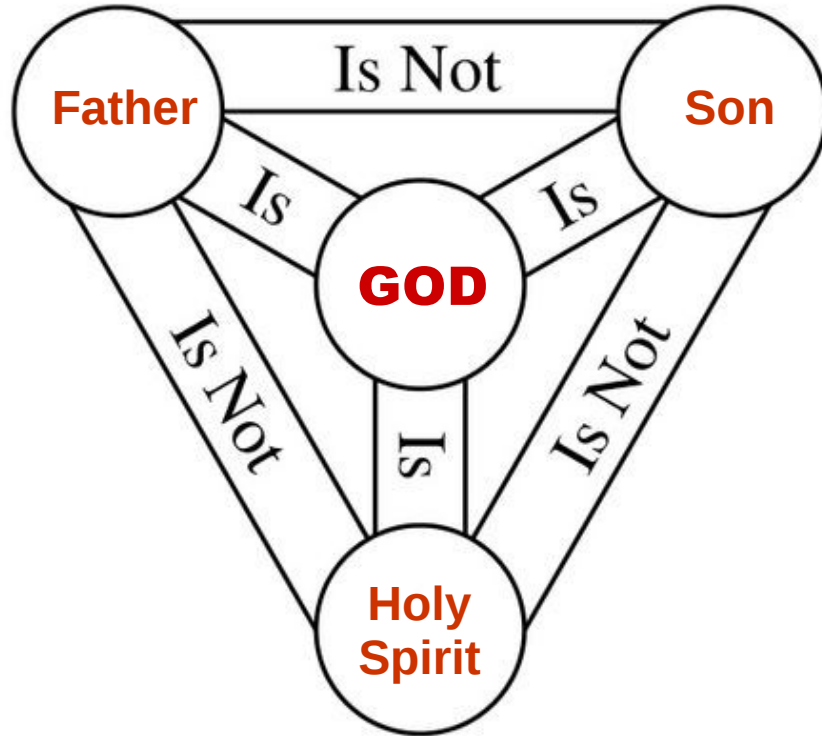
What about other Trinity beliefs?

**Challenge**

Trinitarianism contrasts with nontrinitarian positions which include Binitarianism (one deity in two persons, or two deities), Unitarianism (one deity in one person, analogous to Jewish interpretation of the *Shema* and Muslim belief in *Tawhid*), Oneness Pentecostalism or Modalism (one deity manifested in three separate aspects).



## Challenge



The "Shield of the Trinity", a traditional medieval Western Christian symbol

What scriptures outline the Trinity?

**Challenge**

Biblically, only Matthew 28:19 has a combined reference to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Trinity as such is found nowhere else in the Bible.





John 1:1-14 points to the Trinity without spelling it out clearly, but shows their eternal existence – always was, always is, and always will be

*Ruach HaKo'desh* or *Ruach Elohim* is the Holy Spirit (Spirit of God) in the OT.  
(e.g. Psalm 51:11; Job 33:4; Isaiah 61:1; Genesis 1:2)

All other references are in the NT.  
(20 times in John's Gospel)

Father:

**Challenge**

Jesus referenced his Father frequently.

(13 times in John's Gospel)

'God our Father' or 'God and Father' are mentioned quite often in the NT, not OT.

(e.g. Romans 1:7; 15:6; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 8:6; 15:24)



Son:

**Challenge**

Jesus referred to himself as “the Son of Man” – a veiled reference which the Jews had an understanding of.

(31 times in Matthew's Gospel)

Jesus sometimes referred to himself as the Son. (e.g. John 5:19-23)



Lord Jesus Christ:

**Challenge**

This is the man Jesus, who has the spirit of the Son in him. (Mentioned 81x in NT)

He is now seated in his glorified body in Heaven as King of Kings.



The Trinity is 3 separate beings who are in oneness to the extent that they are 'One'

This is one of the concept “The Shack” was designed to convey to us

In Heaven, Josiah Cullen was taught:

**Challenge**

“Father thought it; Son loved it; and the Spirit did it.”

That's because, “In the Trinity, the Father is the manager. The Son is the lover of operations. Holy Spirit is worker. So it's the three-in-one getting things done.”



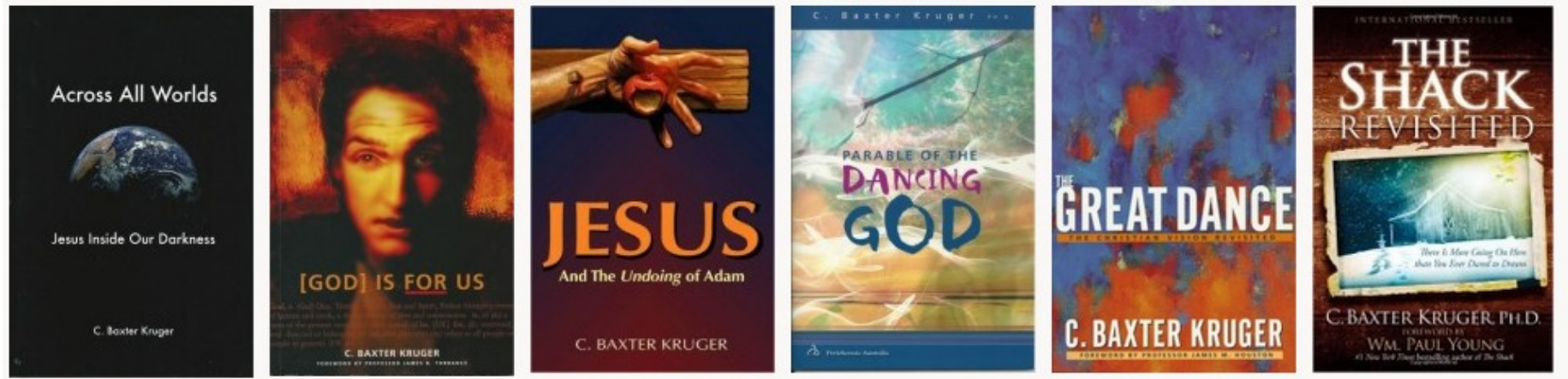


Why not try extending your intimacy to all 3 of the member's of the Trinity  
– they are separate 'persons'

# >>>>> Decent teaching on the Trinity <<<<<



Dr C Baxter Kruger books:



## Challenge



**So, it's your challenge to come to grips with this information**

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