

# Why Do So Many Christians Believe in the Trinity?



"Where can I find the teaching of the trinity expressly stated in the Bible"?

An excellent question — and one that gets to the heart of a very important subject.

## The Short Answer

**Nowhere!** The word "Trinity" does not appear in the Bible. More importantly, no single verse states: "God is three persons in one being: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-equal, co-eternal, and consubstantial."

The Trinity as defined by the creeds (Nicene, Athanasian, etc.) is a **theological formulation** developed centuries after the apostles — not a Bible teaching stated explicitly in Scripture.

## What the Bible *does* say ...

The NWT text ,which reflects the original Greek and Hebrew, says the following:

### 1. The Father alone is called "the only true God"

#### John 17:3

"This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, **the only true God**, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ."

Jesus Himself distinguishes the Father as "the only true God" — not including Himself in that definition.

### 2. Jesus distinguishes Himself from the Father

#### John 14:28

"You heard that I said to you, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going **to the Father**, because **the Father is greater than I am**."

#### John 20:17

Jesus said to her: "Stop clinging to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending **to my Father and your Father and to my God and your God**.'" Jesus calls the Father "my God" — even after His resurrection.

### 3. The Holy Spirit is Never called God

The Spirit is described as:

- **God's active force** — "spirit of God" (Genesis 1:2)
- **Poured out** (Acts 2:17)
- **Given** (Luke 11:13)
- **Teaching** (John 14:26)
- **Grieved** (Ephesians 4:30)

But never worshiped, never prayed to, never called "God" or "Lord" in a personal sense. The NWT translates **John 4:24** as "God is a Spirit" — meaning God is spirit in nature, not that the Holy Spirit is a separate person.

#### 4. The Bible emphasizes God's oneness

##### Deuteronomy 6:4 (the Shema)

"Listen, O Israel: **Jehovah our God is one Jehovah.**"

##### 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

"For even though there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth, just as there are many 'gods' and many 'lords,' **there is actually to us one God, the Father... and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ.**"

Paul distinguishes: one God (the Father) and one Lord (Jesus Christ). Not "one God in three persons."

#### What Trinitarians point to (and how non-Trinitarians respond)

Trinitarians often cite verses like:

| Verse                      | Trinitarian reading                                                                        | Non-Trinitarian reading                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Matthew 28:19</b>       | "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and holy spirit" — three persons, one name | Three distinct entities listed together; "name" singular indicates shared authority, not shared identity                                                   |
| <b>John 1:1</b>            | "The Word was God" (Greek: <i>theos</i> without the article)                               | "The Word was <b>a god</b> " (divine, godlike, or of godly nature) — not the same as "the God" ( <i>ho theos</i> ) of John 1:1b                            |
| <b>2 Corinthians 13:14</b> | Three persons mentioned in a blessing                                                      | A prayer listing three distinct things: love of God, fellowship of the spirit, grace of Christ — not a statement of equality                               |
| <b>John 10:30</b>          | "I and the Father are one"                                                                 | One in purpose and unity, not substance (see John 17:21-22: "that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in union with me and I in union with you") |

## An Honest Appraisal

If the Trinity were the central teaching of the Bible — if your eternal salvation depended on believing it — you would expect it to be stated clearly, repeatedly, and explicitly, perhaps a verse similar to this:

"God is three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal and co-eternal. Worship all three."

But no such verse exists.

Instead, the Bible consistently presents:

- **One God: the Father** (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- **One Lord: Jesus Christ** (same verse)
- **One spirit: God's active power** (Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:17)

The Trinity is a **creedal formulation** — a human attempt to harmonize verses that seem to show Jesus as both divine and subordinate, and the Spirit as both personal and impersonal. It is not a Bible teaching in the sense that "baptism," "repentance," or "the Kingdom" are Bible teachings.

Most "Christian" religions teach the Trinity not because it is clearly stated in Scripture, but because **tradition, creeds, and church councils** over centuries elevated it to a central doctrine — and questioning it became dangerous.

Once a doctrine is declared "orthodox" (especially under threat of excommunication or death), it stays.

Few dare to re-examine it against the Bible alone.

## Other Factors

### 1. The influence of Greek philosophy

By the 2nd and 3rd centuries, many educated church leaders were trained in **Platonic and Neoplatonic thought**. Greek philosophy spoke of:

- An ultimate, unknowable "One"
- A "Logos" (Word) or "Mind" emanating from the One
- A "World Soul" (Spirit)

When they read the Bible, they filtered it through this lens. **John 1:1** ("the Word was with God and the Word was divine") was read as Plato's Logos — not as a Jewish monotheist speaking of God's powerful agent and only begotten son, Jesus Christ.

**Justin Martyr** (c. 150 CE) called Jesus "a second God" — but still subordinate. By the time of **Augustine** (c. 400 CE), the full co-equal Trinity had hardened.

The Bible says: "Jehovah our God is one Jehovah" (Deuteronomy 6:4).  
Greek philosophy said: "The One expresses itself as Mind and Soul."  
The Creeds said: "Let's combine them!"

### 2. The Political Pressure of Constantine

Before **325 CE**, there was no universal "Trinity doctrine." Bishops argued fiercely:

- **Arius** said: Jesus is God's first creation — "there was a time when he was not."
- **Athanasius** said: Jesus is co-eternal with the Father — "always was."

Emperor **Constantine** (a pagan sun worshiper, who "converted" late in life and was baptized on his deathbed) wanted **unity in his empire**. He convened the **Council of Nicaea** (325 CE) and pushed for a compromise creed that both sides could sign — under threat of exile for refusal.

The resulting **Nicene Creed** did not end the debate. It took decades more of political manoeuvring, exiles, and even violence before the Trinity became "official." Constantine himself later admitted he didn't fully understand the debate — but he wanted peace in his empire, not Biblical truth.

### **3. The power of creeds over Scripture**

Once a council declares something, questioning it becomes heresy. By the Middle Ages, the Church taught:

- The Bible is authoritative *only as interpreted by the Church*
- The Trinity is a "mystery" — you must believe it even if you don't understand it
- Denying the Trinity is salvation-threatening heresy (punishable by death in some eras)

Most people could not read the Bible for themselves until the Reformation. By then, the Trinity was so entrenched that even Reformers like Luther and Calvin — who rejected many Catholic doctrines — kept the Trinity. They threw out purgatory, indulgences, and the papacy, but not the Trinity.

### **4. Fear of Sounding Like (so called) "Cults"**

Today, many mainstream denominations know the Trinity is hard to prove from Scripture alone. But if they reject it, they fear being in agreement with:

- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Christadelphians
- Unitarians
- Oneness Pentecostals (who reject the Trinity but still believe Jesus is God — differently)

So they defend the Trinity not because it is Biblical, but because it is **traditional** and **creedally safe**.

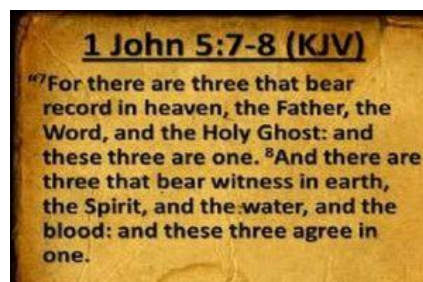
## 5. Confirmation Bias in translation

Many Trinitarian translators have twisted the scriptures and **imported** the Trinity into the text. For example:

- **John 1:1c** — "and the Word was God" (capital G) instead of "a god" or "divine"
- **Titus 2:13** — "our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (making it sound like one person) instead of "of our great God and of our Savior Jesus Christ"
- **1 John 5:7** — the *Comma Johanneum* ("these three are one") was added to Latin manuscripts centuries later; it appears in no early Greek manuscripts.

English Bibles follow Trinitarian tradition, not the original text.

The **King James Version** of 1611 is an extreme example of this.



(The phrase commonly known as the **Comma Johanneum** is considered spurious by Bible scholars in 1 John 5:7-8 in the King James Version (KJV). It was added by **Desiderius Erasmus** through his Greek New Testament in 1522.

The spurious addition includes the words enclosed in brackets below:

*"For there are three that bear record [in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth,] the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one."*)

## What Jesus and the Apostles Actually Taught

If you read the New Testament without creeds in mind, you find:

- **One God — the Father** (1 Corinthians 8:6)
- **One Lord — Jesus** (same verse)
- **One spirit — from God** (Acts 2:17)

Jesus prays *to* God, not *as* God.

Jesus says the Father is *greater* (John 14:28).

Jesus says he doesn't know the day or hour — only the Father does (Mark 13:32).

Jesus ascends *to his God and our God* (John 20:17).

The apostles never explain or even allude to a Trinity. They never say "worship three persons in one being." They preach repentance, baptism, the Kingdom, and faith in Christ — but **never a triune God**.

## Conclusion

The Trinity is a God dishonouring doctrine ... a **mistaken** attempt to "honour" Jesus while keeping Greek philosophers who became Christians happy. It tries to solve a mystery or a problem that never existed in the Bible in the first place!

Jesus himself said: "**This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent forth, Jesus Christ**" (John 17:3).

Two distinct beings. One unambiguously called "the only true God" (the Father, Jehovah).

The other called "the one whom you sent" (Jesus).

That is what Jesus and the apostles taught.

Given all of this — why do so many sincere, Christian's people still defend the Trinity so passionately?

Is it purely tradition?

Fear?

Or there something even more sinister, someone who wants to twist the scriptures, cause **distraction** and **confusion** amongst sincere Christians, by trying to argue that Jesus is "more" than even Jesus himself ever claimed to be?

During his attempt to tempt Jesus in the wilderness, Satan said:

“If you are a son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written: ‘He will give his angels a command concerning you,’ and, ‘They will carry you on their hands, so that you may not strike your foot against a stone.’ (Matt 4: 6)”

At least on this occasion Satan did use words which ARE found in the Bible ... at Psalm 91:11,12. (As already discussed, the word Trinity is found nowhere in the Bible).

But he TWISTED the scriptures ... he tried to make the verses say something that the writer did not even intimate.

Jesus would have none of it. He immediately replied:

“Again, it is written: ‘You must not put Jehovah your God to the test.’ “(Matt 4:7)

Similarly, true Christians dismiss the God dishonouring teaching of the Trinity in the same way, and use the scriptures honestly, to help those who have been deceived by it.

For more helpful information on **the falsehood of the Trinity** doctrine, [CLICK HERE](#).