



FOUNDATIONS

THE BASICS OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

What is Theology?

Theology is the study of God, His nature, and His relationship to the world, derived from the Greek words *theos* ("God") and *logos* ("word" or "study").

Study Topics In This Study

Week 1: Bibliology

Week 2: The Trinity

Week 3: The Doctrine of Sin

Week 4: Christology

Week 5: Soteriology

Week 6: The Doctrine of the Church

Week 7: Eschatology

Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy... “You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known **the sacred writings** which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired** [θεόπνευστος *theopneustos*] **by God** and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” 2 Timothy 3:14–17

Why study the Bible?

- The goal of Bible study is not interpretation, but application.
- We seek obedience, not knowledge.
- The Lord (Yahweh) spoke to Joshua... “Only be strong and very courageous; **be careful to do** according to all the law [Torah] which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law [Torah] shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may **be careful to do** according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” Joshua 1:7-8

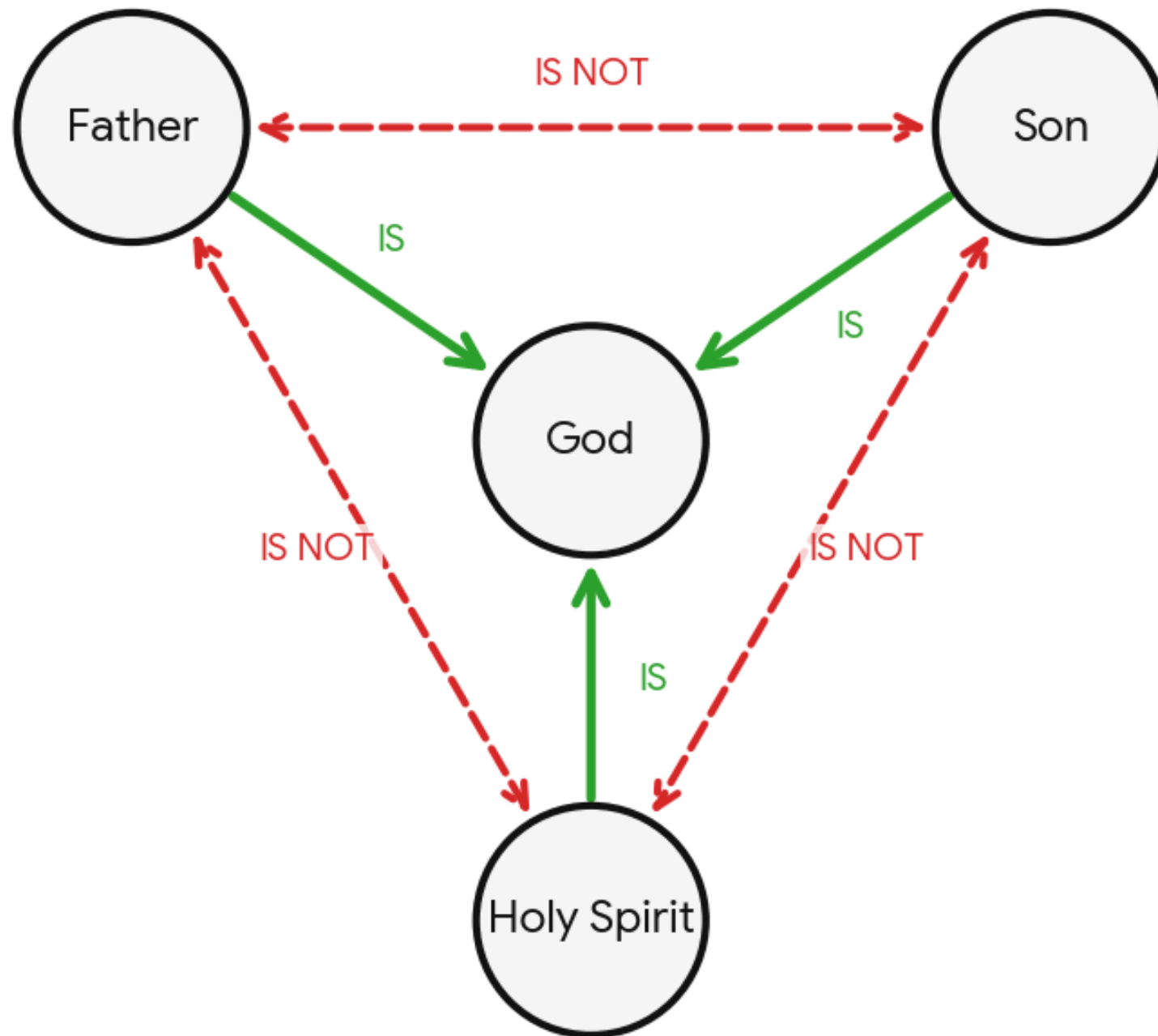
What is the Trinity?

The doctrine of the Trinity is that God is absolutely and eternally one essence subsisting in three distinct and ordered persons without division and without replication of the essence.

- John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue

The Trinity

God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.



After being baptized, Jesus [**God the Son**] came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the [**Holy**] **Spirit of God** descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens [**God the Father**] said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17

Bad Trinity Analogies

The Doctrine of Sin

Sin in the Bible

- Of the Bible's 66 books and 1,189 chapters, only two books and four chapters do not mention sin or sinners.
- Genesis 1-2 and Revelation 21-22 stand alone as unique chapters that rehearse the creation before sin and the new heaven and new earth, which will never be infected by sin.

Book of Genesis

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image [**צֶלֶם** *tzelem*], according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” God created man in His own image [**צֶלֶם** *tzelem*], in the image [**צֶלֶם** *tzelem*] of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:26-28

Now the serpent [נָחָשׁ *nachash*] was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’ ” The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” Genesis 3:1-5

When the woman **saw** that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was **desirable** to make one wise, she **took** from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

Genesis 3:6-7

They [Adam and Eve] heard [*shema*] the sound of the Lord God walking [*mit'halech* מִתְהַלֵּךְ] in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:8

וַיִּשְׁמְעוּ אֶת-קוֹל יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים מִתְהַלֵּךְ בַּגֶּן לְרוּחַ הַיּוֹם
וַיִּתְחַבֵּא הָאָדָם וְאִשְׁתּוֹ מִפְּנֵי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים בְּתוֹךְ עֵץ הַגֶּן

Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." Genesis 3:9-13

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life; and I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.” Genesis 3:14-15

Origin of sin

- The Bible lays the blame for the sin and death in the world on the first man, Adam.
- Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 5:12

**If man is good, salvation is
unnecessary**

**If man is sinful and corrupt,
salvation is essential**

The next day he [John the Baptizer]
saw Jesus coming to him and said,
“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes
away the **sin** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] of the
world! John 1:29

for all have **sinned** [*hamartia*
ἁμαρτία] and fall short of the glory
of God, Romans 3:23

For the wages of **sin** [*hamartia*
ἁμαρτία] is death, but the free gift
of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus
our Lord. Romans 6:23

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet **sinners** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία], Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is **sin** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία].

James 4:17

Categories of Sin

- Sins of **Commission** - actively committing an evil act
- Sins of **Omission** - failing to do what is right

Unpardonable Sin

- Jesus said, “Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven. Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.” Matthew 12:31-32
- The unpardonable sin is the willful and final rejection of the Holy Spirit who is working through Jesus, by attributing God’s work in Christ to Satan. – John MacArthur & Richard Mayhue

Sin Leading To Death

If anyone sees his brother committing a sin not leading to death, he shall ask and God will for him give life to those who commit sin not leading to death. There is a sin leading to death; I do not say that he should make request for this. 1 John 5:16

What is this sin?

- One answer offered is that John is referring to a professing believer who demonstrates through habitual sin that he is not an authentic Christian (1 John 3:6).
- Another view is that the sin leading to death could refer to a true believer whose life, like that of some at Corinth (1 Corinthians 11:29-30), brought shame to Christ, and thus God's discipline resulted in premature death. The Christian's sin is so serious that God takes the person's life. Ananias and Saphira died on the spot when they lied to the Holy Spirit in front of the church (Acts 5:1-11).

Causes of sin

1. Ignorance

ἄγνοια *agnoia* is an ancient Greek noun meaning a state of not knowing, lack of perception, or moral and spiritual ignorance, choosing not to know

And now, brethren, I know that you acted in **ignorance**, just as your rulers did also. Acts 3:17

Therefore having overlooked the times of **ignorance**, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, Acts 17:30

being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; Ephesians 4:18

As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your **ignorance**, 1 Peter 1:14

2. Error

-human tendency to go astray

Hebrew verb תָּעָה *ta'ah*

But the Levites who went far from Me when Israel went **astray**, who went **astray** from Me after their idols, shall bear the punishment for their iniquity. Ezekiel 44:10

All of us like sheep have gone **astray**, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him. Isaiah 53:6

Greek verb πλανάω *planao*

For you were continually **straying** like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. 1 Peter 2:25

For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have **wandered away** from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. 1 Timothy 6:10

3. Inattention

- failure to listen and heed when God speaks
- disobedience which follows after hearing correctly

-Greek noun παρακοή *parakoe* literally means "hearing amiss" or "failing to hear," and is used contextually to mean disobedience.

For as through the one man's **disobedience** the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

and we are ready to punish all **disobedience**, whenever your obedience is complete. 2 Corinthians 10:6

For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and **disobedience** received a just penalty, Hebrews 2:2

**Terms for the
character of sin**

1. Missing the mark

-Hebrew noun *chatta'ah* חַטָּאת

"If you do well, will not your countenance be lifted up? And if you do not do well, **sin** is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." Genesis 4:7

And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may remain with you, so that you may not **sin**." Exodus 20:20

-Greek noun *hamartia* ἁμαρτία

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the **sin** of the world! John 1:29

2. Irreligion

-impiety, unrighteousness, deceitful

-Greek adjective *adikos* ἄδικος

“Or do you not know that the **unrighteous** will not inherit the kingdom of God?..” 1 Corinthians 6:9a

3. Unlawful

- Greek adjective ἄνομος *anomos* meaning violator of the law

“Then that **lawless** one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders” 2 Thessalonians 2:8-9

“But we know that the Law is good, if one uses it lawfully, realizing the fact that law is not made for a righteous person, but for those who are **lawless** and rebellious, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers.” 1 Timothy 1:8-9

4. Transgression

-To step across the line

-Greek noun παράπτωμα *paraptoma*

Jesus said, “For if you forgive others for their **transgressions**, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, then your Father will not forgive your **transgressions**.”

Matthew 6:14-15

-Hebrew verb עָבַר *abar*

“But Moses said, ‘Why then are you **transgressing** the commandment of the LORD, when it will not succeed?’” Numbers 14:41

5. Iniquity

- lack of integrity
- derivation from the right course
- Hebrew noun עָוֵל *evel*

“But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits **iniquity** and does according to all the abominations that a wicked man does, will he live? All his righteous deeds which he has done will not be remembered for his treachery which he has committed and his sin which he has committed; for them he will die.” Ezekiel 18:24

6. Rebellion

-stubbornness

-Hebrew verb מָרַד *marad* meaning to rebel or revolt

“Then He said to me, "Son of man, I am sending you to the sons of Israel, to a **rebellious** people who have **rebelled** against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.” Ezekiel 2:3

-Greek adjective ἀπειθής *apeithes*

“For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, **disobedient** to parents, ungrateful, unholy.” 2 Timothy 3:2

7. Treachery

-a breach of trust

-Hebrew noun מַעַל *ma'al* meaning unfaithful or treacherous

“If they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their forefathers, in their **unfaithfulness** which they committed against Me, and also in their acting with hostility against Me.” Leviticus 26:40

-Greek verb παραπίπτω *parapipto* meaning to deviate, wander

“For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have **fallen away**, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.” Hebrews 6:4-6

8. Perversion

-to be bent or bowed down, i.e. a twisted mind

-Hebrew verb עָוָה *avah* meaning to twist, distort, bend

“A man will be praised according to his insight, but one of **perv**erse mind will be despised.” Proverbs 12:8

So he said to the king, “Let not my lord consider me guilty, nor remember what your servant did **w**rong on the day when my lord the king came out from Jerusalem, so that the king would take it to heart.” 2 Samuel 19:19

9. Abomination

-God's attitude toward sin and its effect upon Him

-Hebrew noun תּוֹעֵבָה *to'ebah*

“You shall not lie with a male as one lies with a female; it is an **abomination**.”
Leviticus 18:22

“There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, one who uses divination, one who practices witchcraft, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, or one who casts a spell, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For whoever does these things is **detestable** to the Lord; and because of these **detestable** things the Lord your God will drive them out before you.”

Deuteronomy 18:10-12

Terms for the effects of sin

1. Agitation / Restlessness

- Hebrew adjective רָשָׁע *rasha* meaning wicked, criminal

“There the **wicked** cease from raging, and there the weary are at rest.” Job 3:17

“But the **wicked** are like the tossing sea, for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up refuse and mud. ‘There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the **wicked**.’” Isaiah 57:20-21

2. Evil / Badness

- Hebrew noun רָע *ra* meaning evil, wickedness, hurt, trouble

“See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, and death and **adversity**; in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply, and that the Lord your God may bless you in the land where you are entering to possess it.” Deuteronomy 30:15-16

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no **evil**, for You are with me; Psalm 23:4a

3. Guilt

- responsibility and accountability
- Greek adjective ἑνοχος *enochos* meaning guilty of the crime, worthy of punishment

“Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be **guilty** of the body and the blood of the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 11:27

For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become **guilty** of all. James 2:10

4. Trouble

- in the moral sense; misery
- Hebrew noun אָוֶן *aven* meaning wickedness or evil

“Also the high places of **Aven**, the sin of Israel, will be destroyed; thorn and thistle will grow on their altars; then they will say to the mountains, ‘Cover us!’ And to the hills, ‘Fall on us!’” Hosea 10:8

He who sows iniquity will reap **vanity**, and the rod of his fury will perish. Proverbs 22:8

As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years, yet their pride is but labor and **sorrow**; for soon it is gone and we fly away. Psalm 90:10

Consequences of sin

Effects on the Sinner

- **Paralysis of the Will:** Repeated choices against conscience shrivel self-control and make choosing righteousness increasingly difficult.
- **Spiritual Blindness:** Sin darkens the mind and distorts judgment, preventing the sinner from recognizing their true danger or the beauty of holiness.
- **Compulsion and Tolerance:** Like a habit that demands more to satisfy, sin breeds a tolerance for wrongdoing, turning initial compromises into heavy captivities.
- **Moral Weariness and Guilt:** The burden of unconfessed or habitual wrongdoing brings inner restlessness, anxiety, and spiritual exhaustion.
- **Alienation:** Enslavement to sin severs a person's communion with God and strains relationships with others.

Results affecting one's relationship with God

- **Loss of Intimacy:** Unconfessed or cherished sin creates emotional and spiritual friction, making God feel distant even when His love remains unchanged.
- **Hindered Prayer:** Turning away from moral alignment can block open communication and make a person feel unworthy or reluctant to approach God in prayer.
- **Guilt and Shame:** Disobedience naturally triggers a conscience response, echoing the experience of Adam and Eve hiding in fear rather than walking in trust.
- **Distorted Focus:** Sin turns affection inward toward self-centered desires rather than outward toward love for God and others.

Effects of my sin on others

- **Competition**

What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures that wage war in your members? You lust and do not have; so you commit murder. You are envious and cannot obtain; so you fight and quarrel. You do not have because you do not ask. James 4:1-2

- **Inability to empathize / sympathize** - selfishness makes us unable to see things from another's perspective

Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; Philippians 2:3

Effects of my sin on others

- **Rejection of authority** - Casting off of objective morality and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority. 2 Peter 2:10a
- **Inability to love** - narcissism
Jesus said, “Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.” Matthew 24:12

If someone says, “I love God,” and hates his brother, he is a liar; for the one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen. 1 John 4:20

Struggles with sin after salvation

Then He [Jesus] poured water into the basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. So He came to Simon Peter. He said to Him, "Lord, do You wash my feet?" Jesus answered and said to him, "What I do you do not realize now, but you will understand hereafter." Peter said to Him, "Never shall You wash my feet!" Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, then wash not only my feet, but also my hands and my head." Jesus said to him, "**He who has bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you.**" For He knew the one who was betraying Him; for this reason He said, "Not all of you are clean." John 13:5-11

How can my sins be forgiven?

He [God the Father] made Him [God the Son] who knew no **sin** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] to be **sin** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

How can my sins be forgiven?

and He Himself bore our **sins** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] in His body on the cross, so that we might die to **sin** [*hamartia* ἁμαρτία] and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed. 1 Peter 2:24