

# The Trinity

God is one divine Being in three eternal, co-essential, yet distinct Persons— God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is one in being and three in Persons. God is the eternal communion of holy love shared by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are equally eternal and divine and share the same mind, authority, power, will, and purpose in all things. Though we cannot know exactly how God's being functions, we can say that, unlike human persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are related to each other in such an absolutely unique and profound way that they are one in being. The oneness of God's being is a tri-unity. The Father eternally begets the Son, the Son is eternally begotten by the Father, and the Holy Spirit proceeds eternally from the Father. Though the acts of the divine Persons are undivided, each contributes uniquely to the perfectly united works of the one triune God. We could say that one of the Persons initiates a gracious act towards, while the others perfectly follow in complete harmony with each other. The triune God who is living and loving created us for the sake of communion and holy love with his creation. From the beginning, God's human creatures, in distrusting God, have alienated themselves from His communal essence and sought to live autonomously from their good, faithful and life-giving Creator. But because the triune God is faithful and loving, God himself made a way for them to be reconciled to him and thus return to the fullness of communion with him as their Lord and Savior. The Bible records Jesus' teaching concerning the eternal names of the divine Persons of the Trinity and the relationships in the eternal being of God—most specifically knowing, loving and glorifying one another. Coming from the eternal communion of the Trinity, Jesus is the only one who can tell us surely and authoritatively that God, from eternity, is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Only the Father knows the Son, and only the Son knows the Father and those to whom the Son has chosen to reveal him.