

Article 1 – The Triune Godhead

“We believe in one true and living God, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.”

This first Article of Faith affirms that God is the “one true and living God,” and that He is one God and yet three: “the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.” These essential truths are taught throughout the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments.

Reference to God as the one true and living God means that He is one God, not many. He is the true God, not a false god. He is the living God, not a dead, deaf or blind idol. He is the righteous One, the authentic One, the only One. He is alive. He works, He purposes, He acts, He sees, He judges, and He brings salvation. He has all authority. *“But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.”* Jeremiah 10:10; *“For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.”* 1 Thessalonians 1:9.

Reference to the Father, the Word (Son) and the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) speaks of the triune nature of this true and living God. While the terms “triune” or “trinity” do not expressly appear in the Bible, these concepts are clearly taught. *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek...”* Isaiah 61:1; *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”* 2 Corinthians 13:14.

The Bible states that there is only one God, yet this same God is a trinity of three distinctive persons. *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”* 1 John 5:7. The Father is the first person, the Son is the second person, and the Holy Spirit is the third person.

The Father is God. He is the fountain of deity, the source of all divine attributes, and the one who initiates and directs all of God's works. The Father is the ultimate authority in the Trinity, and he is the one who sent the Son into the world to save sinners.

The Son is God. He is not a created being, but rather is co-eternal and co-equal with the Father. He was in the beginning with God in the creation, He became flesh and dwelt among us, and accomplished our salvation through His death and resurrection.

The Holy Spirit is God. He is not a force or an influence, but a divine person who is co-eternal and co-equal with the Father and with the Son. The Holy Spirit is the one who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, who regenerates and sanctifies believers, and who guides them into all truth.

The unity of the Godhead is essential to understanding the nature of God. The unity of the Godhead is not a contradiction, but a mystery revealed to us by the Bible. Understanding the triune nature of God is central to our faith, and central to our relationship with Him.