

The Triune God

Definition: There is only one God and His essence is indivisible, but within the unified essence of the Godhead there are three distinct persons who are coeternal, coequal, and consubstantial."

Support:

1. Elohim: Plural noun (Genesis 1:1, etc.) allows for plurality.
(In the beginning, God - Elohim)
2. Plural Pronouns: Genesis 1:26, i.e. "us...our...our." It is unlikely that the editorial first plural is being used because it was not a literary characteristic of that culture. "Us" could not refer to angels because:
A: Angels are never spoken of as created in God's image (argument from silence)
B: They do not have the power to create people.

See also Genesis 11:7 for the usage of a plural pronoun for God.

" . . . let us go down, and there confuse their language . . . "

3. Deut. 6:4 "Hear O Israel! the LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"

יהוה = Compound unity, only this term is used of the Godhead. It expresses the unity of the Godhead, but also allows for the trinity of persons.

יהי = Absolute unity, does not allow for division. This word is not used of the Godhead.

Illustration = NaCl - יהוה H - יהי

4. Psalm 110:1 - The LORD (Jehovah/Yaweh) is distinguished from Lord (Adoni). *"The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool."*
5. Old Testament passages which signify three different persons for deity intimating a trinity of persons in the Godhead
 - A. Isaiah 48:12-13, ¹² *"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. ¹³ "Surely My hand founded the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together . . . ¹⁶, Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit."*
 - B. Isaiah 61:1-2 (see Luke 4:18,19) ¹ *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; ² To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,*
 - C. Isaiah 63:9,10 (not as clear) ⁹*"In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. ¹⁰ But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.*

6. New Testament passages in which three persons are used together:

- A. Matthew 3:16-17 (Baptism)
- B. Matthew 29:19 (Great Commission)
- C. John 14:16-17 (Origin of the Holy Spirit)
- D. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (Origin of Spiritual Gifts)
- E. 1 Peter 3:18 (Jesus died to bring us to God, alive by Spirit)
- F. 1 Peter 1:2 (Salutation)
- G. 2 Corinthians 13:14 (Benediction)

7. The Three Persons Are Deity

A. Father:

John 6:27; ". . . for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

Galatians 1:1,3 etc. "Grace [be] to you and peace from God the Father, and [from] our Lord Jesus Christ,"

B. Son:

John 1:1,14;¹ "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 10:30; "I and My Father are One"

John 20:28; "And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God."

Titus 2:13; "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ;"

2 Peter 1:1 ". . . by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ . . ."

Hebrews 1:8; "But of the Son [he says], Thy throne, O God, [is] for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness [is] the scepter of His kingdom."

C. Holy Spirit:

John 14:16; "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever..." - hetros - another of the same essence

Acts 5:3-4 ³ "But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back [part] of the price of the land? ⁴ While it remained [unsold], was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own power? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God."

8. One God, not three:

Deuteronomy 4:35,39; ³⁵ "To you it was shown that you might know that the LORD, He is God; there is no other besides Him. . . . ³⁹ "Know therefore today, and take it to your heart, that the LORD, He is God in heaven above and on the earth below; there is no other."

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; The Shema - ⁴ "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! ⁵ "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

Deuteronomy 32:39; 'See now that I, I am He, And there is no god besides Me; It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, And there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

1 Kings 8:60; "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no one else."

Isaiah 45:21; "Declare and set forth your case; Indeed, let them consult together. Who has announced this from of old? Who has long since declared it? Is it not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A righteous God and a Savior; There is none except Me.

Mark 12:29-32; Jesus repeats the Shema - Deuteronomy 6:4-5

John 17:22-23; ²² "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

1 Corinthians 8:4-6; ⁴ "Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, ⁶ yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him."

1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,"

Trinitarian Errors

Tritheism:

Denies the unity of God's essence by asserting the existence of three distinct Gods.

Sabaellianism (Also called modalism):

Teaches that God has progressively manifested Himself as Father in the Old Testament, as Son in the early New Testament, and as Holy Spirit in the Church age. God changes from one to another mode. (Water changes from solid, to liquid to gas. Role changes with relationship: father, son, husband)

Unitarianism:

God is a singular unity. The Father, Son and Spirit are all part of and together form God (Egg illustration - has shell, white & yolk, but all must be together to be an egg)

Trinitarian Triangle

A=D A≠B A≠C
B=D B≠C B≠A
C=D C≠A C≠B

OR

A=B=C A is not B
 C is not A
 B is not C

