

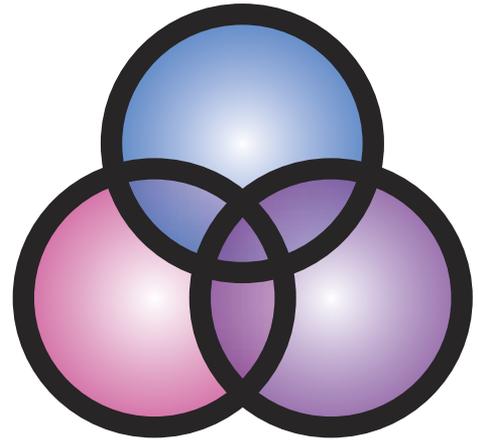
pronouns whether speaking of the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:17; Luke 11:2; John 14:16-17). And we know that they are not the same person because we see them interacting with one other (John 17:1, 5).

By the way, all three of these persons share the same work and attributes which are reserved for God alone. Yet, throughout the Old and New Testaments, there is only one true God (Isaiah 43:10; Mark 12:32).

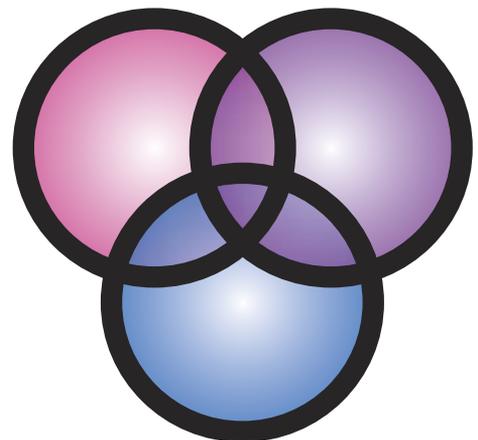
For a fascinating list of passages that apply divine attributes such as omnipotence, omnipresence, omniscience, etc., to all three persons, see Kurt Van Gorden's brochure *Why Christians Believe in the Trinity*. It will be one of the most interesting and fruitful Bible studies of your life. (You can request a copy from CRC.)

Conclusion—It's not really the *Trinity* that people have a hard time understanding. It's God's *infinity*. The fact that He is everywhere, without limitation, can do anything without limitation, and knows everything without limitation is simply beyond the comprehension of our finite brains. But when we think of God's nature in the context of His *infinity*, it's actually quite easy to see why we say He is *triune*. That is, One, existing as three.

For more information contact:



YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THE TRINITY



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The Trinity is one of the most misunderstood and misrepresented doctrines of the Christian faith. Unbelievers say it's incomprehensible and even many Christians say it just simply can not be explained; "It's a mystery—we just have to accept it by faith." Yet, your first step toward understanding the Trinity is not at all a blind leap of faith.

The word *Trinity* is like a nick name, appropriated by Christians to represent the whole biblical picture of the nature of God. But, since that specific word is not in the Bible, let's put it aside and focus on the essential teachings it represents. Scripture does say that to know God is eternal life and that those who don't know Him are in deep trouble (John 17:3; 2 Thessalonians 1:8). So, let's take a look at what God has revealed about Himself.

The Bible says that God is omnipotent—He is all-powerful. He can do anything he wants to do, without limitations (Jeremiah 32:17; Matthew 19:26).

The Bible also portrays God as omnipresent. There is only one simple definition for the word *omnipresent*: *everywhere present at the same time*. Like the word *trinity*, the word *omnipresent* is not in the Bible, but the idea is clear in many passages (Jeremiah 23:23-24; 1 Kings 8:27; 2 Chronicles 2:6).

Now, if God is omnipresent, and all powerful, He can be anywhere, in fact is, everywhere present at the same time, doing as many things as he wants—all at the same time. For example, the Bible tells us that God spoke to Moses from a burning bush (Exodus 3:4). At the same time, we know, from Jeremiah 23:23-24 that He was throughout heaven and earth.

Now, suppose that God had wanted to speak to Moses from two burning bushes at the same time. Could He have done that?

Well, let's see, He is all powerful, so He can do

anything He wants—no limitation. He's everywhere present at the same time, so He could be doing various things in various places—all at the same time.

Of course, He could!

How about if God had wanted to speak to Moses in surround sound, say from six burning bushes? And what if He had wanted to speak to Moses in six different languages at the same time and have Moses understand all of them at the same time—could He have done that? He is, after all, *omnipresent* and *omnipotent*.

Of course, He could!

Now, let's go to the biblical scenario that so many skeptics ridicule. They ask, "At the baptism of Jesus, who was speaking, if Jesus is the only God? Was he a ventriloquist, appearing to speak out of heaven, since he was obviously in physical form on the Earth at the time?"

Answer: God does not have to rely on magic or illusions. If God is everywhere present, and all powerful, what's to keep him from speaking from heaven, standing on the earth in the form of Jesus, and descending as the Holy Spirit like a dove, at the same time?

Nothing!

God can do whatever He wants, in as many places as He wants, whenever He wants, for as long as he wants, all at the same time.

Once we accept that God is omnipresent and omnipotent, we don't have any trouble seeing him in 3 different personalities at the same time, from before the universe was created through the present time and into the future. He is, eternally, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost).

The reason we say all three are *persons* is because that's the way God has revealed Himself to us in His inspired word — using personal