

# Digging Deeper Into The Doctrine Of The Trinity

# Definition

Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal Persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

James White, *The Forgotten Trinity*  
(Bethany House Publishers)

# Three Foundations

Foundation #1:  
There is only One God

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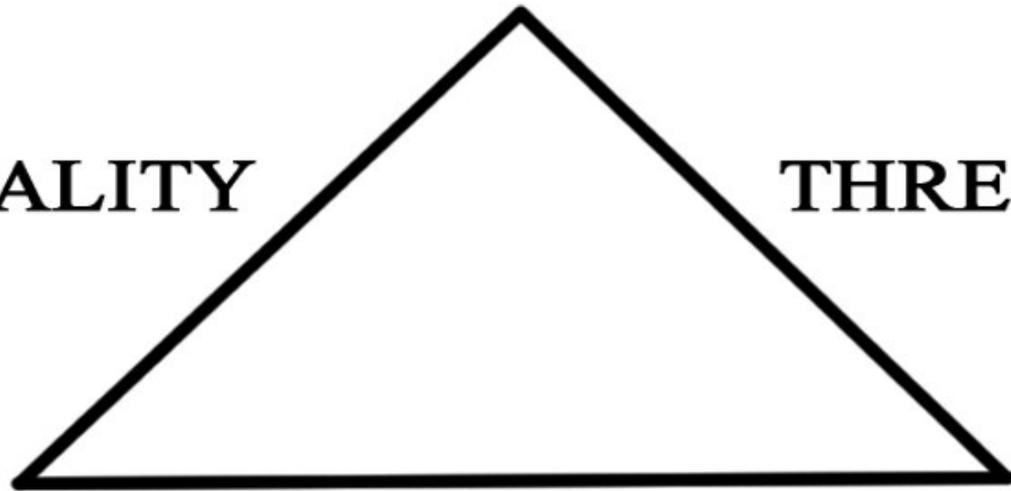
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**EQUALITY**

**THREE PERSONS**



**MONOTHEISM**

**Polytheism**

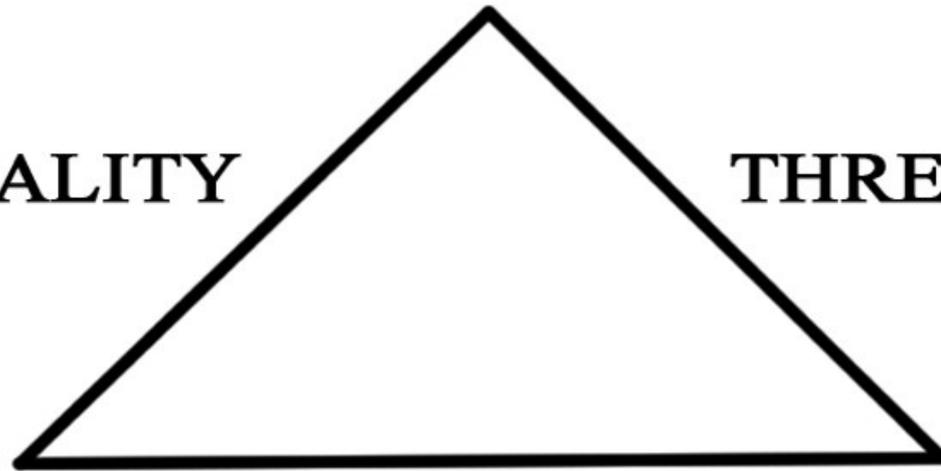
**EQUALITY**

**THREE PERSONS**

**Modalism**

**Subordinationism**

**MONOTHEISM**



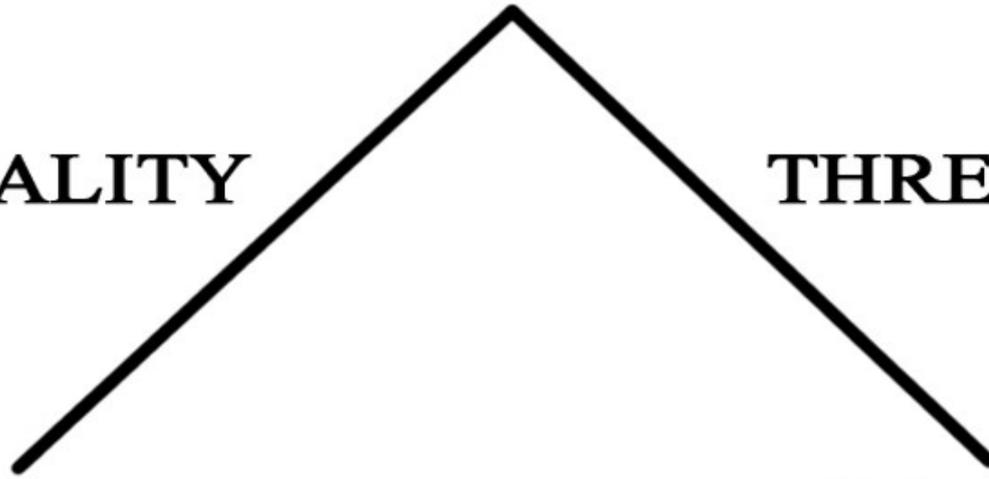
**Polytheism**

**EQUALITY**

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# Polytheism

There exists more than one God

- Hinduism
- New Age
- Mormonism

***Isaiah 44:6,8*** “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. . . .Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.’”

**Polytheism**

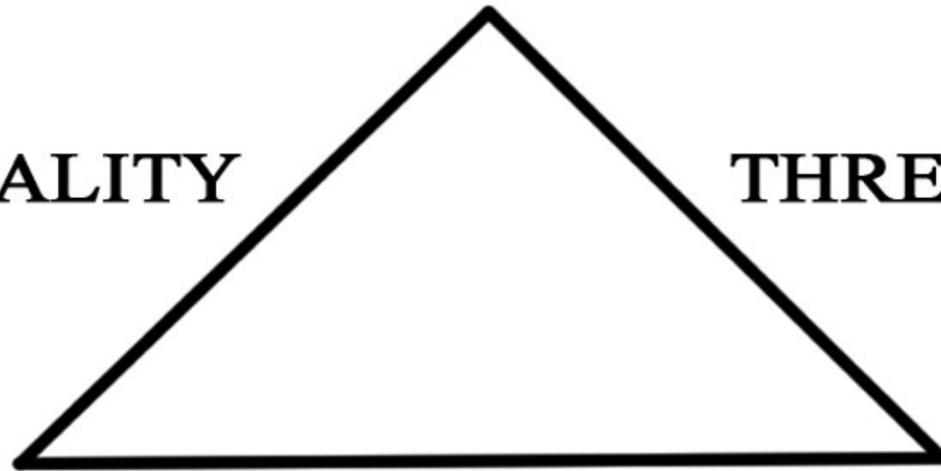
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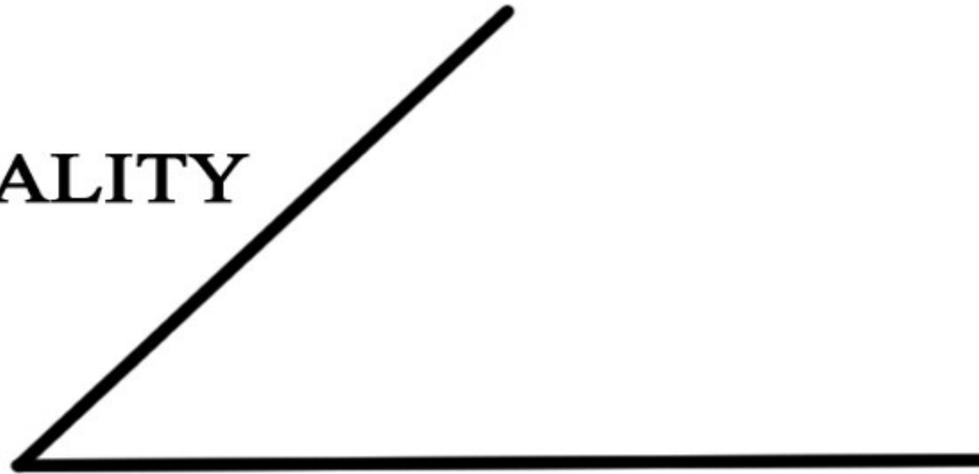
**Polytheism**

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# Modalism

God is one being and one person who “manifests” himself in three different ways (namely, as a Father, as a Son, and as a Spirit).

# Modalism

- “Father,” “Son,” and “Spirit” describes relations not persons
- The Father and Jesus are not just the same *being* but also the same *person*.
  - Like an actor playing a role.

# Modalism

Randy Philips Website:

“We believe in one God who is eternal in His existence, **Triune in His manifestation**, being both Father, Son and Holy Ghost AND that He is Sovereign and Absolute in His authority.”

# Modalism

Dan Dean's Website:

“...there is One True God that has **manifested Himself** as Father in creation, Son in redemption and the Holy Spirit in emanation.  
(Deuteronomy 6:4; I Timothy 3:16; Acts 2:33)”

# Modalism

The Enquirer's Handbook

By Randy Philips

“In other words, God appeared in the flesh (as a son)...The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are simply three **manifestations** of One God. You, yourself, may be manifested as a son to your father, a husband to your wife,

[http://vintage.aomin.org/PCD.html#\\_ftn9](http://vintage.aomin.org/PCD.html#_ftn9)

# Modalism

and a father to your children. As an individual person you may be **manifested** in various ways; and likewise the Almighty God is **manifested** as a Father, a Son, and a Holy Ghost while He remains indisputably, undeniably, **ONE.**”

**Polytheism**

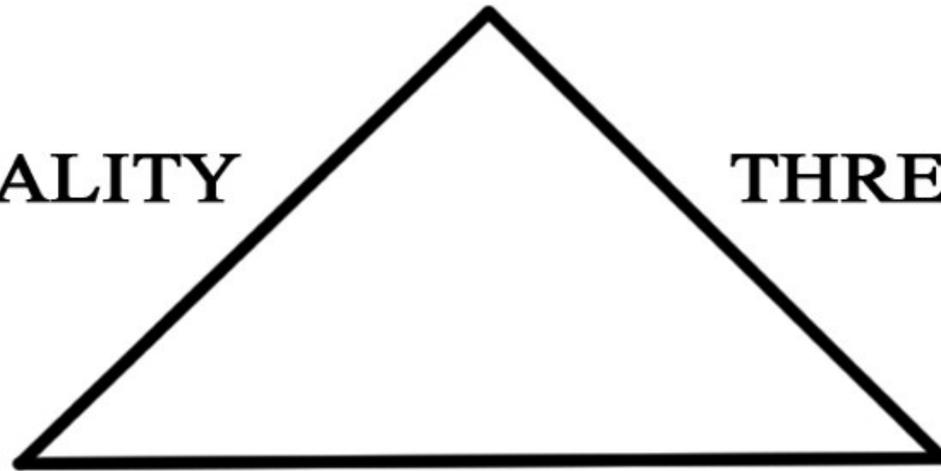
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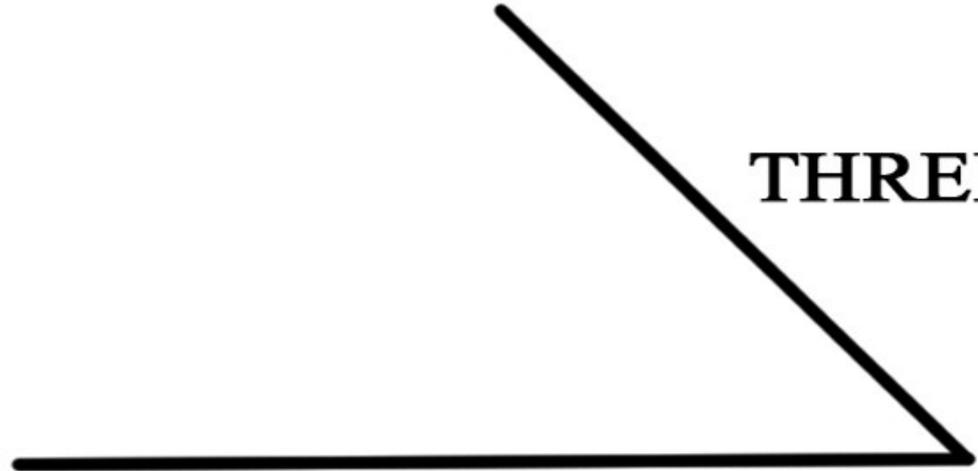
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# Subordinationism

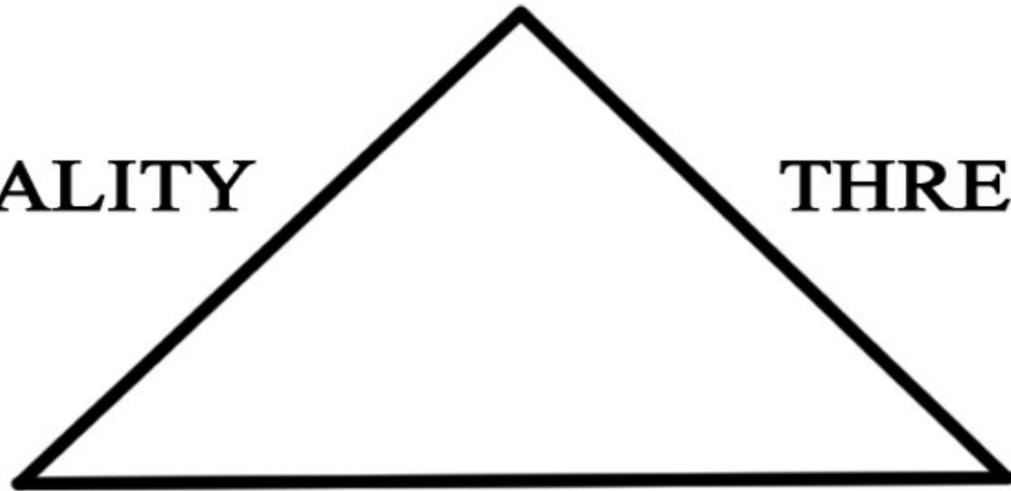
The Father is superior to the Son and the Spirit in nature and essence. Jesus is a lesser “god” a “divine being” that does not share the nature and essence of God.

**John 5:18** - Jesus made Himself equal to God.

**John 10:30** - I and the Father are one.

**EQUALITY**

**THREE PERSONS**



**MONOTHEISM**

# One God In Three Persons

## John 3:34–35

“For **He** whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the **Spirit** without measure. The **Father** loves the **Son** and has given all things into His hand.”

# One God In Three Persons

**John 14:16** “I [Jesus] will ask the **Father**, and **He** will give you another **Helper**, that **He** may be with you forever;”

# One God In Three Persons

**John 14:26** “But the **Helper**, the **Holy Spirit**, whom the **Father** will send in **My name**, **He** will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

# One God In Three Persons

## John 15:26

“When the **Helper** [Holy Spirit] comes, whom I will send to you from the **Father**, that is the **Spirit** of truth who proceeds from the **Father**, **He** will testify about **Me**,”

# One God In Three Persons

## John 16:13–15

But when **He**, the **Spirit of truth**, comes, **He** will guide you into all the truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own initiative, but whatever **He** hears, **He** will speak; and **He** will disclose to you what is to come. **He** will glorify **Me**, for **He** will take of **Mine** and will disclose it to you. All things that the **Father** has are **Mine**; therefore I said that **He** takes of **Mine** and will disclose it to you.

# One God In Three Persons

## **Matthew 3:16-17**

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

# One God In Three Persons

## **Matthew 28:19**

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father** and the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**,

# One God In Three Persons

## **2 Corinthians 13:14**

The grace of the Lord **Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**, be with you all.

# One God In Three Persons

## 1 Peter 1:1-2

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who reside as aliens, . . . who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, by the sanctifying work of the **Spirit**, to obey **Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.

<b>Divine Attributes</b>	<b>The Father</b>	<b>The Son</b>	<b>The Holy Spirit</b>
<b>Eternal</b>	Psalm 90	Revelation 1:17	Hebrews 9:14
<b>Omnipresent</b>	Jeremiah 23:24	Ephesians 1:23	Psalm 139:7
<b>Omniscient</b>	1 John 3:20	John 21:17	1 Corinthians 12:11
<b>Creator</b>	Psalm 100:3	Colossians 1:16	Psalm 104:30

# One God In Three Persons

A Worm  
is one being and zero persons.

A Human  
is one being and one person.

God  
is one being and three Persons.

**Ontological Trinity**

**and**

**Economical Trinity**

# Ontological Trinity

Ontology - the study of *being*

*Ontological Trinity* describes the Trinity as it exists in and of itself.

**God is one Being, three persons.**

# Economical Trinity

Economics - *operations or workings*

*Economical Trinity* describes the operations and workings of the Trinity.

**Father - Election**

**Son - Redemption**

**Spirit - Sanctification**

# Athanasian Creed

1. Whosoever will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith:
2. Which Faith except every one do keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.
3. And the Catholic Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;

4. Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance.

5. For there is one Person of the Father: another of the Son: and another of the Holy Spirit.

6. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal.

7. Such as the Father is: such is the Son: and such is the Holy Spirit.

8. The Father uncreated: the Son uncreated: and the Holy Spirit uncreated.

9. The Father incomprehensible: the Son incomprehensible: and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.

10. The Father eternal: the Son eternal: and the Holy Spirit eternal.

11. And yet they are not three eternal: but one eternal.

12. And also there are not three uncreated: nor three incomprehensibles, but one uncreated: and one incomprehensible.

13. So likewise the Father is Almighty: the Son Almighty: and the Holy Spirit Almighty.
14. And yet they are not three Almighty: but one Almighty.
15. So the Father is God: the Son is God: and the Holy Spirit is God.

16. And yet they are not three Gods: but one  
God.

17. So likewise the Father is Lord: the Son  
Lord: and the Holy Spirit Lord.

18. And yet not three Lords: but one Lord:

19. For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord:

20. So are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion: to say, There be three Gods, or three Lords.

21. The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.

22. The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created: but begotten.

23. The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten: but proceeding.

24. So there is one Father, not three Fathers: one Son, not three Sons: one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

25. And in this Trinity none is afore, or after another: none is greater, or less than another.

26. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal.

27. So that in all things, as aforesaid: the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshiped.

28. He therefore that will be saved, must thus think of the Trinity.

29. Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation: that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

30. For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess: that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man.

31. God, of the Substance of the Father; begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of His Mother, born into the world.

32. Perfect God: and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting.

33. Equal to the Father, as touching His Godhead: and inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood.

34. Who although He be God and Man; yet He is not two, but one Christ.

35. One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the Manhood into God.

36. One altogether; not by confusion of Substance: but by unity of Person.

37. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man; so God and Man is one Christ;

38. Who suffered for our salvation: descended into hell: rose again the third day from the dead.

39. He ascended into heaven, He sitteth on the right hand of the Father God Almighty.

40. From whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

41. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies;

42. And shall give account for their own works.

43. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire.

44. This is the Catholic Faith: which except a man believe faithfully, he can not be saved.