

## STRANGE BUT TRUE:

### One, but Three

September 12, 2021

Pastor Augie Iadicicco

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Notes:

The doctrine of the Trinity says that there is only one God, yet He is three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From the opening pages of Scripture we see all three persons present. God is creating. The Spirit is hovering. And Jesus is the Word who is spoken.

**In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.**

– Genesis 1:1-5

**When Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. And a voice from heaven said: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”** – Matthew 3:16-17

**“that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one.”** – John 17:21-22

#### My Next Step(s):

- I will acknowledge that we have one God—in three distinct persons.
- I will find power in the presence of God.
- I will strive for harmony with those who are different with me.
- I will acknowledge that there is dignity in distinctiveness.
- I will find ways to put others first in my life.

**Memory Verse:** “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” – Matthew 28:19

*(continues on back)*

*(This message uses materials provided The Preaching Project, San Antonio, TX.)*



STRANGE  
— BUT TRUE —



**Jumbo shrimp**





**Jumbo shrimp  
Small Crowd**





**Jumbo shrimp  
Small Crowd  
Pretty Ugly**





**Jumbo shrimp**  
**Small Crowd**  
**Pretty Ugly**  
**Awfully Good**



**Jumbo shrimp**  
**Small Crowd**  
**Pretty Ugly**  
**Awfully Good**  
**Seriously Funny**



**Jumbo shrimp**  
**Small Crowd**  
**Pretty Ugly**  
**Awfully Good**  
**Seriously Funny**  
**Clearly Misunderstood**



**God is one, but He is also three**









**God is one, but He is also three  
Jesus is human, but He's also God**



**God is one, but He is also three  
Jesus is human, but He's also God  
We are good, but we are bad**



**God is one, but He is also three  
Jesus is human, but He's also God  
We are good, but we are bad  
We are in the Kingdom now, but not yet**





# STRANGE — BUT TRUE —

One, but Three



# THE TRINITY

**There is one God who is three distinct Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**



# THE TRINITY

**There is one God who is three distinct  
Persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**











Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image,  
in our likeness...”

**GENESIS 1:26**



*We worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the persons nor dividing the substance. For the Father is one person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is another. But the Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal.*

*– Athanasian Creed*



*Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit: The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal.*

*– Athanasian Creed*



*And yet there are not three Eternals, but one Eternal, just as there are not three Uncreated or three Infinites, but one Uncreated and one Infinite. ...*

*– Athanasian Creed*



<sup>5</sup> People from Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the vicinity of the Jordan were going out to John, <sup>6</sup> and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.

**MATTHEW 3:5-6**



<sup>7</sup> When he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, “Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?” <sup>8</sup> Therefore produce fruit consistent with repentance.

**MATTHEW 3:7-8**



<sup>11</sup> I baptize you with water for repentance.”

**MATTHEW 3:11**







When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.

**MARK 7:4**



“washed” – βαπτίζω – *baptizó*



“washed” – βαπτίζω – *baptize*



Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

**MATTHEW 3:13**



John tried to stop Jesus, saying, “I need to be baptized by You, and yet You come to me?”

**MATTHEW 3:14**



For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet he did not sin.

**HEBREWS 4:15**



Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

**MATTHEW 3:15**



<sup>16</sup> When Jesus was baptized, He went up immediately from the water. The heavens suddenly opened for Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said: “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.”

**MATTHEW 3:16-17**





What does the Trinity mean for us?



# WHAT DOES THE TRINITY MEAN FOR US?

#1

There's power in presence.



“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**MATTHEW 28:19-20**



“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

**MATTHEW 28:19-20**

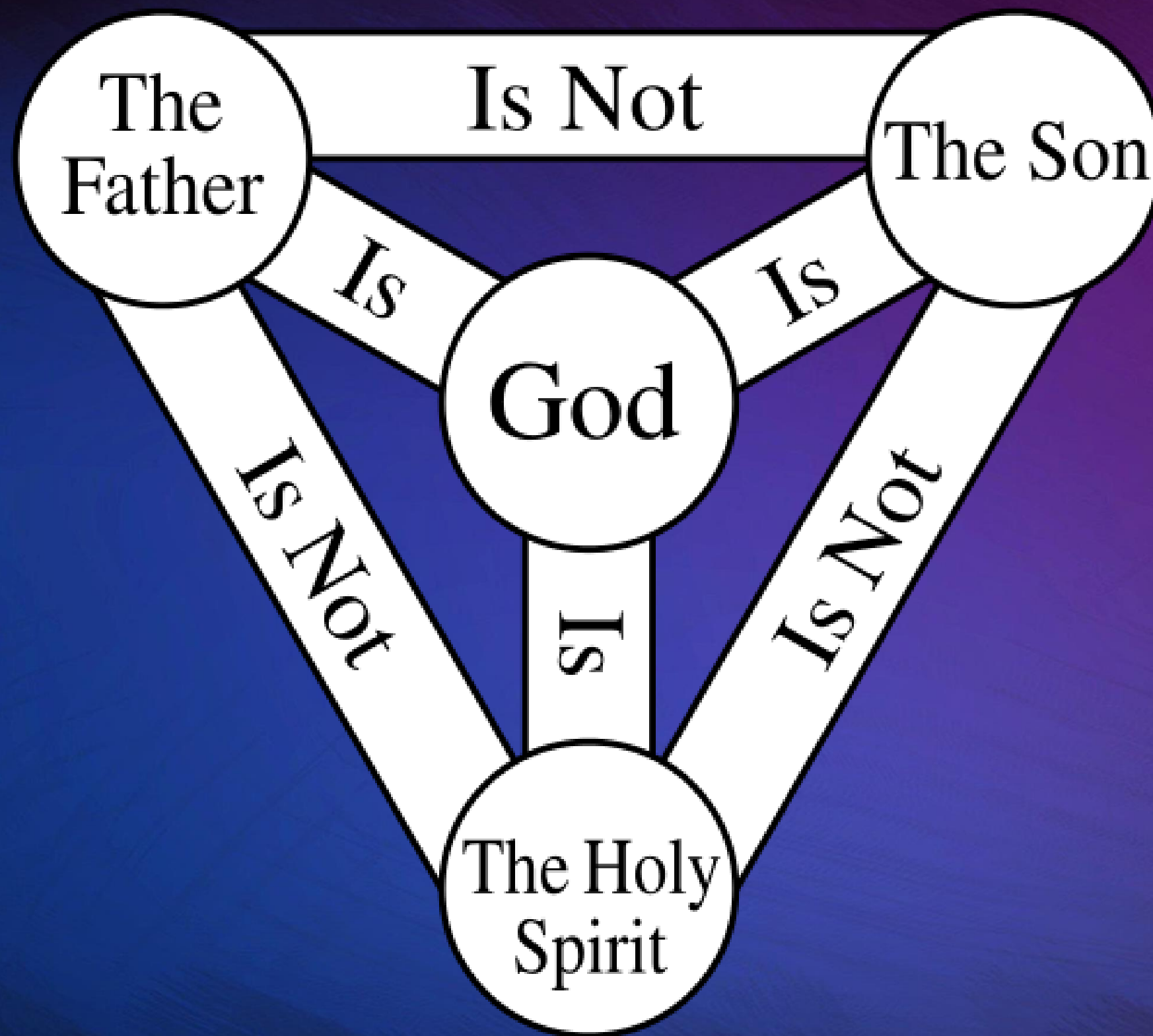


# WHAT DOES THE TRINITY MEAN FOR US?

#2

There's dignity in distinctiveness.







# WHAT DOES THE TRINITY MEAN FOR US?

#3

There's happiness in humility.



Do nothing out of selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility consider others as more important than yourselves.

**PHILIPPIANS 2:3**



<sup>21</sup> “May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I am in You ... <sup>22</sup> I have given them the glory You have given me, so that they may be one as We are one.”

**JOHN 17:21-22**



