

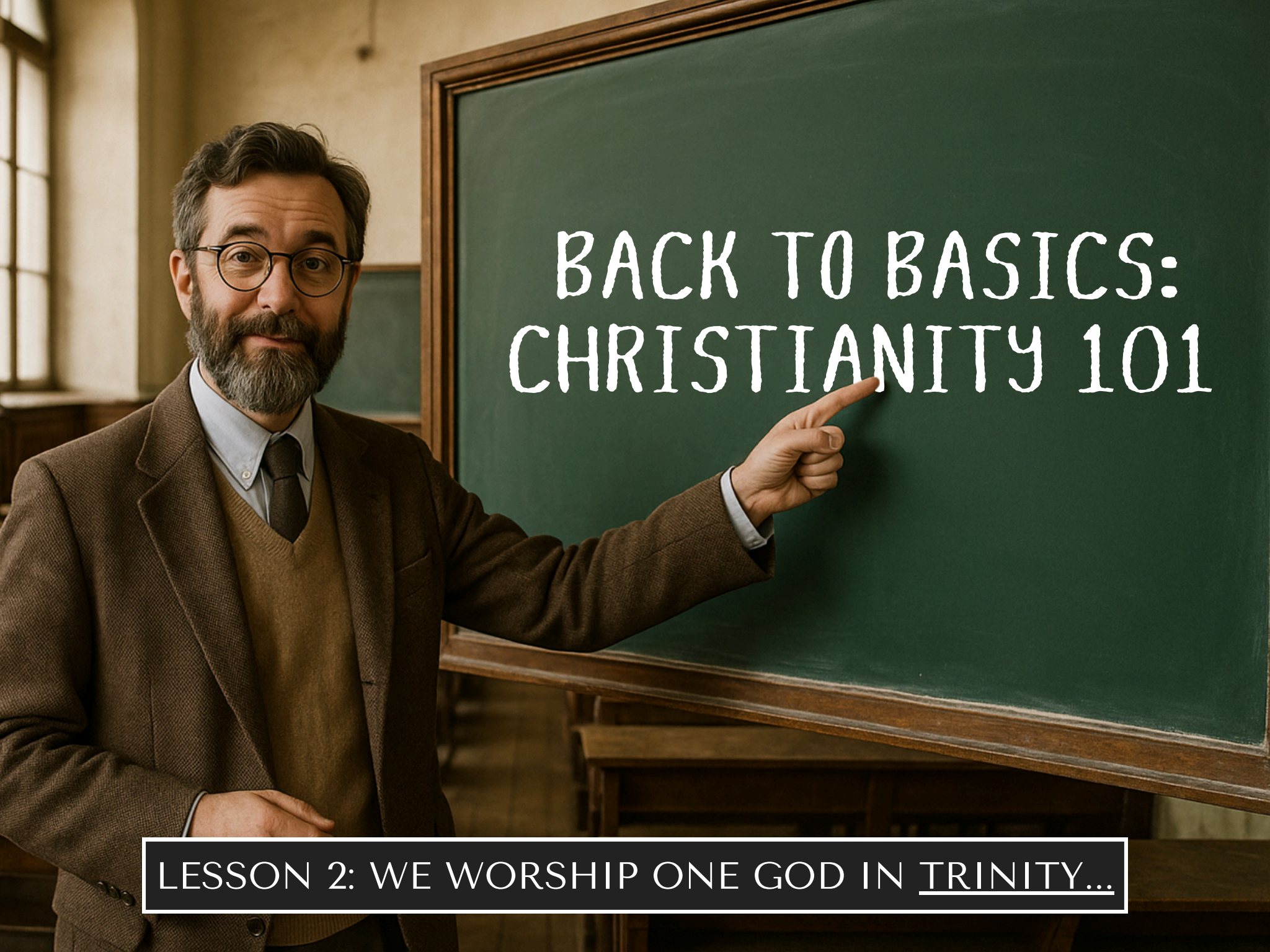
A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a brown blazer over a sweater and shirt, stands in a classroom. He is pointing his right index finger towards the text on a green chalkboard. The chalkboard has the text "BACK TO BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101" written on it in a white, typewriter-style font. The background shows wooden desks and a window with a grid pattern.

BACK TO BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101

Lessons:

- 1: God
- 2: The Holy Trinity
- 3: The Lord Jesus Christ
- 4: The church and the sacraments
- 5: Prayer and the Scriptures
- 6: The Gospel



A man with a beard and glasses, wearing a brown jacket and a sweater, stands in a classroom. He is pointing his right index finger towards the text on a green chalkboard. The chalkboard has the title 'BACK TO BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101' written on it in white, stylized capital letters. The background shows a window with multiple panes on the left and wooden chairs in the foreground.

BACK TO BASICS: CHRISTIANITY 101

LESSON 2: WE WORSHIP ONE GOD IN TRINITY...

We worship one God in Trinity...

What is the
Trinity? How
do we explain
it?



We worship one God in Trinity...

While the
Trinity may be
beyond our
comprehension,
it is an
extremely
important
doctrine that all
Christians must
adhere to.



One God, Three Persons

- Trinity: tri-unity
- One God, three persons (one in being/essence, three in persons)
 - Being/essence is what makes you **what** you are.
 - Person is what makes you **who** you are.
- One **what**, three **who**
- **All 3 persons share the same divine essence and are fully and completely God. (HANDS)**
- This is shown in Holy Scripture.



One God, Three Persons

- **HANDS:**
- *All 3 persons share:*
 - **Honor** → Each person is worthy of worship.
 - **Authority** → Each rules over all creation and act in the divine will.
 - **Name** → Each is called God and receives God's name.
 - **Divinity** → Each possesses the divine nature, and has all of the divine attributes.
 - **Substance** → Each shares the same essence; they are one in being.



The Father

- **Creator:** Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
(Additional verses: Psalm 102:25, Malachi 2:10, Psalm 95:5, Isaiah 42:5, etc)
- **Sovereignty:** Ephesians 1:3-4
“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight...” (Additional verses: Isaiah 45:7, Proverbs 16:33, Lamentations 3:37–39, etc)
- **Transcendence:** Ephesians 4:6
“One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” (Additional verses: Isaiah 55:8-9, Psalm 113:5-6, Job 38:4-7, etc)



The Son (Jesus)

- **Creator:** John 1:1-3: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”
(Additional verses: Colossians 1:16, Hebrews 1:2, 1 Corinthians 8:6, etc)
- **Sovereignty:** Hebrews 1:3 “The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by His powerful word.” (Additional verses: Revelation 1:5-8, Ephesians 1:20-22, Matthew 28:18, Daniel 7:13-14, etc)
- **Transcendence:** Colossians 1:17 “He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
(Additional verses: John 6:38-40, Philippians 2:9-11, John 17:5, etc)



The Holy Spirit

- **Creator:** Genesis 1:2 "The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." (*Additional verses: Psalm 104:30, Job 33:4, Job 26:13, etc*)
- **Sovereignty:** Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth." (*Additional verses: Romans 8:11, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Judges 14:6, etc*)
- **Transcendence:** Isaiah 40:13-14 "Who can fathom the Spirit of the Lord, or instruct the Lord as His counselor?" (*Additional verses: John 16:13, Psalm 139:7-10, Romans 8:26-27, etc*)



The Three Persons in Scripture

- **Genesis 1:1–3:**
 - In the beginning, God created ... and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters ... (echoed in John 1)
- **Genesis 18–19:**
 - Abraham encounters the LORD in human form, with two angels, and later the LORD rains down judgment from the LORD out of heaven (Genesis 19:24).
- **Isaiah 48:16:**
 - “And now the Lord GOD has sent me (God), and his Spirit.”
- **Isaiah 63:9–10:**
 - God the Father saves Israel, the Angel of His Presence (often linked with the pre-incarnate Son) delivers, and His Holy Spirit grieves at their rebellion.



The Three Persons in Scripture Pt.II

- **Matthew 3:16–17:**
 - Jesus is baptized (Son), Spirit descends like a dove, Father speaks from heaven.
- **Matthew 28:19:**
 - “Baptizing them in the name (singular) of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
- **John 14:16–17:**
 - “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth...”
- **Acts 2:32–33:**
 - Father exalts, Son receives and pours out, Spirit fills believers.
- **2 Corinthians 13:14**
 - Trinitarian blessing — all three persons distinctly named, acting in unity.
- **Revelation 1:4–5**
 - “Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come [Father], and from the seven spirits who are before his throne [Holy Spirit, symbolic fullness], and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness...”



Advanced Trinitarian Theology (YA)

- **The Father is the sole source (arche, fount) of personal origin in the Godhead**
 - This does not mean that the Father was the first to exist, only that He is the source of the relational aspects of the Trinity and how the persons relate to each other
- **The Son is begotten (generated) of the Father, the Spirit proceeds (spirates) from the Father (and the Son, if you're a Western Christian)**
- **Limited analogy (Gregory of Nyssa):** the sun produces heat and light. All three are "together" and share the same essence (you can't have a sun without light and heat).



Advanced Trinitarian Theology (YA)

- **The Filioque (“and the Son”):**
 - Added to the Nicene Creed by the Pope, causing a massive split between the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Church.
 - Both agree that the Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son, but the language of “and the Son” could cause an imbalance in the Trinity, according to Eastern Orthodox.
 - The Father is still affirmed as the arche. The Son is not a second source.



Advanced Trinitarian Theology (YA)

- **A defense of the Filioque:**
 - We agree with the East that the Father is the *arche*. The Spirit only proceeds economically through the Son from the Father.
 - However, we affirm the filioque based on the Bible. For example, John 15:26 says that the Son will send the Spirit, who comes from the Father. Romans 8:9 says that the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Christ. (John 16:7, Galatians 4:6, John 20:22).
 - If the Father alone is the “source” (as EO emphasizes), the West feared this would imply that the Son is not equally a source, thereby creating a hierarchy. The West added the filioque to protect the divinity of the Son.



Advanced Trinitarian Theology (YA)

- **A defense of the Filioque:**
 - Augustine was also highly influential on Western theology. He claimed:
 - The Spirit is the “mutual love” of Father and Son, so the Spirit’s procession must involve both (C.S. Lewis also echoes this in *Mere Christianity*).
 - Analogy:
 - Mind: You know yourself (Father → Son, Word).
 - Love: You love yourself in that knowledge (Father & Son → Spirit).
 - The Spirit = the eternal Love that subsists between Father and Son, just as love in the human soul flows from knowledge and being. ⚠ But unlike us, in God this love is not just an act — it is a Person.
 - Article

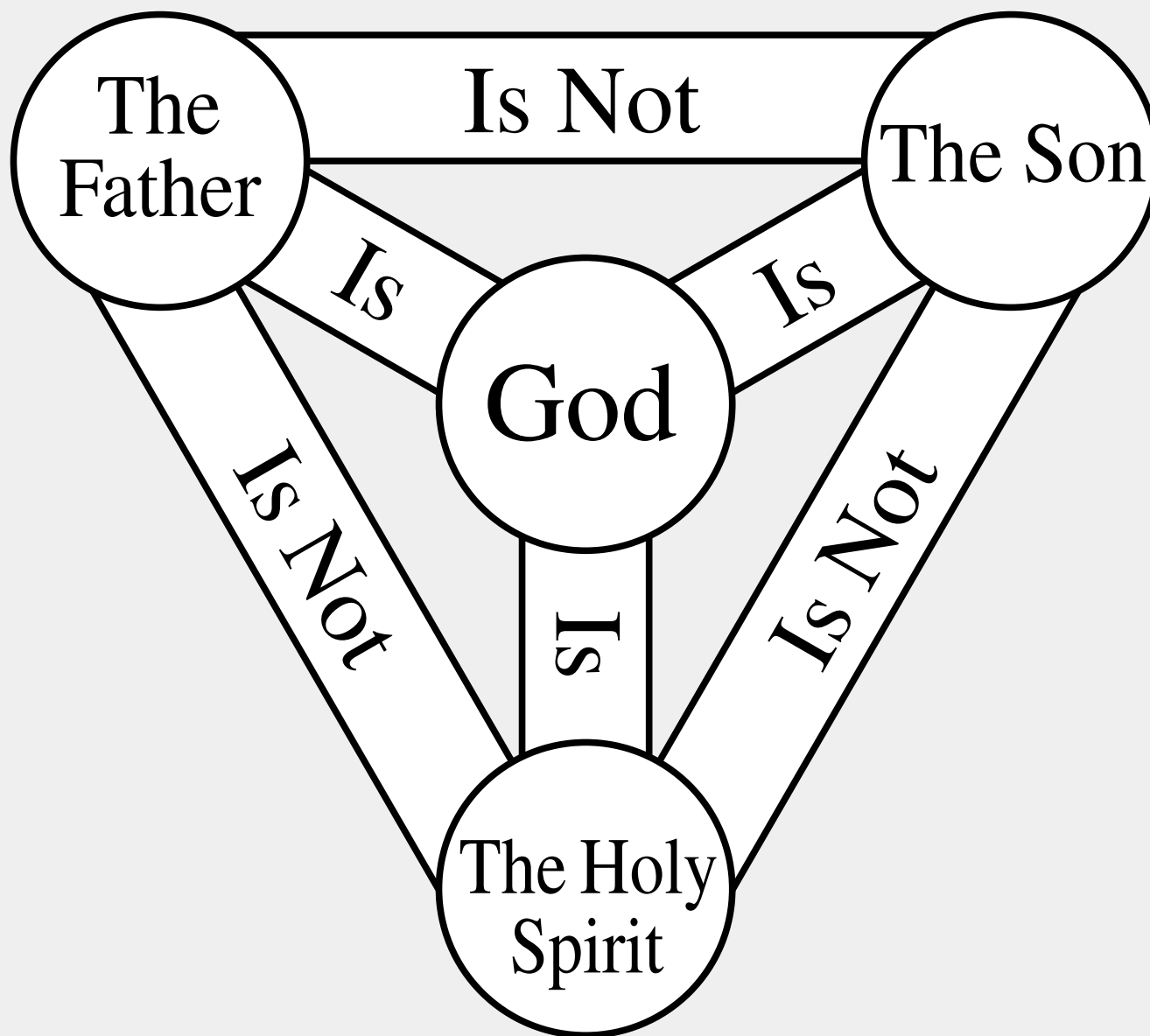


We worship one God in Trinity...

Mystery, Not Analogy: Explaining the Trinity without error

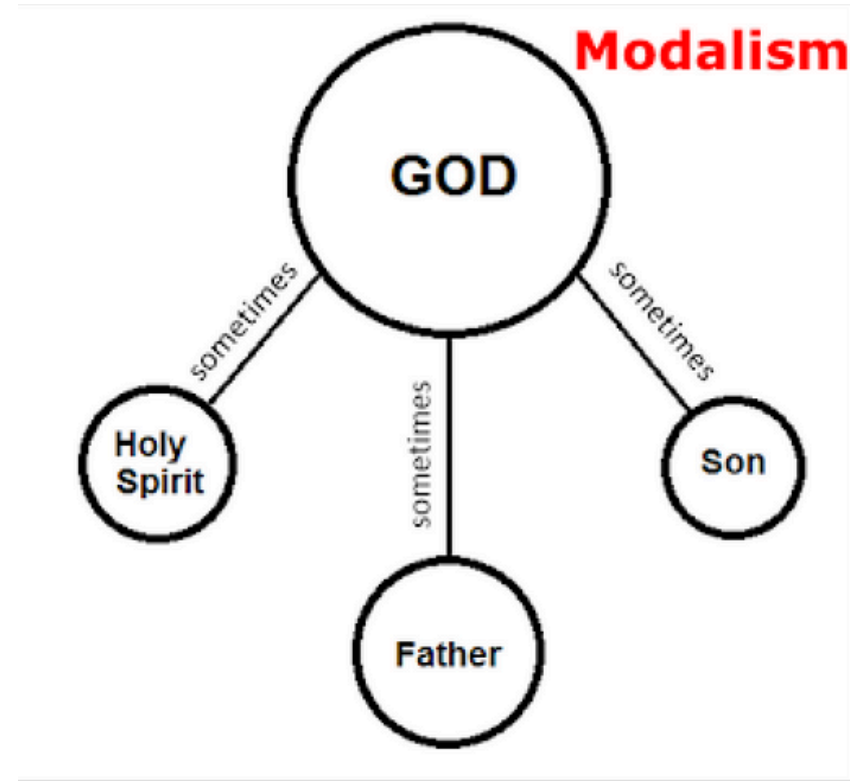
- God's nature is ultimately unfathomable to us, but Scripture has revealed His triunity
- In an effort to simplify God to fit our limited human minds, we describe God in **heresy** and error by using faulty analogies





Common Trinitarian Heresies

- **Modalism/Sabellianism**
 - The idea that God is one person who appears in 3 different modes/forms at different times
 - **Problem:** Denies the distinct persons; Father, Son, and Spirit interact in Scripture (Jesus prays to the Father, Spirit guides believers).
 - The analogy of water, ice, and steam falls into this heresy
 - This view is held by some Unitarians and Oneness Pentecostals
 - Also common amongst newer Christians



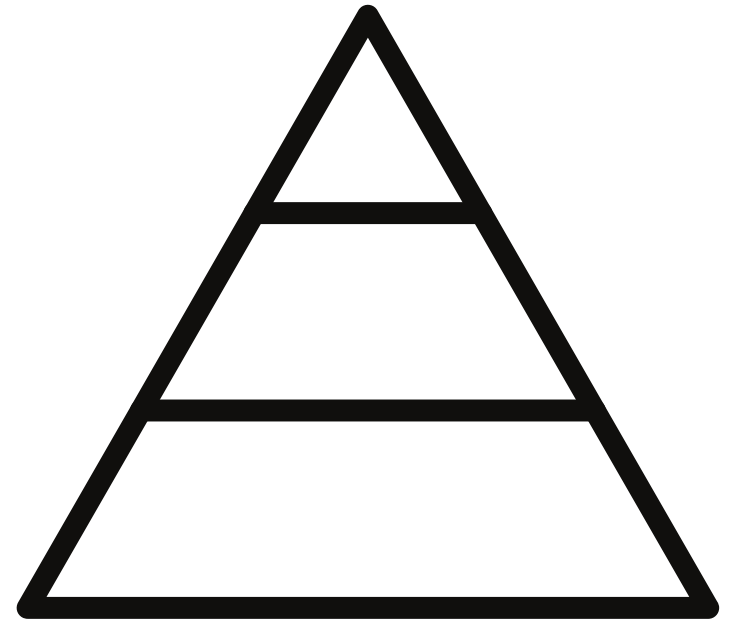
Common Trinitarian Heresies

- **Partialism**
 - Each person is only part of God (e.g., 1/3 Father, 1/3 Son, 1/3 Spirit).
 - **Problem:** Denies the full divinity of each person; Scripture shows each is fully God.
 - The three-leaf clover analogy falls into this heresy
 - This view is also common amongst newer Christians, but less so than modalism



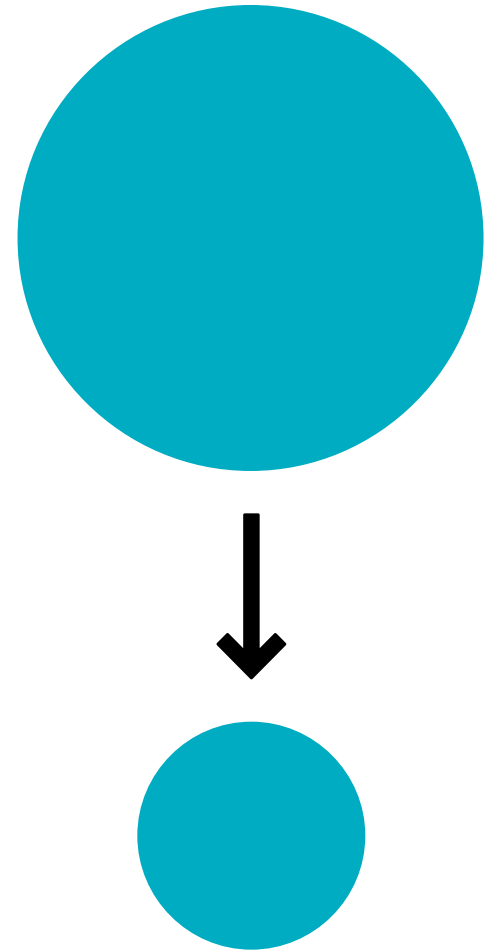
Common Trinitarian Heresies

- **Subordinationism**
 - The Son and/or Spirit are inferior in essence to the Father.
 - **Problem:** Denies co-equality; Hebrews 1:3, John 1:1, and other verses show the Son is fully God.
 - The idea of a boss and his two employees would fall into this heresy
 - Jehovah's Witnesses and some Evangelicals believe this. So did some church fathers, like Justin Martyr



Common Trinitarian Heresies

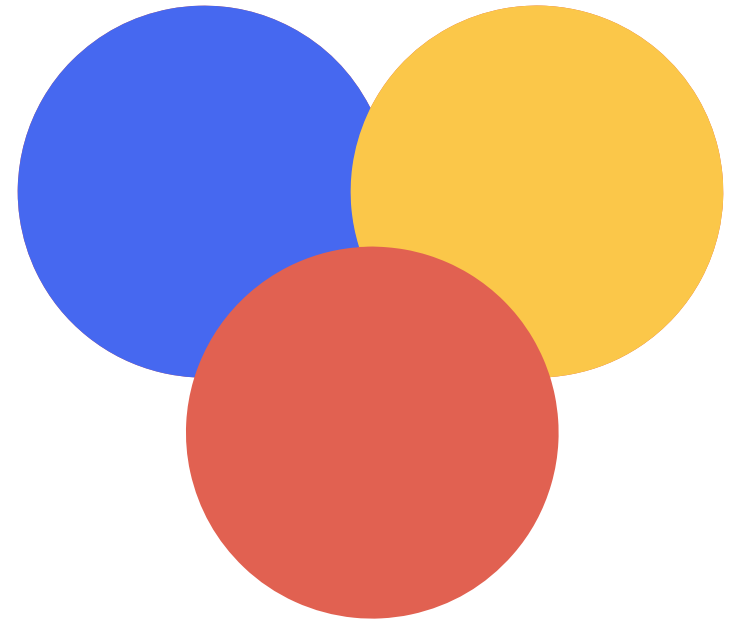
- **Arianism**
 - The Son is a created being — exalted, but not fully God. “There was a time when He was not.” Taught by Arius in the 4th century.
 - **Problem:** Denies that the Son is eternal, divine, co-eternal with the Father.
 - The analogy of a torch and its flame would be Arian - the torch needs to be lit in order to produce flame.
 - Jehovah’s Witnesses are modern-day Arians.



Common Trinitarian Heresies

- **Tritheism**

- The Father, Son, and Spirit are three distinct gods rather than one essence.
- **Problem:** Denies oneness of essence; contradicts Deuteronomy 6:4 and all monotheistic Scripture.
- The analogy of three owners of a company would be an example of this heresy
- Mormons hold to this doctrine today



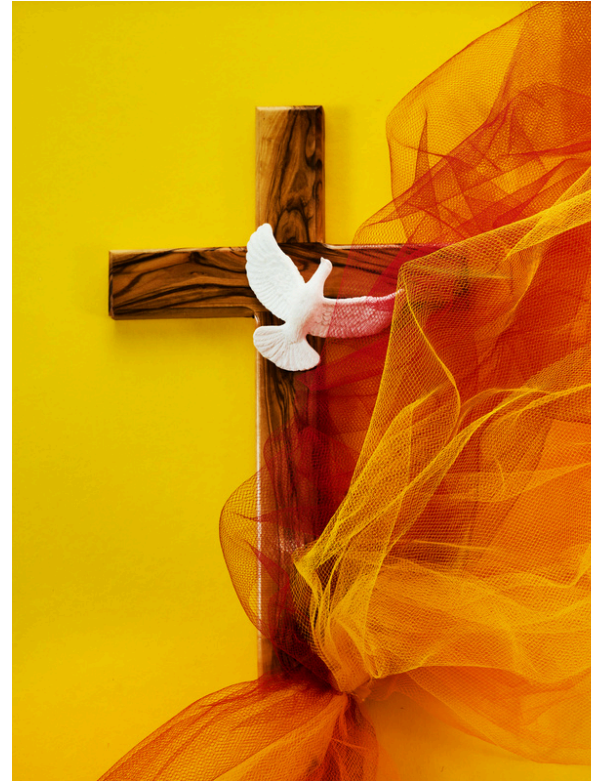
Mystery, Not Analogy: Explaining the Trinity without error

- **To fight against these heresies, we must:**
 - Know **Scripture** and what it says, affirming Biblical truths like:
 - God is one
 - All three persons are co-equal and co-eternal
 - All three persons have the same divine attributes **(HANDS)**
 - Know what the apostolic faith teaches as summarized by the **Creeds**
 - Explain the Trinity **Biblically**, not with analogies



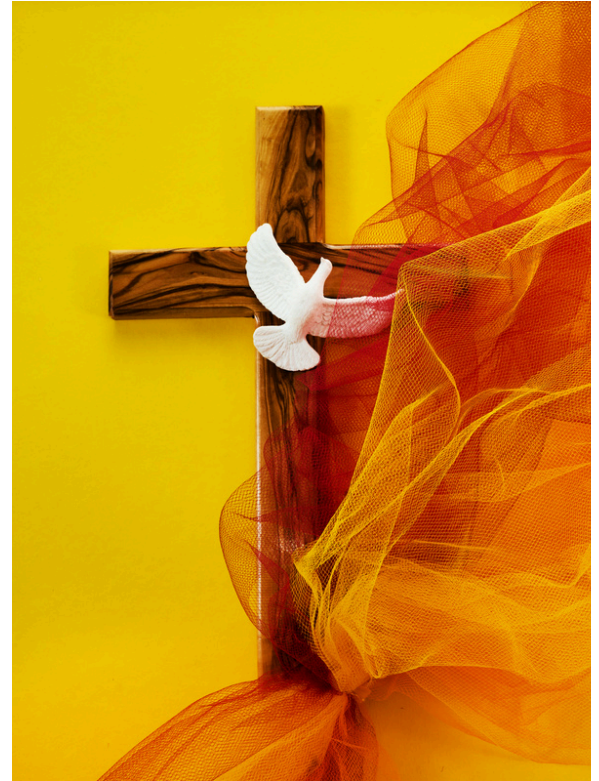
Why does this matter?

- **Most importantly, it's Biblical. But it also has practical implications:**
 - We worship God in Trinity because that's how He revealed Himself.
 - We reflect God's relational nature and love.
 - We embrace the mystery.



Why does this matter?

- **Three quick tips to get it right:**
 - **Read your Bible** – Make sure your ideas about God match what Scripture says.
 - **Learn Church teaching** – Check what Christians have believed for centuries, like the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds.
 - **Don't rely on analogies** – They can help a little, but they can never fully show who God really is.



Closing thoughts

- The Trinity is confusing, yes.
But that shouldn't frustrate us
- it should inspire us to
worship, for God is beyond
human understanding.
 - **Because God is a loving,
relational being in
Himself, it should inspire
us to imitate that nature
with each other.**



We worship one God in Trinity...

Trivia Game

- I'm a teacher - this is the depth of my creativity
- **Guess the heresy**
- Answer Key



We worship one God in Trinity...

Additional Resources

- -Redeemed Zoomer: The Trinity explained in 5 minutes
- -Testify: The Trinity is BOTH Logical and Biblical
- -Sanctus (A bit more advanced) The Trinity Explained and Defended
- -Nabeel Qureshi: How to explain The Trinity. Father, Son, Holy Spirit are one God - Nabeel Qureshi
- -The Bible Project: How God is Both One and Three at the Same Time
- -Wes Huff What is the Doctrine of the Trinity?
- -The Nicene Creed
- -Anathasian Creed (Explained)



The Triune God

Person	Key Verses	Role / Function	Divine Attributes	HANDS Connection
Father	Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 45:5-6; Psalm 90:2; John 3:16; Matthew 6:9; Ephesians 1:3-4	Creator, Planner of salvation, Sovereign ruler, Relational Father	Omnipotent, Omniscient, Eternal, Holy	Honor: worthy of worship Authority: rules creation Name: called God Divinity: fully God Substance: shares one divine essence
Son (Jesus)	John 1:1,14; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3; Philippians 2:5-11; Revelation 1:8; John 20:28	Redeemer, Revealer of God, Eternal Word, Messiah	Omnipotent, Omniscient, Eternal, Fully divine, Immutable	Honor: worshiped by all Authority: reigns over creation Name: called God Divinity: fully God Substance: shares one divine essence
Holy Spirit	Genesis 1:2; Acts 5:3-4; John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Ezekiel 36:26-27	Sustainer, Sanctifier, Comforter, Convicts of sin, Indwells believers	Omnipotent, Omniscient, Eternal, Personal, Active in creation and redemption	Honor: worthy of worship Authority: acts in divine will Name: called God Divinity: fully God Substance: shares one divine essence

5 TRINITARIAN HERESIES



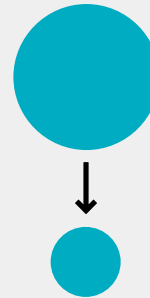
1 TRITHEISM
THREE GODS



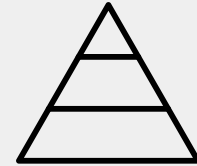
2 PARTIALISM
EACH PART GOD



3 MODALISM
THREE MODES



4 ARIANISM
JESUS CREATED



5 SUBORDINATIONISM
SON IS LESSER THAN FATHER

THE ORTHODOX VIEW

ONE GOD WHO ETERNALLY EXISTS IN THREE PERSONS, ALL OF WHOM
ARE FULLY AND EQUALLY GOD

