

New Testament Theology

(NT2)

Lecture 3, January 23, 2013

Trinity

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Lakeside institute of Theology

New Testament Theology (NT2)

1. Introduction to New Testament Theology
2. Christology & Incarnation
3. Trinity (adding Doctrines of Father & Holy Spirit)
4. Ecclesiology (The Church)
5. Christian Anthropology (Being Human before God)
6. Soteriology (Sin & Salvation)
7. Eschatology (Last Things)
8. Conclusion and Final Exam

Doctrine of the Trinity – Father, Son & Holy Spirit

1. One God

- A. Attributes and Nature of God
- B. God the Father
- C. God the Son
- D. God the Holy Spirit

2. The Trinity

- A. History of the Doctrine
- B. Foundation for the Doctrine
- C. Relations within the Trinity
- D. Key Concepts – Godhead, Nature, Person
- E. The Mystery of the Trinity

3. Disagreements Regarding Trinitarianism

- A. Nontrinitarianism
- B. Historic Heresies & Controversies

● Christianity emerged from Judaism as a monotheistic religion. God is one, with the Godhead as a single being:

- The Shema: "*Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the LORD is one.*" Deuteronomy 6:4
- The First Commandment: "*Thou shalt have no other gods before me*" Exodus 20:3
- "*Thus saith the LORD ... I am the first and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.*" Isaiah 44:6
- "*The Lord our God is one.*" Mark 12:29
- "*to us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we unto him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and we through him.*" 1 Cor. 8:5-6 (c. AD 53)

Trinity in the Bible

- "As soon as Jesus Christ was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and landing on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" Matt. 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:22; John 1:32
- "The angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.'" Luke 1:35

Trinity in the Bible

- "How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" Heb.9:14
- "But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." Acts 7:55
- "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

Divinity in Jesus

➤ Jesus was God Incarnate

- Mark 1:1; John 1:1,14; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 1:1-3

➤ Jesus miraculously was born of a virgin

- Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:34-35

➤ Jesus was Divine Creator

- John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 2:1

➤ Jesus is Lord

- Romans 10: 9; Phil. 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3

Divinity in Jesus

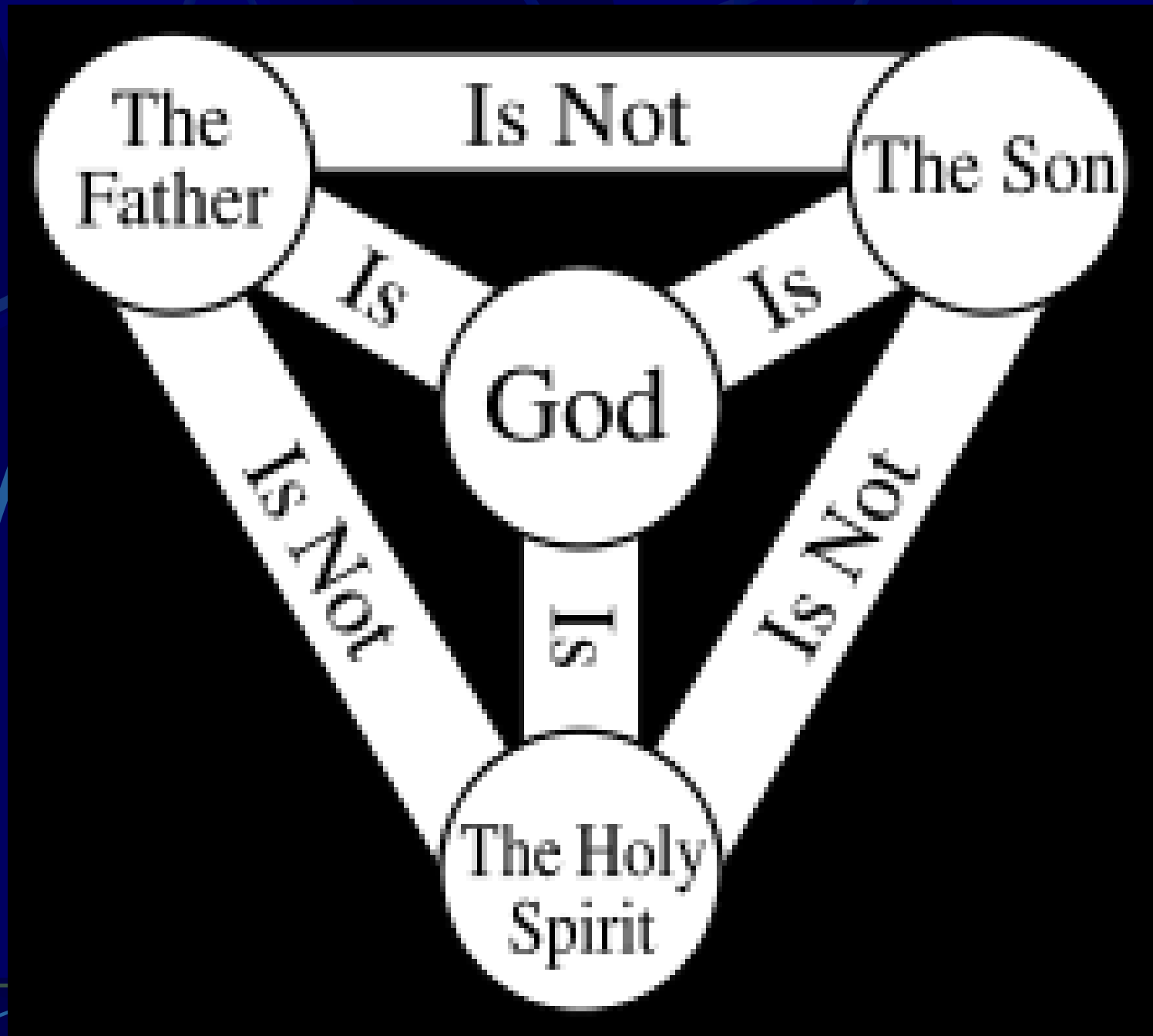
- *"I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you"*
John 14:20
- *"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one."*
John 17:22
- *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...without him was not any thing made that was made."*
John 1:1, 3
- Thomas' confession: *"My Lord and my God!"*
John 20:28
- *"Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am."*
John 8:58
- *"I and the Father are one."*
John 10:30
- *"...the Father is in me and I am in the Father."*
John 10:38

Divinity in Jesus

- *"....he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."* John 5:18
- *"all things have been handed over to me by my Father."* Matthew 11:27
- *"All that the Father has is mine."* John 16:15
- *"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him"* Colossians 1:16
- *"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"* Colossians 2:9
- *"sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father."* Galatians 1:1

THE TRIUNE GODHEAD PRESENTED IN SCRIPTURE

	FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
Called God	Phil. 1:2	John 1:1,14; Col. 2:9	Acts 5:3-4
Creator	Isa. 64:8; 44:24	John 1:3	Col. 1:15-17
Resurrects	1 Thess. 1:10	John 2:19, 10:17	Rom. 8:11
Indwells	2 Cor. 6:16	Col. 1:27	John 14:17
Everywhere	1 Kings 8:27	Matt. 28:20	1 Kings 8:27; Ps. 139:7f
All knowing	1 John 3:20	John 16:30; 21:17	1 Cor. 2:10-11
Sanctifies	1 Thess. 5:23	Heb. 2:11	1 Pet. 1:2
Life giver	Gen. 2:7; John 5:21	John 1:3; 5:21	2 Cor. 3:6,8
Fellowship	1 John 1:3	1 Cor. 1:9	2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1
Eternal	Ps. 90:2	Micah 5:1-2	Rom. 8:11; Heb. 9:14
A Will	Luke 22:42	Luke 22:42	1 Cor. 12:11
Speaks	Matt. 3:17; Luke 9:25	Luke 5:20; 7:48	Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:2
Love	John 3:16	Eph. 5: 25	Rom. 15:30
Searches the heart	Jer. 17:10	Rev. 2:23	1 Cor. 2:10
We belong to	John 17:9	John 17:6	
Savior	1 Tim. 1:1; 2:3; 4:10	2 Tim. 1:10; Tit. 1:4; 3:6	
We serve	Matt. 4:10	Col. 3:24	
Believe in	John 14:1	John 14:1	
Gives joy	John 15:11	Rom. 14:7	
Judges	John 8:50	John 5:21,30	



Controversies in the Early Church

- Was Jesus really divine? If so, what is His relationship with God the Father?
 - AD 325 - Council of Nicaea & Nicene Creed
 - Against Arius; Established the Doctrine of the Trinity; with Jesus as co-eternal, only-begotten Son of God, 2nd Person of the Trinity.
 - AD 381 – 1st Council of Constantinople
 - Against Appolinarus; Affirmed Nicaea; established that Jesus was fully human, with a human mind and soul.
 - AD 431 – 1st Council of Ephesus
 - Against Nestorius; Established that Jesus had two natures in one person (not two persons), and that Jesus had been fully divine when born. (Mary as *Theotokos*).
 - AD 451 – Council of Chalcedon
 - Against Eutychus; Established that Jesus was fully divine and fully human, 2 natures in one person, not one new hybrid.

Acceptance/Rejection of Doctrine of Trinity

The difference between those who believe in the Trinity and those who do not is not an issue of understanding the mystery. The difference is primarily one of belief concerning the personal identity of Christ.

It is a difference in conception of the salvation connected with Christ that drives all reactions, either favorable or unfavorable, to the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. As it is, **the doctrine of the Trinity is directly tied up with what a person believes about Christ.**