

# Seven Guardrails: The Trinity

*There is one, and only one, true God whose eternal being has been revealed to us as a tri-unity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct, yet inseparable, Persons possessing one and the same divine nature.*

## **Guardrail 1: There is One God**

There are three Persons, but not three gods.

False: “Though people call him by many names, we all worship the same God.” The other gods are *nothing* like the true God.

(Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; 46:9; 1 Cor. 8:4; Ex. 15:11)

## **Guardrail 2: There Are Three Distinct Persons.**

- The Father sends the Son
- The Son prays to the Father
- The Spirit conceives Jesus in the womb of Mary
- The Spirit empowers Jesus’ ministry
- Jesus ascends to the Father
- The Spirit testifies to Jesus and glorifies Him
- Persons have an I/Thou or Me/You relationship
- The Names reveal distinctions  
(Father, Son, Spirit. Not three brothers or friends)
- The Son didn’t send the Father.
- The Spirit did not die on the cross for our sins.
- The Father did not become incarnate.
- The Son did not send the Father.
- The Father does not proceed from the Spirit.
- The Persons are *eternally* distinct (Rev. 22:1)

## **Guardrail 3: There are Three Persons Simultaneously.**

Their interactions prove “three-ness.”

(Mark 1:10-11; Luke 2:52; John 16:7; John 1:1-2; 12:28; 16:7; 17:5, 24)

False: “There is a one-person God who appears in different ways at different times.”

## **Guardrail 4: Each Person is Truly God.**

- *The Father is God* (John 20:17; 1 Cor. 8:6)
- *Jesus is God* (Heb. 1:8; 2 Pet. 1:1;  
Titus 2:13; John 10:31-33)

- *The Spirit is God* (Luke 1:35; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:18)

## **Guardrail 5: God is Triune Eternally.**

- If God had never created the world and if the work of redemption was never needed, God would have still been Triune.
- There was not some point at which a Person came into being to fulfill some purpose. (John 1:1-2; 17:5)
- If God is triune today, He is eternally triune; he does not change. (Malachi 3:6; Ps. 90:2; Heb. 9:14; Jude 24-25)

## **Guardrail 6: The Persons Mutually Indwell Each Other.**

There is a mutual indwelling among the Persons of the Triune God... a continuous connection and inter-linking between the Persons of the Trinity... an intimate union with each Person experiencing the permeating presence of the other two.

- *Communing in Perfect Unity*  
(John 10:30, 38; 14:10; 1 Cor. 2:10-11)
- *The Triune God has included us into His life*  
(John 15:4)
- *The Trinity is the Gold Standard of Church Unity*  
(John 17:11, 22-23)

## **Guardrail 7: Inseparable Operations.**

The Persons act inseparably as God relates to the creation and acts in our redemption.

- *Seen in Salvation* (2 Cor. 5:19)
- *Seen in Spiritual Gifts* (1 Cor. 12:4-6)
- *Seen in Our Adoption* (Gal 4:4-7)

