

# Trinity: How is the Father a Father?

*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.*

## **Eternal Generation** (Related Term: Begotten):

A term used to describe Jesus as the eternal Son of the eternal Father. This does not mean the Father somehow created the Son in time, like in a physical conception or birth. The Son did not have a beginning. Rather, it describes the Son's eternal "from-ness," in relation to the Father. This is a discussion which takes place among Trinitarians, as not all Trinitarians believe in eternal generation. The following information enumerates reasons why most do.

**Divine Essence:** Literally "to be." What God really is. Divinity itself — eternal and uncaused. The single and indivisible "Godness" of God. The Divine Essence is the nature of God, shared in common by each Person of the Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Divine Essence is not a fourth aspect of God or like a fourth Person of the Trinity. Synonym: Substance.

**Fountain of Divinity (Fons Trinitatis):** Augustine used this phrase to communicate the Father is the source of the Trinity—from whom both the Son and the Spirit derive. In the "DNA" of God, the Father is the divine essence.

The Nicene Creed (325) asserts that Jesus Christ is, "the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father."

The Westminster Confession (1647) says "the Son is eternally begotten of the Father."

## **A Unique Relationship**

"The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2 Cor. 1:3; 11:31; Eph 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:3; Rev. 1:5-6). The words *Father* and *Son* have meaning.

## **Only Begotten** (John 1:14, 18; 3:16; 1 John 4:9)

Some understand the term to mean "unique." Most modern translations use wording like "one and only." NASB, NKJV, Legacy retain *only begotten*.

## **An Eternal "From-ness"**

John 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son *from the Father*..."

## **Like an Eternal Ray of Light from an Eternal Sun:**

Hebrews 1:3 "He is the radiance of the glory of God ..." The Amplified expands: "He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-ricing or radiance of the divine]"

## **Like the Stamp of a Die on a Coin**

Hebrews 1:3, Amplified "He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature."

## **An Eternal Grant**

John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself." There was never a beginning point. There will be no end point. This is how God works.... Who He is and what He's like. If the Son had become a Son at some point, then the Son isn't equal with the Father; without the eternality, it collapses. But if eternal, then God is revealing an insight into His eternal being.

