

Common Objections to 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.

1. If God is Triune, why isn't the word, 'Trinity' found in the Bible?

Trinity, is a shorthand way of summarizing the teaching of the Bible (the Seven Guardrails):

1. There is one God.
2. There are three distinct Persons.
3. There are three Persons simultaneously.
4. Each Person is truly God.
5. God is Triune eternally.
6. The Persons mutually indwell each other.
7. The Persons act inseparably.

Omniscience and omnipresence aren't found in Scripture, but the Bible teaches them without using the terms.

2. If Jesus is God, why did he say in John 17:3, the Father is, "The ONLY true God"?

Verse 3 "And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."

John 17 is a prayer by Jesus. Verse 3 is understood only in the context of the prayer and in the whole chapter. Don't skip the word, "AND" — One cannot know the Father without knowing Jesus Christ. Jesus was sent as man in the incarnation. So, it as man, he prays. See also verses 1, 5, & 21.

3. If Jesus is God, who is he praying to?

Trinitarians affirm three Persons; we don't have a problem here. There are three "Who's" and one "What." Jesus was sent as man in the incarnation. So, as Man, He prays.

4. If Jesus is God, why did he say in John 14:28, 'The Father is greater than I'?

Jesus was living in his earthly, incarnational

state. Compare Philippians 2:6-8. Jesus has a unique relationship with the Father. In John 14, he refers to "My Father" five times (verses 2, ,7, 20, 21,23). He said, "I am in the Father and the Father is in me" (John 14:11). Compare John 14:9, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." and John 10:20, "I and the Father are one."

5. How can Jesus be God's son if he is God?

Again, God is three Persons — three "who's" and one "what." Jesus is the eternal Son of the eternal Father. He is God the Son.

6. Colossians 1:15 says Jesus is "the firstborn."

How can Jesus be God if he is created?

"Firstborn" is a rank, not always a chronological order. Compare Exodus 4:22, Psalm 89:2, 27 Keep reading Colossians 1, esp. vs. 16, 19

7. If Jesus is God, why didn't he say, "I am God"?

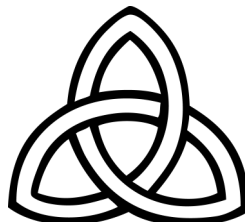
But He did. And his contemporaries understood what he meant. John 5:18; 8:56-58; 10:31-33

8. But isn't the Trinity a pagan concept adopted by Christianity?

The Babylonians and Assyrians believed that a triad of gods formed a council to exercise leadership over other gods, but these were three separate gods – a club – not one tri-unity.

9. Don't you know that the Trinity was only invented in the fourth century?

False. There are many trinitarian statements considerably predating the fourth century.



Many ideas taken from Mike Winger at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0cLkTR5kFE

Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Used by permission.