



Basic Christianity





"¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

2 Timothy 3:16-17



"The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."

Psalm 119:130

***Note: All Scriptures in this study is either from NIV or NKJV**



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Global Good News Literature Correspondence Course

These lessons can be used for individual or group Bible Study. They can also be used by a person who has the responsibility of teaching new believers or discipleship classes. For those of you who would like to take the course with us, you would have to register and get your Student ID from us. The main purpose of this correspondence course is to help new believers and those who would like to strengthen their Christian foundation, send their roots down and grow in the Lord, by learning the basic concepts or foundational truths of Christianity.

As it is said, "You can bring a horse to the water but you cannot force him to drink"; unless the student follows up these lessons diligently and reads the scripture references carefully, he/she cannot get the full benefit of the courses. We encourage everyone to study these lessons with an open Bible so that you can read the verses for yourselves. We also encourage you to have your own notebook where you can write the things the Holy Spirit teaches you through these lessons.

Then you can continue the correspondence course by sending the answers to the questions that are at the end of each lesson.

This course contains twelve foundational lessons divided into three parts. If the contents of these lessons are taken seriously and applied accordingly, they would help the student to be firmly established in his/her Christian walk with the Lord. To achieve this desired target, we encourage the student to do the questions at the end of each lesson in a thoughtful manner where the answers are found within each preceding lesson.

For those who would like to correspond with us, we would like you to send us the answers for each section (Part I, II and III) so that we can check your answers and send you a certificate of completion.



Lesson Nine

The Trinity

Because the human mind is so limited it is obvious that it cannot fully comprehend the essence of God. Specially, the doctrine of the Trinity is not one of those simple doctrines that can be comprehended easily. We can only comprehend what is clearly shown in the Bible regarding the triune God.

“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.” Deut 29:29

God’s Attributes

1. He is Holy - Lev. 19:2, 1 Peter 1:15
2. He is Love – John 3:16, Rom 5:8, 1John 4:7-10
3. He is Just - Psalms 119:137
4. He is Faithful and True – John 17:3, Titus 1:1-2, Deut 7:9, Psalms 89:1-2
5. He is Merciful and Good – Psalms 103:8-17, Psalms 111:4
6. God is infinitely Wise – Prov. 3:19, Isa. 40:28
7. He is Spirit - John 4:24

God’s incommunicable attributes

(These attributes are His unique attributes that no one can share)

1. He is eternal – from eternity past to eternity future – Exo. 3:13-15, Deut. 33:27, Psalms 90:2, Isa. 40:28, Rev. 22:13 -



While everything else has a beginning, He has no beginning or no ending.

2. He is Self sufficient - He exists all by Himself. While everything else owe their existence to Him, He is self existent. Psalms 50:10-12, Isa. 40:13-14
3. He is Omniscient - All Knowing – Isa. 40:12-26, Psalms 139:2-6
4. He is Omnipresent – In all places at the same time – 1 Kings 8:27, Jer. 23:24, Psalms 139:7-12
5. He is Omnipotent – All Powerful – Gen 18:14, , Gen 35:11, Rev. 19:6
6. He is a triune (Three in One) God - Gen 1:26, Deut 6:4-5, Matthew 28:19, 2Cor 13'14
7. He is Immutable (James 1:17)

The Oneness of God

God is ONE. Christianity is a Monolithic religion, meaning we believe in only one God.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” Deut. 6:4
Read the following verses also. 1 Cor. 8:4, 1 Tim. 2:5, Eph. 4:6, John 10:30

After God delivered the Israelites from the bondage in Egypt, and gave them the 10 commandments through Moses, the first commandment was, “You shall have no other gods before me.” Exodus. 20:3

Since the Egyptians and the gentile nations around them were engaged in worshipping multiple gods, God was making a distinction between Him and all the other gods of the heathen.

The commission God had for His people, the Israelites, was for them to be separated unto Him and show that their God is above all other gods. (2 Chronicles 2:5)



The Triune God

Generally speaking, in the Old Testament, God is mainly revealed as ONE. However, even in the Old Testament, there are many places where God is referred to in plural terms.

1. “Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness.” Gen 1:26
2. “And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil.” Gen 3:22
3. “Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” Gen 11:7

Even in the Old Testament we can see an indication of the Trinity

4. “Come near me and listen to this:

“From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret;
at the time it happens, I am there.”

And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me,
endowed with his Spirit.” Isa. 48:16

In this verse, we hear one person of the God Head referring to Himself as “I”, “Come near me” and refers to other two as “the Sovereign Lord” and “his Spirit”. If you start reading from verse 12 you will realize that the person who says “I” is not Isaiah, but one of the Triune God.



5. “As soon as Jesus 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 alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17

The Father is speaking from heaven

The Son (Jesus Christ) is being baptized

The Holy Spirit is descending upon Him

6. “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
7. “May the grace of **the Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God** (implies the Father), and the fellowship of **the Holy Spirit** be with you all.” 2 Cor. 13:14

This verse shows us that:

1. The Father has loved us:

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

2. The Son provided us Grace:



“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who **came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**” John 1:14

“For the law was given through Moses; **grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**” John 1:17

3. The Holy Spirit gave us Fellowship with each other and with God

“For we were all baptized by^{al} one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” 1 Cor. 12:13

God the Father

“He received honor and glory from **God the Father** when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” 2 Peter 1:17

Also John 3:16 quoted above.

1. He is the Father and ruler of all creation.
2. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. He gave his only begotten Son for us.

God the Son

Our Lord and savior Jesus Christ, pre-existed before he was born of Mary, for He is the Word that was from the beginning (John 1:1, 1:14). He became flesh by being born from Mary and the power of



the Holy Spirit, and accomplished the main purpose for His coming, which is to be a sacrifice for our sins so that God’s judgment on sin would be satisfied by Him taking the judgment on our behalf.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” John 1:1-3

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

The Son is God

“while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ” Titus 2:13

"And we know that *the Son of God is come*, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true and we are in him that is true, *even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.*" I John 5:20

This verse clearly tells us that Jesus Christ, the Son, is our Great God and Savior.

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage.” Phil 2:6

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Col. 1:15-17



When the Bible says ‘the Son of God’, it does not imply that the Son was created by the Father or the Son has a beginning. It is only showing the Relationship between them.

God The Holy Spirit

(Lesson 10 will be on the Holy Spirit in more details)

The Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Old Testament also, but we don’t see Him as clearly as in the New Testament.

David, in Psalm 51, asks that ‘the Holy Spirit’ not be taken away from him.

“Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.” Psalms 51:11

After the resurrection and the ascension of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost and empowered the Apostles and the other disciples for the task that was before them.

These are some of the things the Holy Spirit does.

- He teaches us (John 14:26)
- Glorifies Christ (John 16:14)
- Empowers believers (Acts 1:8)
- He reproveth the World of Sin (John 16:8)
- Reminds us of the Words of God (John 14:26)
- Comforts us (John 14:16, 26)

Some consider the Holy Spirit just as a Spiritual Power, but he is described as a person and as God.

- He searches the heart (Rom 8:27, 1 Cor. 2:10)



- He has a will, he speaks, he guides, he prays on our behalf (in us)
- He is grieved (Eph. 4:30)

The Holy Spirit is God

“Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ‘Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.” Acts 5:3-4

In these verses, Peter said ‘you have lied **to the Holy Spirit**’ then he said ‘You have not lied just to human beings **but to God.**’

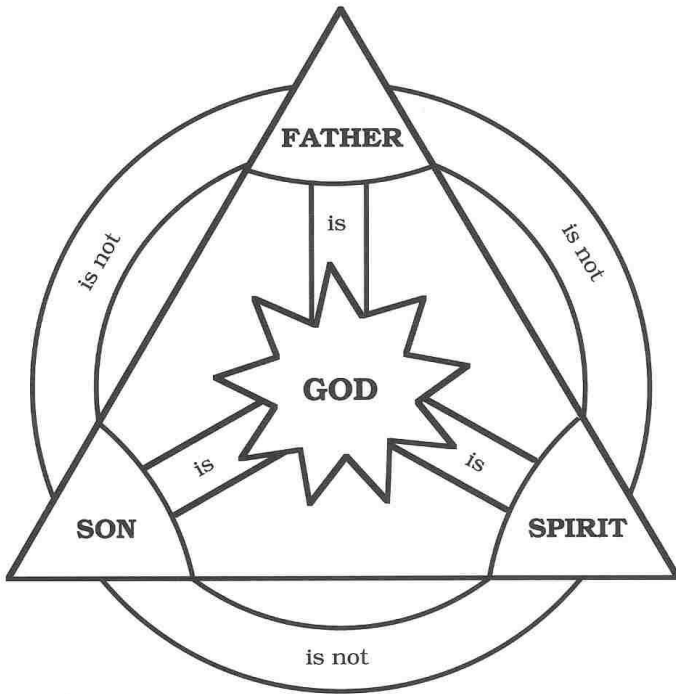
What does ‘the Triune God’ mean

1. There is One Indivisible God. One in Essence. (Deut 6:4)
2. Three in Person. There are three Persons in this One God. (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
3. All three are Co-Equal, Co-Eternal, and Equally Divine. All three have the same Attributes of God.
4. The Father sent His Son to redeem mankind. (Gal 4:4-5, John 3:16) - The Father Plans
5. The Son gave himself as the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29, John 10:11, 2 Cor. 5:21) - The Son Executes
6. The Holy Spirit reproves and convicts the sinner and regenerates him into a new person. (John 16:8, Titus 3:5) – The Holy Spirit Administers.

No one can adequately explain the full concept of Trinity or who God is. However, no matter how imperfect, some analogies have been used in the past,

- A Tree - The Root, The Trunk, And the Branches
- The Sun – The physical Sun, The light that comes from it, the Heat it generate.
- Water - liquid water, Steam, Ice

Nothing and no one in the world can fully explain God. As Isaiah said, “With whom, then, will you compare God? To what image will you liken him?” Isaiah 40:18





Lesson 9 – The Trinity - Quiz

(Please give your answers on a separate piece of paper)

Student ID #: _____
Student Name: _____
Address: _____

1. List the attributes of God. Describe one of them in details.
2. What is the difference between God’s communicable and incommunicable attributes?
3. How do you understand the doctrine of the Trinity (Three-in-One)?
4. What are the three Persons in the God Head?
5. What are the different functions we see in the God Head?
6. How do you understand the benediction found in some of the epistles like 2 Cor. 13:14? How does it apply to your life?