

Trinity

1. **What** is the Trinity?
2. **How** does the Trinity work?
3. **Why** is the Trinity important?

1. **What** is the Trinity?

The doctrine of the Trinity is a central Christian teaching about the nature of God that states he is like a shamrock, which is a species of clover almost entirely comprised of three distinct leaves. Write a definition for "Trinity" and make a note about the three persons who form the Trinity.

Trinity

Trinity		
God the Father	God the Son	God the Holy Spirit

2. **How** does the Trinity work?

The doctrine of the Trinity is never explicitly articulated in the New Testament; however, between 100-400, it became a central teaching that almost all Christians accept today. Make a note about how the doctrine of the Trinity became official teaching and about the Bible passages from which it was developed.

How the Trinity Works

How the Trinity Works		
Pauline Epistles	Gospel of Matthew	Gospel of John

In 325, the First Council of Nicaea officially affirmed belief in one God (the Father), one Lord (the Son) and the Holy Spirit; a development accompanied by the creation of the Apostles' Creed. Make a note about how the Nicene Creed and Apostles' Creed created a systematic doctrine of the Trinity.

How the Trinity Works	
Nicene Creed	Apostles' Creed

3. **Why** is the Trinity important?

Most Christians argue that belief in the doctrine of the Trinity is compulsory. Although some Christians reject the existence of the Trinity, they are outside the mainstream. For Catholics and Orthodox Christians, subscription to the doctrine of the Trinity is essential; likewise, the vast majority of Protestant Christians accept the belief that God is one in three persons. Beyond this, the Trinity is important because it allows Christians to make sense of the sometimes contradictory nature of God. Make a note about why the Trinity is important.

Why the Trinity Is Important