

# Is The Trinity In The Bible?

**Those who do not accept the Trinity doctrine reject it in part because the word “Trinity” is not found in Scripture.**

Of course, there is no verse that says “*God is three Persons*” or “*God is a Trinity.*”

This is all quite evident and true, strictly speaking, but it proves nothing.

There are many words and phrases that Christians use, which are not found in the Bible.

For example, the word “*Bible*” is not found in the Bible.

More to the point, opponents of the Trinity doctrine claim that a Trinitarian view of God’s nature and being can’t be proven from the Bible.

Since the books of the Bible are not written as theological tracts, this may seem on the surface to be true.

There is no statement in Scripture that says, “*God is three Persons in one being, and here is the proof...*”

However, the New Testament does bring God [Father], the Son [Jesus Christ] and the Holy Spirit together in such a way as to strongly imply the Trinitarian nature of God.

**Three Scriptures are quoted below as a summary of the many other biblical passages that bring together the three Persons of the Godhead.**

One Scripture is from the Gospels, another is from the apostle Paul and a third is from the apostle Peter.

**Matthew 28:19** [NIV] “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*”

**2 Corinthians 13:14** [NIV] “*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*”

**1 Peter 1:1-2** [NIV] “*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God’s elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*”

**These three passages in Scripture, one on the lips of Jesus, and the other two from leading apostles, each bringing together the three Persons of the Godhead in an unmistakable way.**

But these are only a sampling of other similar passages.

Among others are the following:

**Romans 14:17-18** [NIV] “*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.*”

**Romans 15:16** [NIV] *“to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”*

**1 Corinthians 2:2-5** [NIV] *“For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”*

**1 Corinthians 6:11** [NIV] *“And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”*

**1 Corinthians 12:4-6** [NIV] *“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.”*

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22** [NIV] *“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”*

**Galatians 4:6** [NIV] *“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’”*

**Ephesians 2:18-22** [NIV] *“For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow-citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”*

**Ephesians 3:14-19** [NIV] *“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled to the measure of all the fulness of God.”*

**Ephesians 4:4-6** [NIV] *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called, one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”*

**Colossians 1:6-8** [NIV] *“that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth. You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow-servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.”*

**1 Thessalonians 1:3-5** [NIV] *“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.”*

**2 Thessalonians 2:13-14** [NIV] *“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

**Titus 3:4-6** [NIV] *“But when the kindness and love of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,”*

**The reader is encouraged to read each of these passages and note how God [Father], Son [Jesus Christ] and the Holy Spirit are brought together as instruments of our salvation.**

Certainly, such passages show that the New Testament faith is implicitly Trinitarian.

**Of course, it’s true that none of these passages say directly that “God is a Trinity...” or “This is the Trinitarian doctrine...”**

But they don’t need to.

As mentioned above, the books of the New Testament are not formal, point by point treatises of doctrine.

**Nonetheless, these and other Scriptures speak easily and without any self-consciousness of God [Father], Son [Jesus] and Holy Spirit working together.**

The writers show no feeling of strangeness in joining these divine Persons together as a unity in their salvific work.

Systematic theologian **Alister E. McGrath** makes this point in his book *Christian Theology*:

*“The foundations of the doctrine of the Trinity are to be found in the pervasive pattern of divine activity to which the New Testament bears witness. . . . There is the closest of connections between the Father, Son, and Spirit in the New Testament writings. Time after time, New Testament passages link together these three elements as part of a greater whole. The totality of God’s saving presence and power can only, it would seem, be expressed by involving all three elements...”* [page 248].

Such New Testament Scriptures answer the charge that the Trinity doctrine was only developed well into the church age and that it reflects “pagan” ideas, and not biblical ones. If we look at Scripture with an open mind regarding what it says about the being we call God, it’s clear that he is shown to be Triune in nature.

**We can confidently say that the Trinity, as a truth regarding God’s essential being, has always been a reality.**

Perhaps it was not completely clear in the dim ages of man, including even in the Old Testament.

**But the Incarnation of the Son of God and the coming of the Holy Spirit revealed that God was Triune.**

This revelation was made in concrete fact, in that the Son and the Holy Spirit broke into our world at definite points in history.

The fact of the Triune revelation of God in historical time was only later described in the word of God we call the New Testament.

**James R. White**, a Christian apologist, says in his book *The Forgotten Trinity*: *“The Trinity is a doctrine not revealed merely in words but instead in the very action of the Triune God in redemption itself! We know who God is by what He has done in bringing us to himself!”* (page 167).