**TITLE: THE TRINITY: GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON, GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**AIM: To receive a foundational understanding of the three persons of the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy**

**Spirit), their roles in salvation and the relationship between them.**

**CONTENT:**

1. The Trinity is defined in the Latin phrase, Mia Ousia, Tres Hypostases, which means, One Essence, Three Persons
2. Triune God
3. Trinity = Tri-unity
4. Not 3 Gods: 1 + 1 + 1 = 3
5. Rather, 1 God: 1 x 1 x 1 = 1
6. Explanation:
7. Water (H2O)
8. Ice - - - - (H2O) - - - Solid - - - (H2O) - - - Father - - - - - - (God)

Water - - (H2O) - - - Liquid - - (H2O) - - - Son - - - - - - - - (God)

Steam - - (H2O) - - - Gas - - - - (H2O) - - - Holy Spirit - - - (God)

1. Some will suggest that the example of water in the forms of solid, liquid and gas provides a good example of the three persons of God being one essence. However, it does not account for all three persons of the Godhead being present at the same time. There is a point at which water can exist in all three states – solid, liquid, and gas – simultaneously. This is called the triple point of water. This is the temperature and pressure at which water as solid, liquid and gas coexists in thermodynamic equilibrium - 32.0135oF at .08871334755psi.
2. The word, Trinity, does not appear in the Bible, however the doctrine of the Trinity is supported by several Bible verses:
3. **Genesis 1:26, *26****Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness…*
4. **1 John 5:7, 8,** *7For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.*
5. **Matthew 28:19,*****19****Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
6. **John 14:16, 23, 26*****16****And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.* ***23****Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.* ***26****But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*
7. **1 Peter 1:2***,* ***2****who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*
8. **Jude 1:20, 21*****20****But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,****21****keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*
9. Each has duties and responsibilities:
   1. The Father is the Father
   2. The Son is the architect and contractor of creation / Propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins / Head of the church
      1. **John 1:3,*****3****All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*
      2. **Colossians 1:16, 17,*****16****For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.* ***17****And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist* [are held together]*.*
      3. **1 John 2:2*****2****And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the*

*whole world.*

* + 1. **Colossians 1:18,*****18****And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*
  1. The Holy Spirit is our Paraclete, which is derived from the Greek verb, *Parakaleo*, (*para* = alongside and *kaleo* = to call) which is translated Advocate, Comforter, Counselor and Helper.
     1. John 14:16-17 – **“To be with us and in us forever”**
     2. John 14:26 – **“Teach and remind us of Jesus’ words”**
     3. John 15:26 – **“Testify [witness] about Jesus”**
     4. John 16:7-11 – **“Convict the world of sin, righteousness & judgment”**
     5. John 16:12-15 – **“Guide us into all truth”**

1. The roles of the Trinity in salvation
   1. God, the Father – **John 6:44,*****44****No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*
   2. God, the Son – **John 14:6,*****6****Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*
   3. God, the Holy Spirit – **Ephesians 4:30,** *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*
2. The Son is not inferior to the Father
3. **Psalm 110:1,** *1 The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”*
4. **Psalm 110:5, *5****The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.*

**Hierarchy Communitarian**

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1. The relationship between the Father and the Son
2. The Father and the Son should not be viewed as a human father to his minor son. Rather, as a human father to his adult son
3. This is the same relationship that the Father desires to have with us
4. Relational roles of the Trinity to Christians
5. God, the Father – Our Parent
6. God, the Son – Our Older Sibling
7. God, the Holy Spirit – Our Friend