

CORE

EXPLORING WHO GOD REALLY IS.

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WHO IS GOD?

FINDING A TRUE PICTURE OF GOD.

KICK OFF DISCUSSION

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HOW DO YOU PICTURE GOD?

WHO IS GOD?



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WHERE DO WE BEGIN TO FIND A TRUE PICTURE OF GOD?

¹⁵ He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- Colossians 1:15 ESV

³ He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

-Hebrews 1:3 ESV

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

-John 1:18 ESV

THE FULL PICTURE

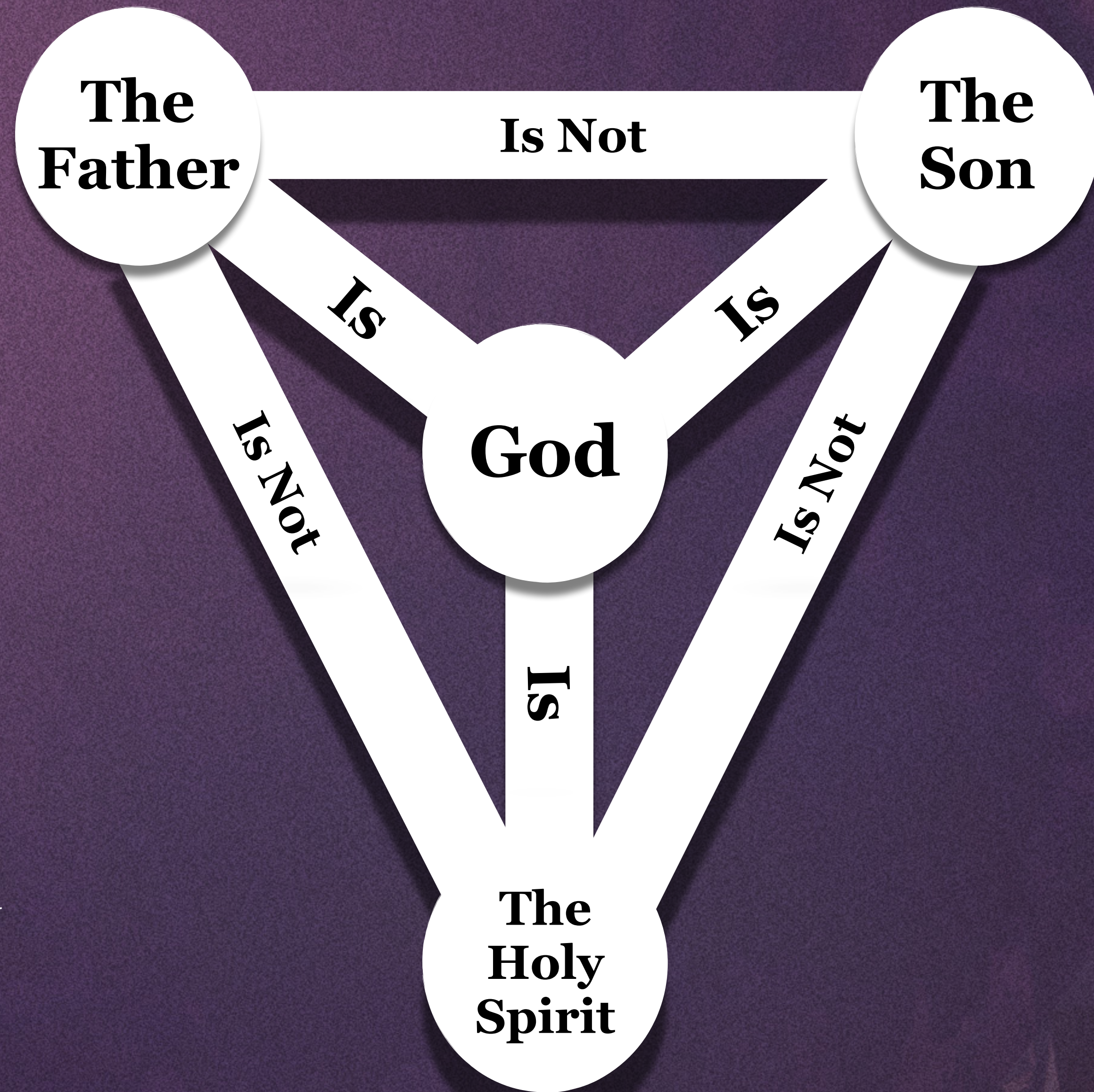
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The Baptism of Jesus

9 In those days Jesus [the Son] came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the [Holy] Spirit descending on him like a dove. 11 And a voice [The Father] came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

-Mark 1:9–11 ESV



THE TRINITY

THE FULL PICTURE OF GOD – FATHER. SON. HOLY SPIRIT

Let me save you some time. If you do a search for the word “Trinity” in the Bible, you won’t find any results. It’s not in there. Yet to understand the full picture of who God is, you have to understand this word “Trinity” that never appears in the Bible. Are you confused yet? If you are, you are in good company. It took the church over 400 years and some of the best and brightest minds in the world to come up with this term. To put it simply the word “Trinity” is a short hand people came up with to paint a clear picture of the very big, very complicated God we meet in scripture.

THE CREEDS

PUTTING A PICTURE INTO WORDS.

Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is the Holy Spirit? How are they all God at the same time? What does that mean for my life?

God can be complex and confusing. Jesus, through Scripture, gives us a picture of God, but even that can be confusing. The Creeds summarize everything Scripture is telling us about God. They give us great places to start when we are trying to understand what that picture really looks like.

There are 3 main creeds the church has traditionally looked to: The Apostles', The Nicene, and the Athanasian creeds. Let's take a closer look at the picture of God that Scripture gives us through the Apostles' Creed.

THE APOSTLES CREED

WALKING THROUGH THE FULL PICTURE OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE FIRST ARTICLE

A PICTURE OF THE FATHER – THE CREATOR

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

We call God “creator” because everything we see, have, and are comes from God. Genesis chapter 1 tells us that in the beginning there was nothing and God created everything. But God is more than just a creator who creates and steps away. This is why we call him “Father,” because he continues to guide and sustain us, not because we deserve it but because he loves us.

This is why we worship God the Father, because he alone is worthy.

THE SECOND ARTICLE

THE PICTURE OF THE SON – THE REDEEMER AND SAVIOR

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our LORD, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I believe Jesus is God, who came into the world as a man to reconnect us to our creator. He is the one who God sent to us, to deal with our sin, brokenness, and death. He did this by paying the debt of our sin that we owed to God by trading His perfect life for our imperfect life, and taking on a death that was supposed to be ours, so that we could experience a new life eternally.

We often think that faith is about learning how to live the perfect life, but this article teaches us that faith is about trusting in the perfect life Jesus lived for us. See Ephesians 2:8-10 to learn more.

THE THIRD ARTICLE

THE PICTURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – OUR SUPPLIER AND GUIDE FOR FAITH

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the one who supplies and empowers my faith. This is not something I can do on my own, but something that God does in me. This is the same thing He does for everyone who believes in Jesus.

The Holy Spirit also draws me into the community of faith, the church, to equip me to live faith out in the every day. He continually offers me the forgiveness in Christ I need to strengthen my faith until the last day. When I die, he will ensure that I am raised from the dead to be with Christ Jesus.

CONNECT & REFLECT

1. Think about the picture of God you came in with today. How does this new picture of God compare to that?
2. What about this picture of God do you find confusing?
3. How has this discussion impacted your view of Jesus?

Challenge

This week, read one of the 4 gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Keep in mind that Jesus is God. How does this change your view of God?