

LESSON 09

The Unity and Distinction Within the Trinity

3: The Trinity

Executive Summary

Each Person of the Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — is fully God, co-equal and co-eternal, yet distinct in role and relationship. Scripture repeatedly shows all three Persons active together: at Jesus' baptism, in the Great Commission, and in Paul's benedictions. The three do not act independently — they work in perfect harmony.

Key Terms

Trinity	The one true God eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: one in essence, three in persons.
Co-equal	Possessing the same full divine nature and glory; no Person of the Trinity is less God than another.
Co-eternal	Existing eternally together; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have no beginning and no end.
Distinction	The truth that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not the same Person, though each is fully God.

Key Verses

English Standard Version (ESV)

Matthew 3:16-17

16 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Matthew 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Corinthians 13:14

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

John 1:1,14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Application Questions

1. Who is present and active at Jesus' baptism in Matthew 3:16-17?

2. What does this lesson show is true of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

3. How does the Trinity help you see that God has always existed in perfect love and unity?

4. How can you honor the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in your prayers this week?
