

**Topic:** God

### **Scriptural References**

- Nature:
  - Trinity - Gen 1:1, 26, 27, 1 Tim 2:5-6, Is 43:10, James 2:19
  - Divine Attributes - 1 John 3:20, John 16:30, Job 33:4, Matthew 28:20, John 3:16
- Character: Col 1:17, 2 Cor 4:17, Acts 17:31, 1 John 1:5

### **Biblical Explanation**

There are three persons in one God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Genesis 1:1 states, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." The Old Testament of the Bible was written in another language called Hebrew. In the first chapter of Genesis, the Hebrew translation of the word **God** is actually plural—**Gods**. In verse 1 as well as verses 26 and 27, God refers to Himself in the plural. Yet God also refers to Himself as one God. 1 Timothy 2:5-6 says, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time." God is plural in that God is expressed in three persons, but singular in that He is but one God. This idea can be hard to grasp because we have no perfect earthly example. Some use the concept of water taking on three forms, ice, water, and vapor but this too falls short of capturing the relationship present within the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This plural and singular unity of God is called the Trinity and is unique to the Christian faith.

God is not like us—He has aspects of His being that are not limited like our human abilities are limited. God is omniscient, which means God is all knowing (1 John 3:20, John 16:30). There is nothing that surprises God. God is omnipotent, which means God is all powerful (Job 33:4, Isaiah 64:8). He has the ability to create and sustain all things. God is omnipresent, everywhere at the same time (Matthew 28:20, Psalm 139:7-10). This reality should comfort the believer by knowing that God is with you always, as well as convict the believer because God desires holy living. God is omnibenevolent, all perfect and all good (John 3:16, Romans 15: 30-31). God is the standard, a perfect standard, for the body of Christ to imitate and model ourselves after.

God also reveals who He is through His works and character. God's work is that which He creates, sustains, and expresses from His desire. Some examples of God's work are the earth (Colossians 1:17, Genesis 1:1), the drawing of people to Jesus Christ (John 6:44), and the advancement of an eternal kingdom that will allow the peace in heaven

to be experienced fully on earth (2 Cor 4:17). We also know God through His character, which are ways in which God acts or conducts Himself and how we experience His conduct. God is just (Acts 17:31); He is always right and does what is correct. God is holy (1 John 1:5), set apart from humanity and all creation, a manifestation of purity and majesty so different or "other" than us that we are left in awe, wonder, and reverence. God is gracious (Romans 5:17), meaning He is kind or gives favor to those that are unworthy. God's character is merciful, "forgiving the sinner and withholding the punishment that is justly deserved."<sup>1</sup> This is not an exhaustive list but a glimpse into the character of God so that we might understand and know who God is.

### **Main Points**

- God expresses who He is through His nature, works, and character.
- God is three persons in one God: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
- The three in one concept is known as the Trinity
- The Trinity is unique to Christian doctrine and sets us apart from other religions.
- God displays His nature through being omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, and omni-benevolent.
- God reveals who He is through His works and character.

### **Suggested Questions**

1. What is the Trinity?
2. What makes the Trinity a unique concept to Christianity?
3. How can understanding the Trinity help you distinguish the difference between Christianity and other faiths?
4. How does God being omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscience, or omni-benevolent encourage or give you confidence you in your faith?
5. What is something that God has created that testifies to who He is?
6. How might God's eternal plan encourage someone who is going through a rough season in life?
7. Name an aspect of God's character that you are thankful for.
8. Name an aspect of God's character that you want a neighbor, family member, or friend to experience.

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<sup>1</sup> What is the definition of mercy? <https://www.gotquestions.org/definition-of-mercy.html>

## **Additional Resources**

### ***Sermon***

- Who is God? Ravi Zacharias  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5m-rKMLJpyU>

### ***Song***

- Trey Mclaughlin and SOZ "God Almighty" Miranda Curtis (Cover)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V9znbj-e96s>

### ***Web Articles***

- Divine Omnipresence - Ligonier Ministries  
<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/divine-omnipresence/>
- What Does Christianity Say About the Nature of God? Two Important Truths, J. Warner November 20, 2017  
<https://coldcasechristianity.com/writings/what-does-christianity-say-about-the-nature-of-god/>