



## Chapter Three: God, Three in One

### The Lord's Authority

God's authoritative self-descriptions.

### The Lord's Control

God's acts of power.

### The Lord's Presence

God's inner Triune life.

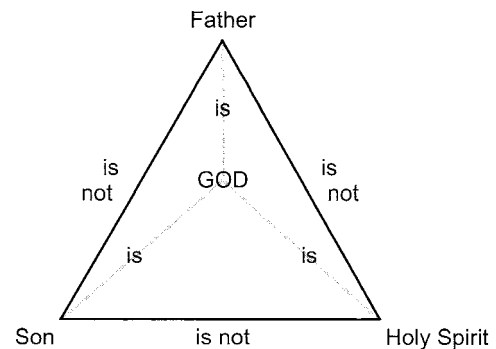
“... a glimpse at the Trinity, which corresponds to the Lordship attribute of divine presence; for the Trinity indicates that even before the world was made, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit were present to one another.”

### God Is One

**Deut 6:4** “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God the Lord is one.”

- Only one ruler of the universe (Isa 45:18).
- Only one Savior (Isa 43:11).
- Only one design for the human race (Rom 3:29-30).

### Each of the Persons Is Distinct from the Others



### God Is Three

**Hints of God's Plurality in the OT** Ps 136:5; 33:6; Gen 31:11-13; Isa 54:1

**A Settled Doctrine in the OT** Mt 28:19; 2Co 13:14

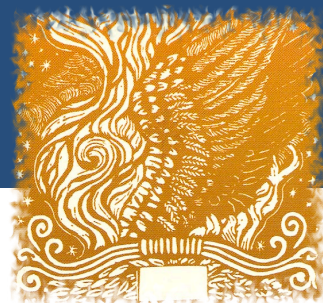
### Not Modalism (Sabellianism)

i.e., not: “Sometimes God is ice, sometimes water, and sometimes vapor.”

### The 3 Persons Relate to One Another in Different Ways

Jesus prays to the Father (Jn 17:17); the Father speaks from heaven while Jesus is on the earth (Mt 3:17); the Father & the Son together send the Spirit into the world, and the Spirit bears witness to Jesus.

### The Three Are God



### The 3 Persons Relate to One Another in Different Ways

- Jesus prays to the Father (Jn 17:17); the Father speaks from heaven while Jesus is on the earth (Mt 3:17); the Father & the Son together send the Spirit into the world, and the Spirit bears witness to Jesus.
- The 3 persons are intimately involved with one another: the Father is in the Son and the Son is in him (Jn 10:38: 14:10-11); both the Father & the Son are in the Spirit and the Spirit in them (Rom 8:9). It's not that the Father *is* the Son, etc., but that the Father is *in* the Son.
- The early church fathers called this *coinherence* (Chas. Williams's favorite term) or *perichoresis* (Gk: "moving/dancing around one another").
- Cash value: when the Spirit comes, Jesus comes with him and in him (Jn 14:18); when Jesus comes, we see the Father in him (Jn 14:9).

### The 3 Persons Relate to Us in Different Ways (see 1Pt 1:2; 2Co 13:14)

- The Father foreknows, foreordains, plans.
- The Son sprinkles, accomplishes & executes the redemptive plan.
- The Spirit sanctifies us and applies the work of Christ to our hearts.

### The Eternal Relations between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

- Substance & Persons: all 3 persons have the same "Godness," but each is distinct
- Ontological & Economic Trinities: the 3 persons are equal, but take on a division of labor with regard to creation and redemption
- The Eternal Generation, or Begetting of the Son ... though the Son of God is eternal and has always been God, nonetheless he has always been Son, and his being derives from his Father
- The Eternal Procession of the Holy Spirit ... though the Spirit is eternal and has always been God, it is somehow appropriate for us to think of him as not a Sender but as one who is Sent.

### Trinitarian Models

- Psychological (Augustine): analogy from the human mind, where there is simultaneously intellect, memory, and will ... trying to explain the oneness of God
- Social (the Cappadocians): analogy from human relationships ... G.K. Chesterton: "God is a society." ... trying to explain the threeness of God.

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## The Trinity & Lordship

### Implications for Worship ...

### Implications for Salvation ...