

**THE TRINITY: A SOLUTION, NOT A PROBLEM – INTRO (VIDEO 4:21)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is the Trinity an essential doctrine of the Christian faith?
2. Why is the deity of Christ an essential doctrine of the Christian faith?
3. In your opinion, what are the essential, close-handed doctrines of Christianity? Why?
4. With your essential list in mind, which cults or world religions deny one or more of these essential Christian doctrines?
5. What are some open-handed, non-essential doctrines of Christianity that are important to you?
6. Why is it important for us to distinguish between the essential and non-essential doctrines of Christianity?
7. Why is it important to ask *what* the Trinity is before seeking to understand *how* the Trinity works?
8. Have you encountered someone who believed the Trinity was a confusing and illogical teaching? What issues did they raise about the Trinity?
9. Read John 15:26 and 2 Corinthians 13:14. How are these verses evidence of the Trinity?
10. In the video, Robby said: “The reason why I am content with not understanding how the Trinity works, and accepting what Scripture says it is, is because of the track record of the God of the Bible.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
11. Why do you trust what the Bible teaches? What evidence have you found that gives the Bible credibility?
12. What are you hoping to learn from this STR U course on the Trinity?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week read “Why Does It Matter if God Is a Trinity?” by Amy Hall:  
<https://www.str.org/w/why-does-it-matter-if-god-is-a-trinity->
- Also read, “Does the Trinity Make Sense?” by Greg Koukl:  
<https://www.str.org/w/does-the-trinity-make-sense>

**THE TRINITY: A SOLUTION, NOT A PROBLEM – WHAT DOES SCRIPTURE SAY? (VIDEO 12:24)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. The word “Trinity” is found nowhere in the Bible. Why is this not a great argument to disprove the concept of the Trinity? What other words are not found in Scripture but are truths of reality?
2. The definition of the Trinity is: Within the one Being that is God exist three distinct, co-equal, and co-eternal persons. Do you believe this definition represents what Scripture teaches? Can you think of any passages in the Bible that may teach something contrary to this?
3. How does the Christian definition of the Trinity differ from the Muslim or Jewish definition of monotheism?
4. Have you ever encountered someone who thought they knew what you believed, but they were mistaken? How did you correct their mistaken view of your beliefs?
5. Read the following passages of Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:35, 32:39; Psalm 86:10; Isaiah 43:10, 45:21-22; Mark 12:29; Romans 3:30; 1 Timothy 2:5; and James 2:19.
  - Which of the three main points of the Trinity are these verses teaching?
  - Is there any vagueness about what is being said in these verses about God’s being?
  - Why is it important to establish that God is one?
6. Read the following passages of Scripture: Romans 14:17-18, 15:16; 1 Corinthians 2:2-5, 6:11, 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 3:16-17, 4:4-6; Colossians 1:6-8; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5; and 2 Thessalonians 2:13.
  - What can we determine about who God is from these passages?
  - Why is it important that there are many passages mentioning all three persons of the Trinity?
  - Do you know of any passages that list four persons as God?
7. Why is the Trinity not polytheism?
8. **Digging Deeper:** Justin Martyr, an apologist in the second century, addressed his work, *Apology, to the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius and his two sons*. *Apology* is a defense of Christianity against false accusations. One of the accusations that Justin argues against is that Christians are atheists. Read chapters 5 and 6 of Justin Martyr’s First Apology: <https://www.newadvent.org/fathers/0126.htm>
  - Why were Christians being accused of being atheists?
  - Which point of the Trinity was Justin defending against the charge of atheism?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week read “What Is the Trinity?” by Tim Barnett: <https://www.str.org/w/what-is-the-trinity->
- Also read “The Trinity is Biblical” by Greg Koukl: <https://www.str.org/w/the-trinity-is-biblical>

**THE TRINITY: A SOLUTION, NOT A PROBLEM – IS THE SON GOD? (VIDEO 15:13)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** (In these questions, we will look at passages of Scripture not mentioned in the STR U video.)

1. Have you had an encounter with a Jehovah's Witness in which they were teaching that Jesus was not God? What did they say? How did you counter what they said?
2. Read John 20:24–29. In what way does Thomas's confession help us establish who the disciples believed Jesus to be? What does Jesus' response to Thomas tell us about who Jesus thought he was?
3. Read John 20:17. Does the fact that Jesus calls God "my God" mean that Jesus cannot be God? Why would Jesus call the Father "my God"?
4. Read Isaiah 9:6. This passage prophesies about the coming Messiah. According to this passage, what is the identity of the Messiah?
  - Read Isaiah 10:20–21. What phrase is used in this passage that is also used in Isaiah 9:6? Who does this phrase refer to in Isaiah 10:20–21? Who is Isaiah equating the Messiah to be?
5. Read Acts 20:28. How does this passage show us that Jesus is God?
6. Read 1 John 5:20. The verse ends by saying, "This is the true God and eternal life." Who is this sentence referring to? Read carefully and look for the antecedent to "This."
  - In another of John's books, he mentions what eternal life is. Read John 17:3. Does this passage help in our understanding of 1 John 5:20?
7. Read John 17:3–5. Does Jesus claim to be God in his prayer to the Father? Why or why not?
8. Read 1 Corinthians 8:4–6. In what ways does this passage promote the deity of Jesus?
9. Of the points that Robby made in the video, which do you think is the strongest argument for Jesus' divinity?
10. Why do so many world religions and cults reject the divinity of Jesus?
11. Why is the deity of Christ important to our salvation?
12. Why is the deity of Christ important to you?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week read "Was Jesus the First Created Being?" by Tim Barnett:  
<https://www.str.org/w/was-jesus-the-first-created-being->
- This week, read through some of the Scripture references from this STR U video. Know with confidence that Jesus is God.  
Matthew 2:2, 2:11, 4:10, 14:33, 28:9; Mark 2:5–12, 14:61–64; John 1:1–3, 5:18, 9:35–38; Acts 7:59–60; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:2–3, 1:6; 2 Peter 1:1; Revelation 1:17–18 (see Isaiah 44:6), 5:11–14

**THE TRINITY: A SOLUTION, NOT A PROBLEM – IS THE HOLY SPIRIT GOD? (VIDEO 12:25)**

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS** (In these questions, we will look at passages of Scripture not mentioned in the STR U video.)

1. Read Acts 10:19–20 and John 16:13–14. How do these passages show the personhood of the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is it important to establish that the Holy Spirit is a person, not a force?
3. Read Acts 8:29, Acts 21:11, and Galatians 4:6. What does the Holy Spirit do in these three passages showing his personhood? Why is it important that this takes place? How does this show that the Holy Spirit is not merely the power of God?
4. Read Acts 20:28. What action do we see the Holy Spirit doing in this verse? How does this denote personhood?
5. Read Romans 5:5. What does the Holy Spirit do in this passage? Why does the Holy Spirit need to be a person in order to do this? Could a force/power do what is said in this passage? Why or why not?
6. Read Matthew 12:31–32, Mark 3:28–29, and Hebrews 10:29. What do these passages say can be done to the Holy Spirit? How does this help us establish that the Holy Spirit is a person and not a force?
7. Read Genesis 1:2 and Job 33:4. How can we establish that the Holy Spirit is God from these passages?
8. Read Acts 28:25–27. How can we establish that the Holy Spirit is God from this passage?
9. Read Titus 3:5. What role does the Holy Spirit play in salvation according to this verse?
10. Which argument that Robby made in the video do you think is the strongest argument for the personhood of the Holy Spirit?
11. Which argument that Robby made in the video do you think is the strongest argument for the deity of the Holy Spirit?
12. In what ways has the Holy Spirit been at work in your life?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week read “Three Common Objections to the Personhood of the Holy Spirit” by Tim Barnett: <https://www.str.org/w/three-common-objections-to-the-personhood-of-the-holy-spirit>
- This week, read through some of the Scripture references from this STR U video. Know with confidence that the Holy Spirit is God.  
1 Samuel 2:2; Nehemiah 9:20; Psalm 139:7–8, 143:10; Isaiah 40:13–14; John 14: 16–17, 15:26; Acts 5:3–5, 13:2; Romans 8:2; 1 Corinthians 2:10–11, 3:16, 12:11; 2 Corinthians 3:17–18; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 9:14; 2 Peter 1:21

**THE TRINITY: A SOLUTION, NOT A PROBLEM – COMMON HERESIES (VIDEO 18:43)****DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What analogies for the Trinity have you heard? Why is it a bad idea to try and use an analogy when explaining the Trinity?
2. What heretical views of God have you come across? What religion or cult did you hear them from?
3. How does Subordinationism go against what Scripture teaches?
4. Which Christian doctrines would be affected if Subordinationism were true? Why would they be affected?
5. What do you think is the best biblical argument against Subordinationism?
6. How does Modalism/Sabellianism go against what Scripture teaches?
7. Which Christian doctrines would be affected if Modalism/Sabellianism were true? Why would they be affected?
8. What do you think is the best biblical argument against Modalism/Sabellianism?
9. How does Tritheism go against what Scripture teaches?
10. Which Christian doctrines would be affected if Tritheism were true? Why would they be affected?
11. What do you think is the best biblical argument against Tritheism?
12. Why is it important to understand that we can know what the Trinity is but not know how the Trinity works?
13. What things from this course impacted you the most?

**ACTION POINTS:**

- This week, listen to the #STRask podcast episode “Can Non-Trinitarians Be Saved”:  
<https://www.str.org/w/-strask-can-non-trinitarians-be-saved->
- Also, read “What Does It Mean That Jesus Is God’s Only Begotten Son?” by Tim Barnett:  
<https://www.str.org/w/what-does-it-mean-that-jesus-is-god-s-only-begotten-son->