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Introduction to the Trinity:

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity holds that God is one God, but three coeternal consubstantial persons or hypostases—the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit—as "one God in three Divine persons".¹

Monotheism

Philosophical: the doctrine or belief that there is only one God.

Practical

Deuteronomy 10.17

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe,

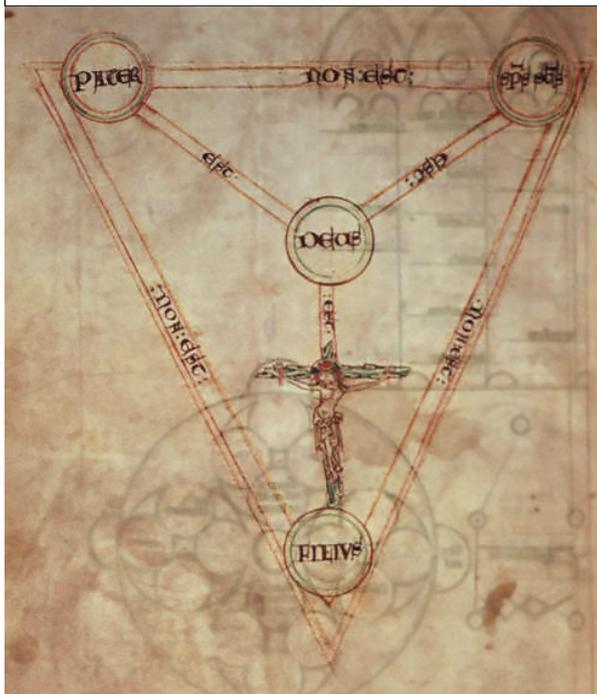
Functional Monotheism: The worship of only one God, whilst allowing for the possibility of others.

Exodus 20.3

you shall have no other gods before me.

The Notebook of William Blake - Folio N105 and N104 N104

This pencil drawing depicts the Holy Trinity. God accepts his son's sacrifice in dying for mankind, while the sketch of Satan is barely visible beneath the clouds.



Detail from Cotton Faustina manuscript B. VII, folio 42v, showing a "Scutum Fidei" or [Shield of the Trinity](#) triangular diagram, with a representation of Christ on the cross.

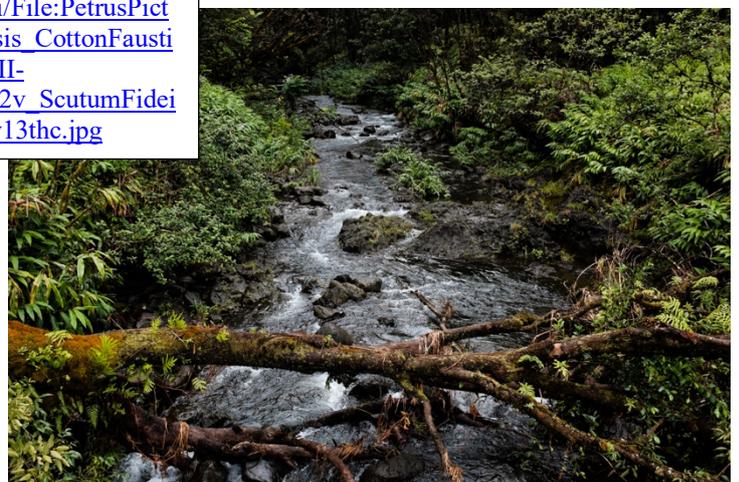
This is part of a ca. 1210 illustration to the *Compendium Historiae in Genealogia Christi*

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:PetrusPictaviensis_CottonFaustinaBVII-folio42v_ScutumFidei_early13thc.jpg

Substance/Accident

Substance: The property independent of an observer.

The Accident: Those attributes that may or may not belong to a subject.²



¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trinity>

² Photo by [Luca Bravo](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The problem with simple monotheism (for Christians)

Jesus = God	Jesus ≠ God
<p>John 1.1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.</p>	<p>Matthew 26.36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, 'Sit here while I go over there and pray.'</p>
<p>Luke 7.48 Then he said to her, 'Your sins are forgiven.'</p>	<p>John 4.7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.</p>
<p>2 Corinthians 12.8-9 Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.'</p>	<p>Mark 15.34 At three o'clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, 'Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?' which means, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'</p>



Be warned:

The Trinity is not biblical, in that there is no clear trinitarian doctrine expressed, and the word is never used, however it is biblical in that the source material from which Trinitarian thinking comes is Biblical.

It looks like the trinity, but it isn't³



Modalism

One God manifested in three ways
unity without distinction

Subordinationism

Father above Son and Spirit
order without equality

Trinitarianism

one being, three persons
*unity and distinction
equality and order*

Panentheism

God becomes God via incarnation
equality w/o order

Tritheism

Three Gods
distinction without unity

Perichoresis

is a term used by some scholars to describe the relationship among the members of the Trinity. According to the theory of *perichoresis*, because the persons of the Trinity "reciprocally contain one another, so that one permanently envelopes and is permanently enveloped by, the other whom he yet envelopes".

Economic and immanent Trinity

The term "immanent Trinity" focuses on who God is; the term "economic Trinity" focuses on what God does.

Trinity and love

Augustine "coupled the doctrine of the Trinity with [anthropology](#). Proceeding from the idea that humans are created by God according to the divine image, he attempted to explain the mystery of the Trinity by uncovering traces of the Trinity in the human personality". The first key of his exegesis is an interpersonal analogy of mutual love.

³ <https://www.scribd.com/doc/149466120/Chart-on-Trinitarian-Christological-Heresies>