**Fresh Start Christianity 101.**

**Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

Trinity means Tri and Unity which roughly translates as three in one (triune)

We first need to understand that there is only one God. Christianity is a monotheistic (one God) belief. We do not worship three different gods.

**Memorize:** “Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One. Deuteronomy 6:4

**Memorize:** “This is the most important,” Jesus answered: Listen, Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is One.  **30**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. Matthew 12:29,30

This is challenging for us to understand, our one God expresses Himself in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity serves a unique role to bring God glory and accomplish His purposes in the world.

A being is "The quality or essence that makes something **what** it is." A person is "The quality or essence that makes someone **who** he is." (*Doctrine of Essence*: Hegel) A being and a person are two different things. What and who is not the same. So God is a being which makes Him distinctly different from His three persons. God's one being and has three persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

*If God was small enough for my brain to fully understand, He wouldn’t be big enough to save me!” – Keith Ferren*

We cannot think of the Holy Trinity as a sum of three parts (1 + 1 + 1 = 3), but instead, show how each part multiplies the others to form a wonderful whole (1 x 1 x 1 = 1).

*Just a few passages of Scripture that point to a triune God:*

Then God said, “Let Us make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness. They will rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the livestock, all the earth, and the creatures that crawlon the earth.” Genesis 1:26

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

2 Corinthians 13:13

**The 1-Sentence Definition**

*The Trinity is the foundational Christian belief that God is one Being who exists in three Persons.*

Why is the belief in the Trinity so important?

1. It allows us to better know and understand who we worship
2. It helps us to recognize Jesus’ ministry and purpose on earth
3. It gives us a full understanding of the power of the Holy Spirit
4. It is essential to our salvation

This is the message of faith that we proclaim: **9**If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. **10**One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. Romans 10:9,10

More Scripture for support and research: Hebrews 11:1, 3, 6 and 1 Corinthians 2:5-10, 14; 13:12, Matthew 28:19; John 10:30, 14:26; 2 Corinthians 13:13; John 10:25,30.

Videos to explore: <https://youtu.be/eAvYmE2YYIU>

<https://youtu.be/eAvYmE2YYIU> How we experience the Trinity

<https://youtu.be/0HMryr1ZlxQ> Three minute Theology: the Trinity