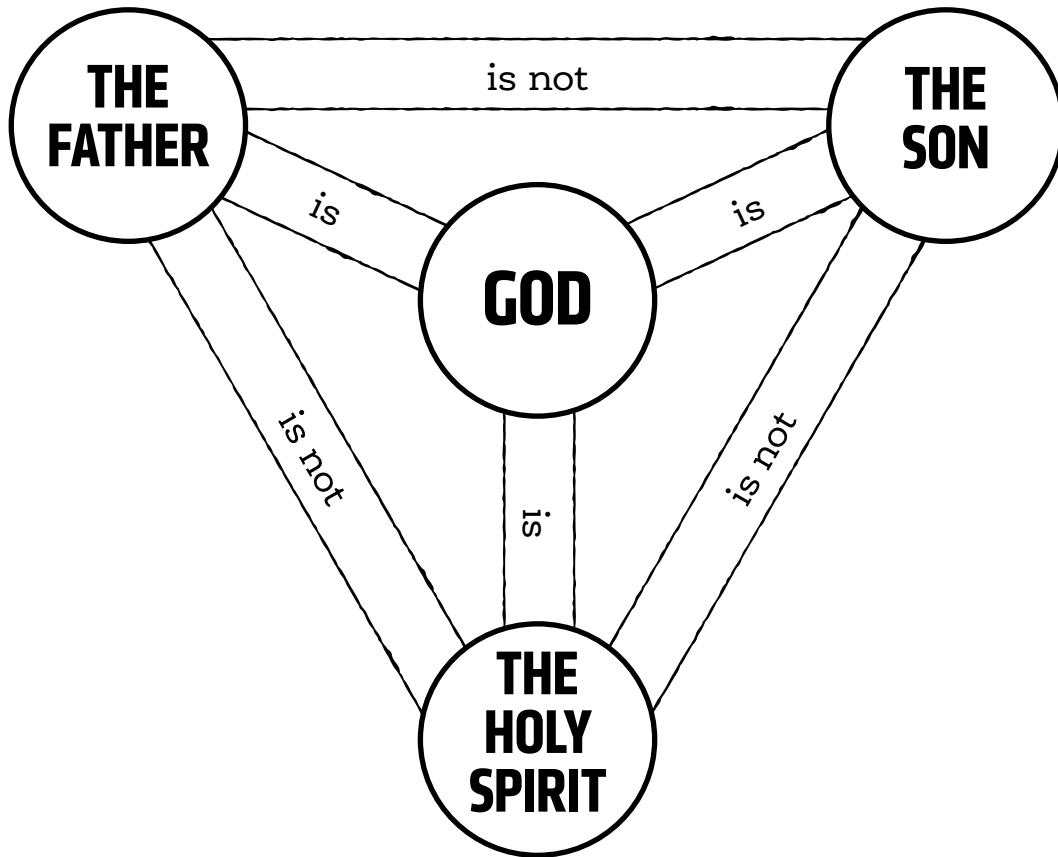




THE TRINITY



GOD IS ONE

- The Bible affirms that God is one, as seen in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, otherwise known as the Shema. In both Old and New Testament times, the advocacy of monotheism (belief in one God) was contrary to the surrounding culture. Where most cultures practiced polytheism (belief in multiple gods) or henotheism (the worship of one god with the belief in multiple gods), the people of God knew, based upon God's self-revelation, that the Lord is the only one true God.

GOD IS ONE IN THREE PERSONS

- While the Bible affirms that God is one (Mark 12:29; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6), it also affirms that God exists as three Persons—Father, Son, and Spirit. Each Person of the Trinity is fully divine—the Father is God (John 6:27), the Son is God (Philippians 2), the Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4)—and each Person is distinct from the others (Matthew 11:27; John 10:29-30; 14:16-17). This perfect unity within the three Persons of the Trinity is a first-order doctrine; departing from it is to abandon orthodox Christianity.
- See also: Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 1:26-37; John 1:1,18; 14:1-26; 15:26.

ITEM 9

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