



## 1 John 5:7-8

<sup>7</sup>For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

<sup>8</sup>And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

Jesus is fully God, just as the Father and Holy Spirit are fully God.

### 1. DISTINGUISH BETWEEN TWO DOCTRINES:

Modalism	Trinitarianism
One person who manifests in three modes	One God in three distinct persons
Denies distinct personhood of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	Affirms distinct personhood of each
God exists in different forms at different times	All three persons coexist eternally
One essence shared among the modes	One essence shared among the distinct persons
Emerged in the 2nd-3rd century, often seen as heretical Primarily merged as early Christianity began to clarify between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit	Established doctrine affirmed by early church councils 325 Nicaea 301 Constantinople
Teachings of Primarily a priest name Sabellius, Third-century priest and theologian who taught that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three modes or manifestations of one indivisible God rather than three distinct persons. He was excommunicated as a heretic in AD 220 by Pope Callixtus I.	Trinity was formally articulated in response to heresies like Arianism, (teaches Jesus was created by God and is distinct from Him, rejecting the traditional notion of the Trinity.) particularly through the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, which affirmed the co-equality of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### 2. JESUS, SON OF GOD - GOD'S SON - SON OF MAN

- **Son of God refers to Jesus Christ in Christianity. Indicating HIS DIVINE NATURE and HIS ASSIGNMENT AS Messiah.**
- **It is a title and signifies Jesus is of the same essence as God.**
- When Christians say Jesus is God, they are making a statement about His nature, not collapsing Him into the person of the Father.
- The phrase "Son of God" must be read within its ancient context. In the biblical world, sonship communicated shared nature and authorized representation.
- Suggest divinity and intimate connection with the Father

- **God's Son-** The term, Son of God should not be confused with God the Son, which refers to the second person of the Trinity while the Son of God emphasizes Jesus' relationship with the Father. While "Son of God" emphasizes Jesus' relationship with the Father, "God the Son" highlights his divine nature within the Trinity
- **Son of Man**
  - By calling Himself the Son of Man, Jesus showed that He truly shared in the human condition. He was born of a woman, experienced hunger, thirst, weariness, sorrow, and even **death**.
  - The title therefore emphasizes that Jesus is not detached from human struggles but fully entered into them.
  - Yet the Son of Man is not just about **humility**. Jesus also used the title in reference to His authority and future return. **Matthew 24:30** says, "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the **earth** will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory." Thus, the Son of Man encompasses both suffering and exaltation. It reminds us that Jesus was truly human, yet He is also the messianic figure who will rule with everlasting dominion.

### 3. DEFINE BEGOTTEN

- Means only one of its kind within a specific relationship
  - Hebrews 11:17
- Means only one of its kind or class unique in kind
  - John 3:16
  - John 1:14, 3:18
  - 1 John 4:9

### 4. DEFINE PERSONS

#### Definition of Person in the Trinity

In the context of the Trinity, **a person refers to a distinct bearer of the divine essence**. The three persons of the Trinity are:

- God the Father
- God the Son (Jesus Christ)
- God the Holy Spirit

Each of these persons is co-equal and co-eternal, meaning they exist together in unity without hierarchy. They share the same divine nature but are unique in their modes of existence.

#### Key Characteristics of Divine Persons

Characteristic	Divine Persons	Human Persons
Essence	One divine essence	Individual human essence
Distinctiveness	Three distinct persons	Each human is a unique individual
Eternity	Co-eternal existence	Temporal existence
Relationship	Interpersonal relationships	Interpersonal relationships

## 5. DEFINE FULLY DIVINE, COETERNAL, CONSUBSTANTIAL, COEQUAL/INTEGRAL

Belief	Description
FULLY DIVINE	Jesus is fully divine, <u>sharing the same essence as God the Father and the Holy Spirit.</u>
COETERNAL	Jesus is coeternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit, meaning <b>He has always existed.</b>
CONSUBSTANTIAL- CO-EXISTENCE	Jesus is consubstantial with the Father and the Holy Spirit, indicating that <b>all three are of one substance. Exist in the same substance. Share same nature. Exist simultaneous as three distinct yet they share the same essence. Unity without division. Existing at the same time.</b>
INTEGRAL TO THE TRINITY- CO-EQUAL	<b>Jesus is not a lesser being;</b> His divinity is essential to the Christian understanding of the Trinity.

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