



**A Succinct Definition:** Within the one Being that is God, there exists eternally three coequal and coeternal persons, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

#### **Foundations of the Trinity**

Foundation 1: Monotheism – there is only one God

Foundation 2: There are three Divine Persons

Foundation 3: The Persons are coequal and coeternal

To deny the first foundation leads to what is called tri-theism (i.e. the belief in three gods). To deny the second foundation leads to what is called modalism (i.e. the belief that God manifests Himself in three different modes or characters at different times; sometimes He is Father, sometimes He is Son, sometimes He is Holy Spirit). To deny the third foundation leads to subordinationism (i.e. the Son and Spirit are inferior in nature or being to the Father).

#### **Recommended Resources**

*Father, Son, Holy Spirit: Relationships, Roles & Relevance* (by Bruce Ware)

*The Forgotten Trinity: Recovering the Heart of Christian Belief* (by James R. White)

Audio: MP3 files from Monergism.com

[http://www.monergism.com/directory/link\\_category/MP3-Audio--Multimedia/God-in-Three-Persons/Trinity/](http://www.monergism.com/directory/link_category/MP3-Audio--Multimedia/God-in-Three-Persons/Trinity/)

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<sup>1</sup> This definition and the following foundations are taken from James White's book, *The Forgotten Trinity*, pp. 26, 28.