The Trinity Is Not Three Gods

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Muslims rightly insist that God is one. So do Christians. The Bible's foundational confession is "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" (Deuteronomy 6:4). Christians reject the worship of three gods as firmly as any Muslim. So why do many Muslims believe Christians worship three gods?

1. What the Quran describes

> **Quran 5:116** "And [beware the Day] when Allāh will say, "O Jesus, Son of Mary, did you say to the people, 'Take me and my mother as deities besides Allāh?'""

> **Quran 5:73** "They have certainly disbelieved who say, "Allāh is the third of three." And there is no god except one God."

These verses seem to picture a family of gods: Allah, Jesus, and Mary. But no Christian creed has ever taught that Mary is part of the Trinity, and Christians do not say God is "the third of three" gods. Christians agree with the Quran that such a belief would be false. What the Quran rejects is not what the Bible teaches.

Quran 5:75 adds that Jesus and Mary "both used to eat food," as if to prove neither is divine. Christians agree that Mary was an ordinary human being. Jesus did eat, because the eternal Son truly became a man without ceasing to be God.

2. What the Bible actually teaches

The Trinity means there is one God, eternally existing as three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Not three gods, and not one Person wearing three masks. One in essence, three in Person.

> **Isaiah 45:5** "I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me."

Yet the same Bible calls the Father God, the Son God (John 1:1; John 20:28), and the Holy Spirit God:

> **Acts 5:3 and 4** "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit ... You have not lied to men but to God."

At Jesus' baptism all three appear at once: the Son in the water, the Spirit descending like a dove, and the Father speaking from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:10 and 11). Jesus commanded His followers to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). Notice: one name, three Persons.

> **2 Corinthians 13:14** "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen."

3. Is this too hard to understand?

God is greater than our minds. Muslims themselves affirm that Allah is unlike anything in creation. It should not surprise us that the infinite God's inner life is beyond full comprehension. The question is not whether we can fully explain God, but what God has revealed about Himself.

The Trinity also explains how God can be love from eternity. Before creation, the Father loved the Son and the Son loved the Father in the Spirit (John 17:24). Love needs someone to love. A God who is one in three Persons has always been love (1 John 4:8).

> **A helpful question:** “If the Quran says Christians believe in Allah, Jesus, and Mary as three gods, but no Christian believes that, which Trinity is the Quran actually rejecting?”

An invitation

We share this because we care about you. The Injil you are told to honor announces good news: God Himself has made a way for sinners to be forgiven. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Read the Gospel of John for yourself, and ask the God of Abraham to show you the truth about Jesus.