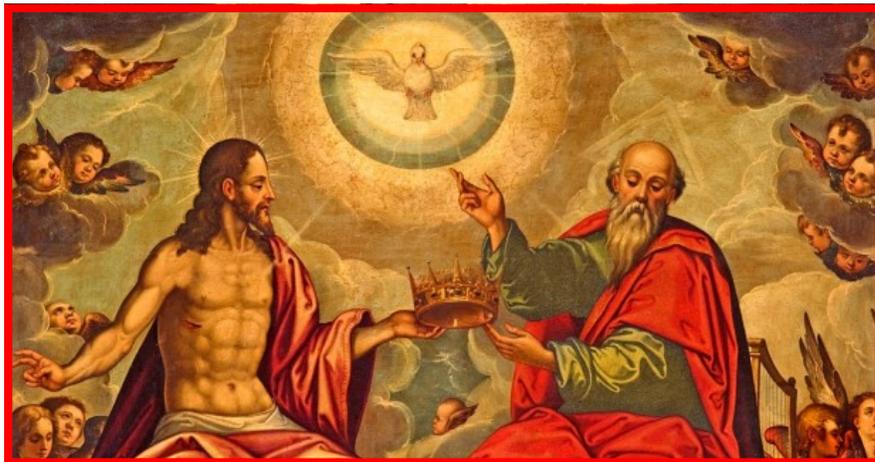


**Looking for Answers –
Explore What The Catholic Church Really Teaches –
Part 2**



Question:

Why do Catholics believe that God is three Persons, called the Holy Trinity? How can God be three Persons and still be one God?



Answer:

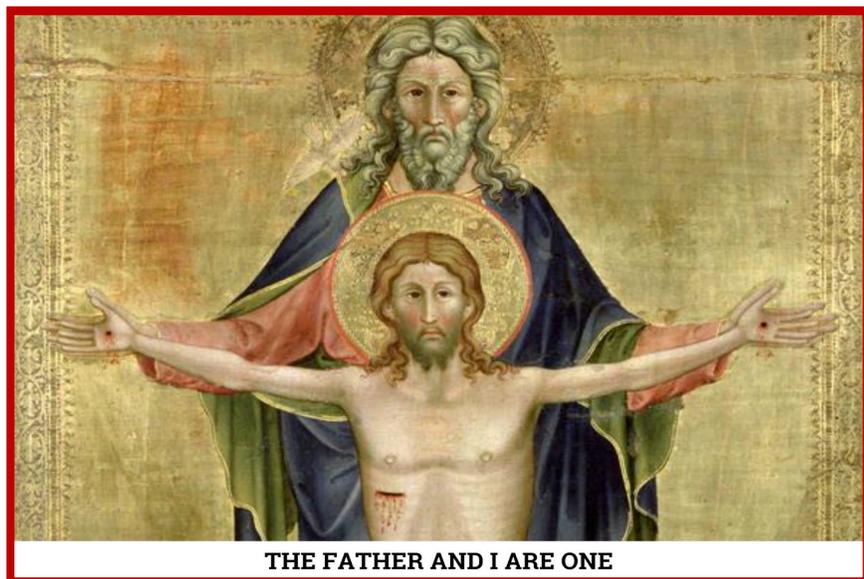
Catholics believe there is one God consisting of three distinct and equal divine Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – because on numerous occasions God has described Himself thus. The Old Testament gives indications that there is more than one Person in God.

While he was engaged in writing on the dogma of the Trinity, St. Augustine was one day walking by the seashore meditating on the mystery. Suddenly he saw before him a Child who was pouring water from the sea into a small hole he had dug in the sand. St. Augustine asked him what he was doing. "I am trying to empty the sea into this little hole." "But that is impossible," the Saint replied. "It is no more impossible," the Child retorted, "than it is for you to understand or explain the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity," and with these words, He disappeared.

In Genesis 1:26, God says, *Let Us make man to Our image and likeness*. In Isaiah 9:6 – 7, God the Father revealed the imminent coming into the world of God the Son. In Psalm 2:7, we read, *The Lord hath said to Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten thee*.

In the New Testament, God reveals this doctrine even more clearly. For example, at the baptism of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove, and the voice of God the Father was heard: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased*. (St. Matthew 3:16 – 17). In St. Matthew 28:19, God the Son commanded the Apostles to baptize *in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost*: and in 1 Corinthians 12:4 – 6, the Bible refers to God with three names: Spirit, Lord, and God – corresponding to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Three divine Persons in one Godhead may be incomprehensible to the human mind, but that is to be expected. How can man fully comprehend God's infinite makeup when he cannot fully comprehend his own finite makeup? We have to take God's word for it. Also, we can satisfy ourselves as to the feasibility of God's triune make-up by considering various other triune realities. The triangle, for example, is one distinct form with three distinct and equal sides. And the clover leaf is one leaf with three distinct and equal petals. There are many physical trinities on earth, therefore a Spiritual Trinity, Who is God in Heaven, is not against human reason – it is simply *above* human reason.



Question 3:

Why do Catholics believe that Jesus Christ was God the Son – the Second Person of the Holy Trinity? Would it not be more reasonable to believe that He was a great and holy man – a religious leader of exceptional talent and dedication... a prophet?

Answer:

Catholics believe that Jesus was God the Son, incarnate in human flesh, first, because God's physical manifestation on earth, plus all the circumstances of that manifestation, were prophesied time and again in Divine Revelation, and Jesus fulfilled that prophecy right to the letter; second, because He claimed that He was God (St. John 10:30, 14:9 – 10 and numerous other passages), and He never deceived anyone; third, because He proved His Divinity by His impeccable holiness and the flawless perfection of His doctrine; fourth, because only God could have performed the miracles He performed – miracles such as walking on the sea, feeding 5000 people with five loaves of bread and two fishes, and, after His death on the Cross, resurrecting Himself from His own tomb; fifth, because only God could have, in the brief space of three years, without military conquest, without political power, without writing a single line or traveling more than a few score miles, so profoundly affected the course of human events; sixth, because only God can instill in the soul of man the grace and the peace and the assurance of eternal salvation that Jesus instills.