The Trinity
Class 5: God Communicating

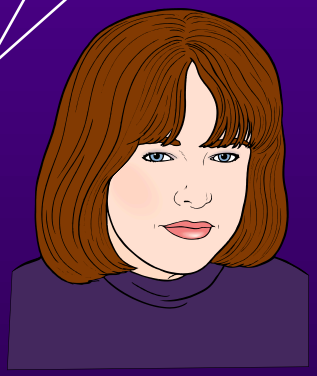
Vern S. Poythress
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Does the Bible Give a True Picture?

How do I know that the Bible is giving me the right picture of the Trinity?



God himself gives us analogies that he established.



Holy, Holy, Holy

1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, Holy, Holy

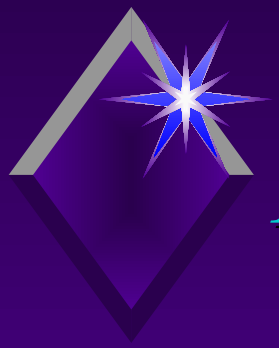
2

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,

casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,

who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.



Holy, Holy, Holy

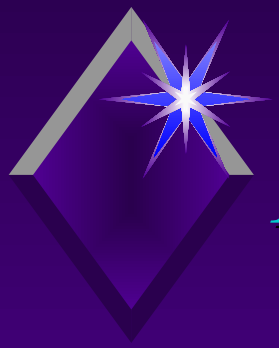
3

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,

though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,

only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,

perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.



Holy, Holy, Holy

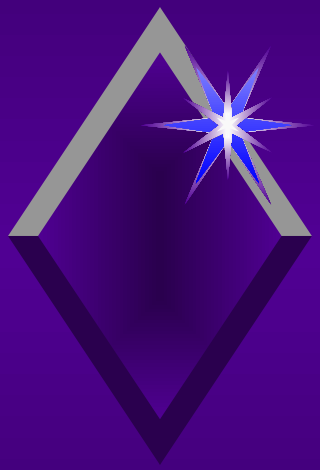
4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in earth, and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!



A. Application

Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.



Core Issue

Does God Show Us
Who He Really Is?

Does God in the Bible
Tell Us Who He Really Is?



Important for You

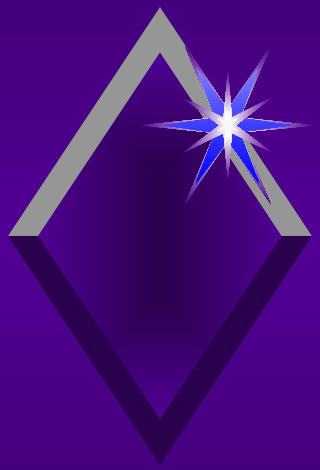
You need solidity
for times of trouble.
Can you trust God in the dark?

Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God. – Isa. 50:10

Important for Your Loved Ones

They need solidity
for times of trouble.
Can they trust God in the dark?

Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on his God. – Isa. 50:10

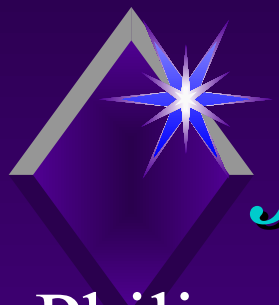


B. Christ Shows Us God



We Absolutely Need to Know God

And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. – John 17:3



Jesus Christ Shows Us God

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.” – John 14:8-11



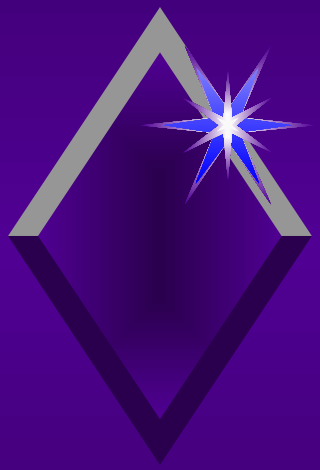
Jesus Christ Is the Way (1)

All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. – Matt. 11:27



Jesus Christ Is the Way (2)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” – John 14:6-7

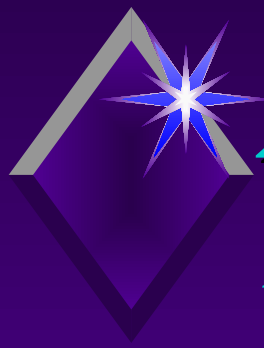


C. The Bible is Trustworthy



1. God is Trustworthy (John 3:33)

Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true.



2. The Bible Is God's Word (2 Tim. 3:16)

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,



3. The Bible Is True (John 17:17)

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.



4. Confirmation (Ps. 19:9-10)

the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

4. Confirmation (Ps. 12:6)

The words of the LORD are pure words,
like silver refined in a furnace on the ground,
purified seven times.

5. Jesus Endorses (John 10:34-36)

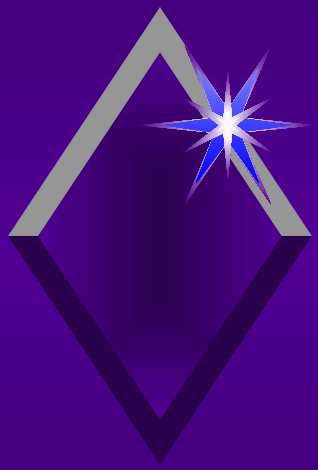
Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken—do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?”

5. Jesus Endorses (Matt. 4:3-4)

And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

" 'Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by <u>every word</u> that comes from
the mouth of God.' "

- Quoted from Deut. 8:3!



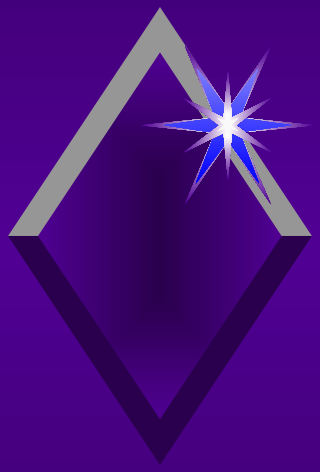
D. Basic Truths concerning Analogies



God Communicates to Us

How do we know God truly?

- God is analogous to created reflections of himself
- Analogy with communication
- Analogy with a family
- Analogy with reflections



E. Biblical Support



The Analogy with Communication (John 1:1-2)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

The Analogy with Communication

In the beginning was the Word (John 1:1)

First Person	Second Person	Third Person
◆ Speaker ◆ Human speaker	◆ Word ◆ Human message	◆ Breath ◆ Human breath
God to us		
God speaking to us	A message in language	Carried by a medium

The Analogy with a Family (John 3:34-35)

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

The Analogy with a Family

The Father loves the Son (John 3:35)

First Person	Second Person	Third Person
◆ Father	◆ Son	◆ Love
◆ Human father	◆ Human son	◆ Human love
God to us		
God adopting us	We being sons	Bond of love

The Analogy with Reflections (Heb. 1:3)

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

The Analogy with Reflections

He is the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15)

First Person	Second Person	Third Person
◆ Original ◆ Created original	◆ Image ◆ Its image	◆ Glory ◆ Common pattern
God to us		
God making man in his image	We being in his image	Imaging relation

The Analogy with Reflections: In Renewal (Eph. 4:21-24)

... you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

The Analogy with Reflections

created after the likeness of God (Eph. 4:24)

First Person	Second Person	Third Person
◆ Absolute Original	◆ Image	◆ Glory
◆ Created original	◆ Its image	◆ Common pattern
God to us		
God renewing you in his image	You in his image	Imaging relation

Summary (1): Col. 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, ...

The Original → generates → The Image

When? The Eternal Reflection

Summary (2)

The Original → generates → The Image

When? The Eternal Reflection

generates

The Original, God → generates → Man, Earthy Image

When? During Creation

Summary (2):Foundation

The Original → generates → The Image

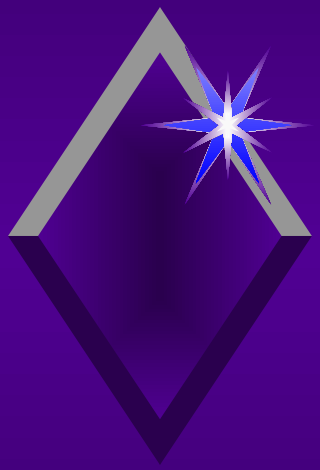
When? The Eternal Reflection

God is Absolute,
The Ultimate Foundation
for the World He Made

God is Absolute,
The Ultimate Foundation
for Your Knowledge

Summary (3)

- God is God, the Absolute Origin
- God reflects himself perfectly in his perfect image, the Son.
- God shows who he really is.
- What he shows reflects who he is.
- God reflects himself truly in patterns in the created world.
- God reflects himself truly in establishing communion with us: speaking, loving, and conforming us to his image (2 Cor. 3:18).
- God speaks the truth about himself in the Bible.



F. Applications

You Are Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

4 But when the fullness of time had
come, God sent forth his Son, born of
woman, born under the law, 5 to
redeem those who were under the law,
so that we might receive adoption as
sons. 6 And because you are sons, God
has sent the Spirit of his Son into our
hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.

Action Plan of God for a Rock



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- The Father planned this rock
- The Son specified this rock
- The Spirit breathed this rock

You Hear God: John 17:8

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

- John 1:1; 15:26; 16:12-15; Heb. 1:1-2.

You Reflect God: 2 Cor. 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and
where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is
freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled
face, beholding the glory of the Lord,
are being transformed into the same
image from one degree of glory to
another. For this comes from the Lord
who is the Spirit.

- Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Lev. 19:2; Matt. 5:13-17

You Have New Life: Rom. 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- Rom. 6:3-11; Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:20; 3:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-5

You Pray: Rom. 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5

You Pray: Rom. 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5

You Are Being Saved: Gal. 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

You Are Indwelt: Rom. 8:9-10

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

- John 14:23; 17:21-23; 1 Cor. 6:19.

You Are Under Care: Eph. 1:22

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

- Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 13:20-21; John 10:14-18.

You Serve: Eph. 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Eph. 4:10-13; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 3:10-13.

God Sustains You: Heb. 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

- 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 1:18.