

Systematics Theology Chapter 14 (D)

The Importance of the Trinity

Pages 291-301

1. Why is the doctrine of the Trinity essential for the doctrine of **the Atonement**? Why did the Savior need to be truly divine?
2. How would the doctrine of **justification by faith alone** be threatened if we denied the Trinity?
3. How are the teachings of Scripture about **prayer** and the **Trinity** related? What role do the three persons each have in our praying?
4. If each member of the Trinity is fully God, and each person fully shares in all the attributes of God, then is there any difference at all among the persons?

5. What is meant by the economic Trinity? Why do we distinguish between the immanent (or the ontological) Trinity and the economic Trinity? What does the word “economic” mean in this context?

6. The Economic Trinity is the way the three persons act as they relate to the world. Fill in the function of each person in creation and redemption.

	The Father	The Son	The Holy Spirit
In Creation			
In Redemption			

7. Why is it important that we affirm that the three persons are equal in glory while also saying that within the economic Trinity there is a functional hierarchy in the work of creation and salvation?

8. What does the word “monogenes” mean? Why is it an important word? What does it communicate about the Father and the Son?

## English Standard Version

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:18** No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

**John 3:18** Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

**1 John 4:9** In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.

## New King James Version

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

**John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

**John 3:16** 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 3:18** He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

**1 John 4:9** In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.

9. Wayne Grudem earlier thought that the word “monogenes” should have been translated as “only” rather than “only begotten”. He later realized that he was wrong. Why must Christians hold to the phrase, “only begotten Son of God”?

10. What is meant by the eternal generation of the Son? Where is it taught in Scripture?

11. What heresy would we fall into if we were to deny the eternal generation of the Son?

12. What is generation? What does it mean that the Father begets the Son?

13. Why have Christians thought it important to teach “eternal” generation”?