

The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our faith in God. This doctrine is central because it defines the One we believe in. Our God is three Persons in one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. “Central” also means having basic, essential, or principal importance. It means having a dominant or controlling power or influence. Our belief in the Holy Trinity is central to our faith.

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity is central to our faith, but it is not easy to grasp. In fact, we will never be able to fully comprehend our God on this side of eternity.

It took the Church nearly 300 years to complete the wording of Trinitarian orthodoxy, producing the Nicene Creed that we recite at every Sunday Mass. Still, most pastors would prefer to preach on any other subject than the Trinity! How do you explain the unexplainable? Perhaps we should follow the example of Brother Elric, a 12th century monk, who, after badly botching a sermon on the Holy Trinity, took a vow of silence for the rest of his life!

While full comprehension may elude us, there is much in the Word of God that we can grasp concerning the Holy Trinity. Many times in the gospels Jesus refers to God as the “Father.” Jesus also promised to send the Holy Spirit upon the apostles. And, in the Great Commission, Jesus commanded his disciples: “*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” Matt.28:19

Now, because the difficulty to explain, some say “Does it really matter? Does accepting or not accepting the tri-unity of God really matter?” St. Augustine, one of the greatest and earliest theologians of the Christian faith, said this: “Anyone who denies the Trinity is in danger of losing their salvation, and anyone who tries to understand it is in danger of losing their mind.”

It does matter. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ the doctrine of the Trinity is central to your faith. The Holy Trinity is a perfect relationship. There is a perfect communion between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And, God desires each of us to fully experience His perfect relationship and communion.

God the Father loved us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to save us from our sin and death, and to bridge the gap between God and us. Jesus, the Son, fulfilled His mission on earth giving the perfect sacrifice to the Father—His entire self—for our salvation. The Holy Spirit enables and empowers us to live a Christian life, that is, to live like Jesus.

The Holy Trinity is the central doctrine of our Christian faith. Because it is central, we cannot move it to the fringe of our faith.