

# About.com : Christianity

## Faith Groups that Reject the Trinity Doctrine

From Mary Fairchild,  
Your Guide to Christianity.  
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### A Brief Explanation of Religions that Deny the Doctrine of the Trinity

The doctrine of the Trinity is central to most Christian denominations and faith groups, although not all. The term "Trinity" is not found in the Bible and is a concept of Christianity that is not easy to grasp or explain. Yet most conservative, evangelical Bible scholars agree that the Trinity doctrine is clearly expressed within Scripture.

- More about the Trinity.

### Faith Groups that Reject the Trinity

The following faith groups and religions are among those that reject the doctrine of the Trinity. The list is not exhaustive but encompasses several of the major groups and religious movements. Included is a brief explanation of each group's beliefs about the nature of God, revealing a deviation from the doctrine of the Trinity.

For comparison purposes, the biblical Trinity doctrine is defined as follows: "There is only one God, made up of three distinct Persons who exist in co-equal, co-eternal communion as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

#### Mormonism - Latter-day Saints

Founded By: Joseph Smith, Jr., 1830.

Mormons believe that God was once a man, but became God. He has a physical, flesh and bones, eternal, perfect body. Men have the potential to become gods as well. Jesus is God's literal son, a separate being from God the Father and the "elder brother" of men. The Holy Spirit is also a separate being from God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit is regarded as an impersonal power or spirit being. These three separate beings are "one" only in their purpose, and they make up the Godhead.

#### Jehovah's Witnesses

Founded By: Charles Taze Russell, 1879. Succeeded by Joseph F. Rutherford, 1917.

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that God is one person, Jehovah. Jesus was Jehovah's first creation. Jesus is not God, nor part of the Godhead. He is higher than the angels, but inferior to God. Jehovah used Jesus to create the rest of the universe. Before Jesus came to earth he was known as the archangel Michael. The Holy Spirit is an impersonal force from Jehovah, but not God.

#### Christian Science

Founded By: Mary Baker Eddy, 1875.

Christian Scientists believe God is life, truth and love. As an impersonal principle, God is the only thing that truly exists. Everything else (matter) is an illusion. Jesus, though not God, is the Son of God. He was not the Christ, but rather, the Christ idea or the conceptual idea of God. The Holy Spirit is the teachings of Christian Science.

#### Armstrongism

(Philadelphia Church of God, Global Church of God, United Church of God)

Founded By: Herbert W. Armstrong, 1934.

Traditional Armstrongism denies a Trinity, defining God as "a family of individuals." Original teachings say Jesus did not have a physical resurrection and the Holy Spirit is an impersonal force.

### Christadelphians

Founded By: John Thomas, 1864.

Christadelphians believe God is one indivisible unity, not three distinct persons existing in one God. They deny the divinity of Jesus, believing he is fully human and separate from God. They do not believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity, but simply a force—the "unseen power" from God.

### Oneness Pentecostals

Founded By: Frank Ewart, 1913.

Oneness Pentecostals believe that there is one God and God is one. Throughout time God manifested himself in three ways (not persons), as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### Unification Church

Founded By: Sun Myung Moon, 1954.

Unification adherents believe that God is positive and negative, male and female. The universe is God's body, made by him. Jesus was not God, but a man. He did not experience a physical resurrection. In fact, his mission on earth failed and will be fulfilled through Sun Myung Moon, who is greater than Jesus. The Holy Spirit is feminine in nature. She collaborates with Jesus in the spirit realm to draw people to Sun Myung Moon.

### Unity School of Christianity

Founded By: Charles and Myrtle Fillmore, 1889.

Similar to Christian Science, Unity adherents believe God is an unseen, impersonal principle, not a person. God is a force within everyone and everything. Jesus was only a man, not the Christ. He simply realized his spiritual identity as the Christ by practicing his potential for perfection. This is something all men can achieve. Jesus did not resurrect from the dead, but rather, he reincarnated. The Holy Spirit is the active expression of God's law. Only the spirit part of us is real, matter is not real.

### Scientology - Dianetics

Founded By: L. Ron Hubbard, 1954.

Scientology defines God as Dynamic Infinity. Jesus is not God, Savior or Creator, nor does he have control of supernatural powers. He is usually overlooked in Dianetics. The Holy Spirit is absent from this belief system as well. Men are "thetan" - immortal, spiritual beings with limitless capabilities and powers, though often they are unaware of this potential. Scientology teaches men how to achieve "higher states of awareness and ability" through practicing Dianetics.

### Sources:

- *Cults, World Religions and the Occult* by Kenneth Boa
- *Christianity, Cults & Religions (Chart)* by Rose Publishing
- ReligiousTolerance.org
- Religious Movements
- Christian Apologetics & Research Ministry

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## "Trinity"

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**Definition:** The word "Trinity" comes from the Latin noun "trinitas" meaning "three are one." "Trinity" expresses the belief that God is one Being made up of three distinct Persons who exist in co-equal, co-eternal communion as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The doctrine or concept of the Trinity is central to most Christian denominations and faith groups, although not all. Among churches that reject the doctrine of the Trinity are The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, Christian Scientists, Christian Unitarians, the Unification Church, the Christadelphians, and Oneness Pentecostals, as well as others.

- [More about Faith Groups that Reject the Trinity.](#)

Although the term "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, most Bible scholars agree that its meaning is clearly expressed. These are some of the verses expressing the concept of the Trinity - [Matthew 3:16-17](#), [Matthew 28:19](#), [John 14:16-17](#), [2 Corinthians 13:14](#), [Acts 2:32-33](#), [John 10:30](#), [John 17:11&21](#). For an in-depth study of the Trinity doctrine visit [GotQuestions.org](#) on [What Does the Bible Teach About the Trinity?](#)

### See Symbols of the Trinity:

- [Trinity \(Borromean Rings\)](#)
- [Trinity \(Triquetra\)](#)

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