

**The Trinity**  
The Belgic Confession, Article 9

**1. Introduction: One God, Three Persons**

**2. God is One.**

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. (Deuteronomy 6:4)

**3. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each God.**

He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.' (Psalm 89:26)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (Hebrews 9:14)

**4. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons.**

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased. (Luke 3:21-22)

**5. The New Testament repeatedly uses a Trinitarian formula to refer to God.**

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14)

**6. In the light of the resurrection of Jesus as Israel's Messiah, the Old Testament Scriptures provide shadows and glimmers of the Trinity.**

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. (Genesis 1:26)

And the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. (Genesis 18:1-3)

**7. The doctrine of the Trinity is a natural development of the way God revealed himself to Israel, fulfilled in Jesus and the sending of the Spirit.**

Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, " 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ? If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" (Matthew 22:41-45)

**8. The doctrine of the Trinity is a central part of our catholicity as a Christian church.**

Article 9 concludes: "This doctrine of the Holy Trinity has always been affirmed and maintained by the true Church since the time of the apostles to this very day against the Jews, Mohammedans, and some false Christians and heretics, as Marcion, Manes, Praxeas, Sabellius, Samosatenus, Arius, and such like, who have been justly condemned by the orthodox fathers. Therefore, in this point, we do willingly receive the three creeds, namely, that of the Apostles, of Nicea, and of Athanasius; likewise that which, conformable thereunto, is agreed upon by the ancient fathers."