

We believe..

GOD IS TRIUNE

(RELATIONSHIP WITHOUT REMAINDER)

29 MAY 2022

CHRISTIES BEACH BAPTIST CHURCH

DR STEPHEN SPENCE

in the beginning

God



Created the heavens and the earth

All things

Everything from A to Z:

Space and Time

Material and Spiritual

Matter and What Matters

in the beginning

God

**no where
not spirit**

**no when
not something**



Created before space and time

All things

the unknowable God must self-reveal

the God who Acts

the God who Speaks

the God who Engages

God reveals God's-self

One God

Father

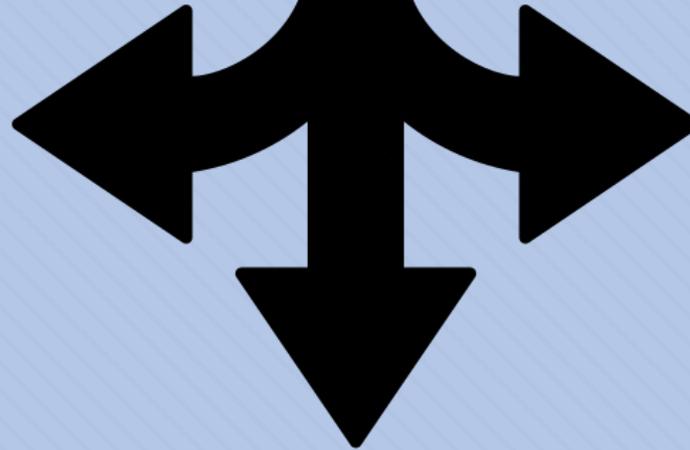
Son

Spirit



Created

All things



We believe

CBBC

We believe in one God, the **Father**, the Almighty...

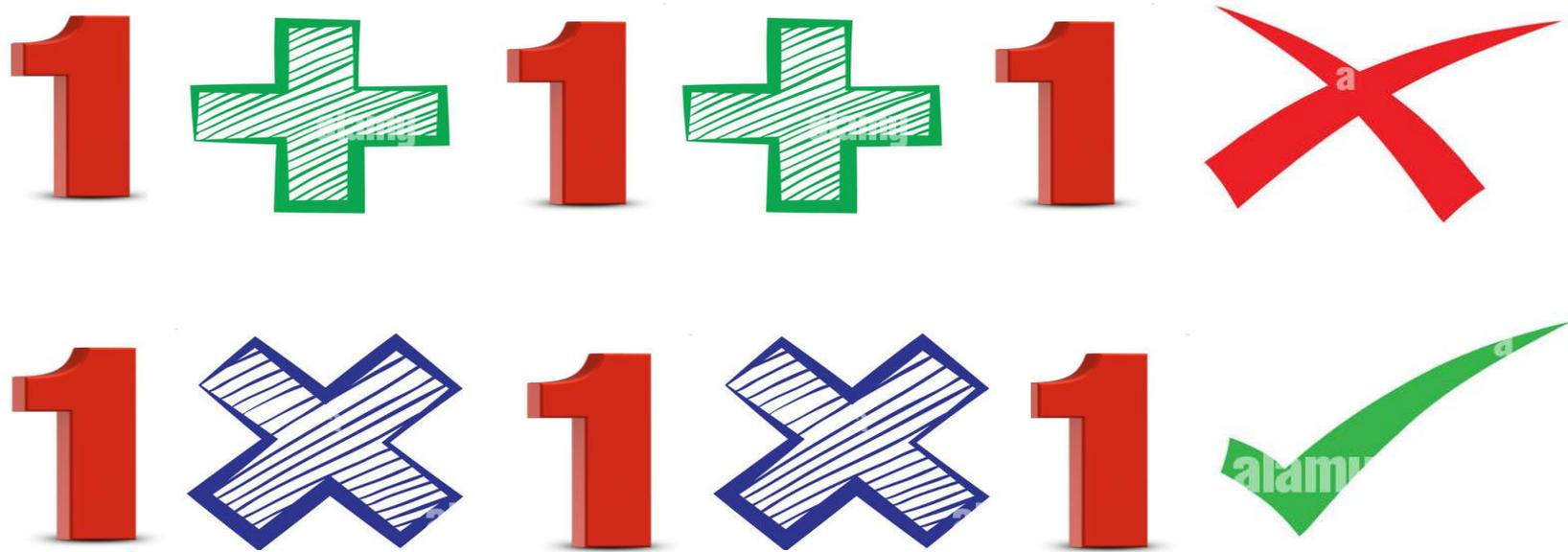
We believe in one Lord, **Jesus Christ**, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, light from light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father...

We believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life...with the Father and
the Son he is worshipped and glorified...

We believe...

We believe...One God, three persons

the Triune God



It all depends on how we understand the **relationship**
between Father, Son, and Spirit

the Triune God

The Image of the One is Many
Genesis 1:26

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

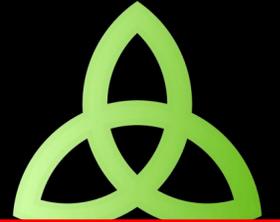
The Many become One
Genesis 2:24

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Relationship defines Personhood

The Triune God

God is Love



Created

1. Love is giving AND receiving
2. Love is essential and first in the story
- 3. Persons are open without reserve, embracing the other**
4. Persons are NOT individuals who may choose to love

The TRINITY

God

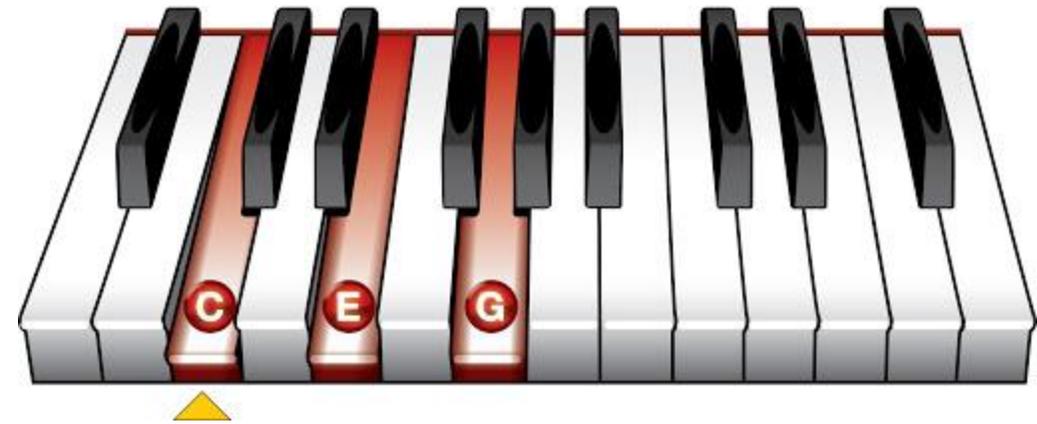
perichoresis



The Father, Son, and Spirit are eternally embracing in love and being embraced in love

God is relationship without remainder

C major Chord



God reveals God's-self as Triune

One God

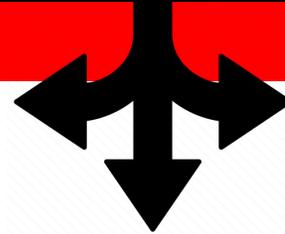
Father

Son

Spirit

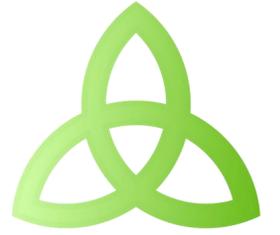


Created



God is ONE eternally inseparable relationship of love,
consisting of THREE eternally distinct persons
who embrace and are embraced by each other.
God is *relationship without remainder*. God is love.

the Triune God



more than an individual who chooses to love, **God is love**

1

We are immersed in LOVE

Love is more fundamental to existence than SPACE and TIME

2

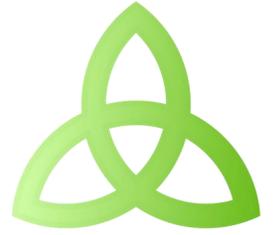
God defines personhood

as relational (giving and receiving), social, communal

3

Salvation is about entering into the generous embracing life of the Triune God.

the Triune God



more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love

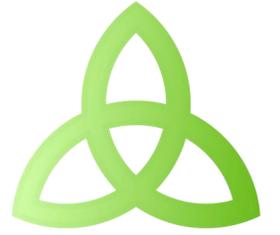
Love (relationship) is fundamental to reality. We are immersed in **eternal LOVE** in the same way that we are immersed by **created SPACE and TIME**

1

- If I was a single dot... If I was a 1D line...
- If I was a 2D square... If I was a 3D cube...
- If I was a 4D tesseract...

Relationship is the ultimate dimension, embracing all reality.
(OMNIPRESENT is not about space it is about relationship)

the Triune God



more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love

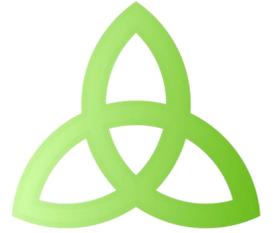
God defines personhood as relational, social, communal, openness to others

2

- Alzheimer's – a person does not hold their own self, our selfhood is collectively held by those who love us
- Our true self is held in relationship to God and others
- We find our true self in service to others



the Triune God



more than an individual who chooses to love, God is love

Salvation is not “getting pardoned,” salvation is **Theosis**

- Entering into the divine dance of love given and received
- A Relationship that begins in the ETERNAL NOW

3

1 John 4:7-12

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love... Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

from the beginning
God reveals God's-self to us



The study of God is wide and deep, but it is not a mystery – God has revealed something of God's story in his encounter with Israel, with the church, and supremely in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

We believe.. the One God is Love and exists in an open, mutually embracing, perichoretic relationship that is Love – relationship without remainder. God is encountered as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and we are invited to participate in that life of love.