



God is Love

1 JOHN 4:7-16

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God **is** Love

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4:16



NOT God is Loving



NOT Love is God



Before the creation of
space and time ,

God is Love

Creator and, therefore,
to be worshipped

In the beginning **God** created **FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT**

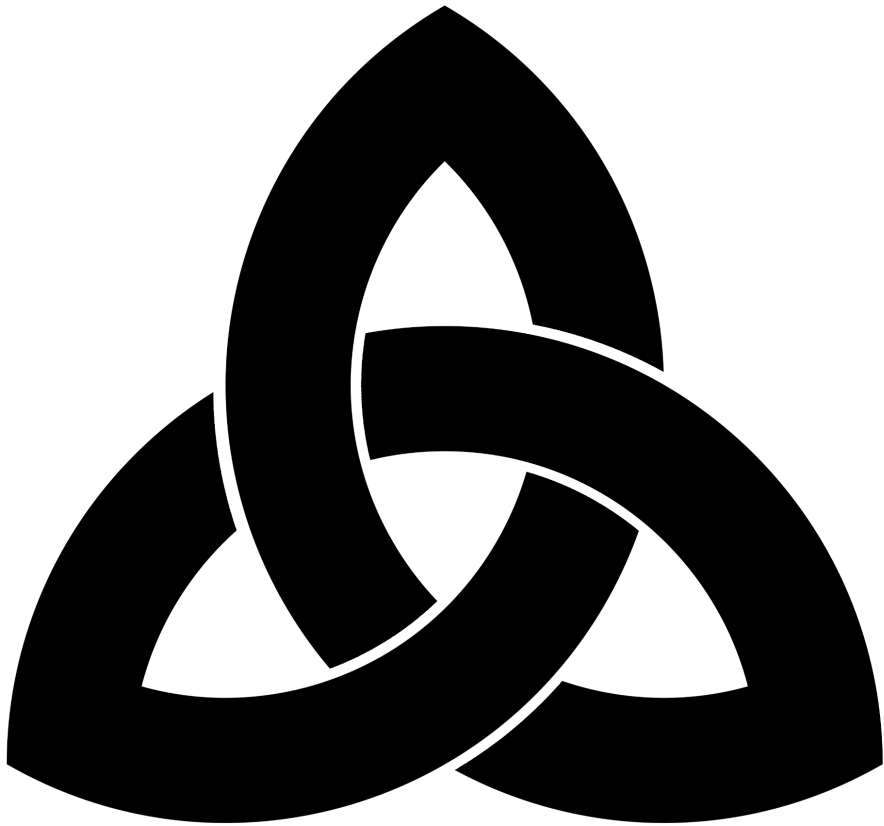
ALL THING

- Space and Time
- The Heavens and the Earth
- Spirit and Matter
- Life, in all its diversity

Created and, therefore,
NOT to be worshipped

God is Trinity. God is THREE PERSONS existing in ONE RELATIONSHIP.

God is Open, Embracing Relationship



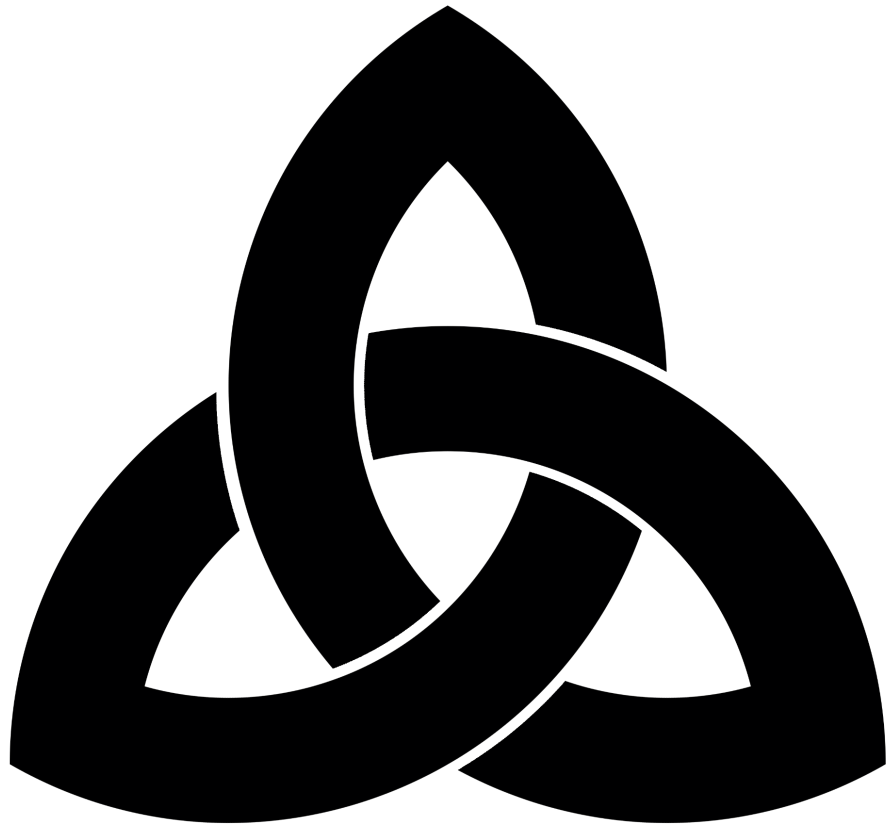
- **God is three PERSONS in Relationship,** not three INDIVIDUALS
- Individuals stand apart, withholding themselves in acts of selfishness
- Persons embrace, holding nothing back in *perichoretic* love

GOD IS LOVE

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 3 \text{ BUT } 1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$$



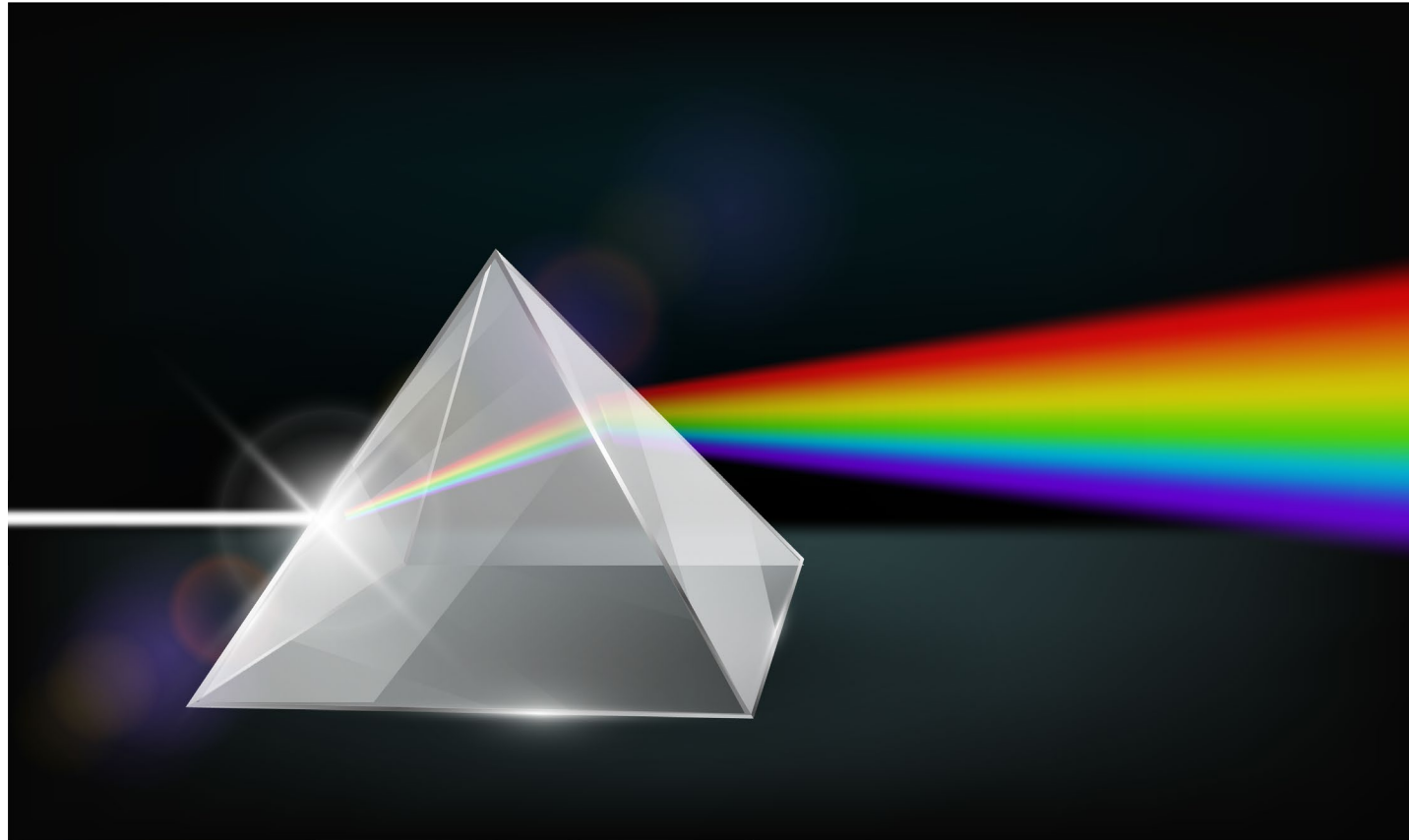
Love is Open, Embracing Relationship



Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable.... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

God's essence (is) v. attributes (does)

Love



Forgiving
Justice
Love
Angry
Holy
Friend of Sinners

Our experiences colour our experience of God.

In Eden, the acceptance of God becomes a source of shame.



Clarification: Romans 8:28

(A) God makes all things work together...

(B) **In all things God works...**

Whatever the source of our trials, God is working in love with creativity **for our good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose...** [to be conformed to the image of Jesus]



God ALWAYS acts towards us in love, because God IS Love.

There are no duelling attributes in God.

There is no ambiguity in God.

There are no shadows in the light of God.

God's love is open, life-giving; it is certainly non-coercive.

