

## Article 2      God

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There's a reason that this is by far the longest article within the Baptist Faith and Message. And there's a reason why the original committee didn't find a general statement of God to suffice, but rather they decided to address each person of the Godhead of the Trinity. Therefore, each person of the Godhead appropriately gets their own section.

What distinguishes historic, orthodox, and evangelical Christianity from everything else? The fact that our God is triune. The fact that God, the eternal, spiritual, intelligent creator and ruler of the universe has eternally existed as three distinct persons and yet one God.

Despite what the world has to say and despite what demonic philosophies may say, we are not polytheists. We do not reject monotheism. We are monotheists.

However, we are Trinitarian because our God is triune. Don't miss the significance of the Trinity within your theological triage. There is no Christianity if God is not triune.

So any belief absent or devoid of the prominence of the Trinity completely jettisons the Bible and its teachings.

So there is indeed, or this is indeed, a primary issue that we can't leave out if we are going to lead faithful, gospel-preaching churches.

**Ephesians 1:3-14** lists out each person of the Godhead and his role in accomplishing our salvation. And it ends each section with, *to the praise of his grace, or to the praise of his glory.*

So, soli deo gloria, the primary motivator behind God is his glory.

**Ephesians 1:3-6** lays out God the Father and his role in our salvation. It's God the Father who chose us, the church, before the foundations of the world.

**Ephesians 1:4** says, *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world.*

Pastor, brother pastor, your people need to know that it was not based on anything within them that got them drafted on Yahweh's team. God wasn't trying to build a dream team to defeat the opposing squad. He already secured the victory before the foundations of the world.

He drafts scrubs like us to play not for victory, but from victory. And he doesn't choose the Jordan or the LeBron. He chooses the measly spud web. God the Father in his wisdom does this.

It's God the Son who purchased the church with his very own precious blood,

**Ephesians 1:7.** *In him, we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses.*

Brother pastor, your people must know that Jesus is fully God and fully man. They must know that he is the eternal second person of the Godhead, the I Am that spoke from the burning bush, the angel of the Lord who was addressed as Yahweh himself, co-equal with the Father because we need a sinless, perfect God to atone for us.

They must also know that he's fully human because only humans can sacrifice for another human. The gospel hinges on this doctrine of the Trinity.

It is God the spirit who regenerates and seals us.

**Ephesians 1:14** we were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, *who is the guarantee of our inheritance* until we Acquire possession of it to the praise of His glory.

Brother pastor, your people need to know that the Holy Spirit is God and not an it. Without this doctrine they may inadvertently disrespect the Spirit who is Lord.

They need to know that his primary ministry is convicting sinners and making much of Jesus.

How do you know your church is filled with the spirit? Are sinners being converted? Is Jesus being glorified? And our believers being sanctified?

That's how you know.

In the words of my man Christian hip-hop artist Shaolin, he says the Father elects them, the Son pays the debt and protects them, the Spirit Resurrects them. The

Father chooses them, the Son gets bruised for them, the Spirit renews them, (and produces fruit in them).

Should have told you that was my bar, but I didn't want to lie.

So brother pastors, here is my question for you. Does this colossal truth do more than just sit on a piece of paper for potential members to sign up in order to be a part of your church?

Now they should do that. I'm an advocate for that.

But do you continue to expound upon this and show your people the real ramifications concerning this doctrine in their lives?

Are you experiencing disunity within your church because of the political season we're in?

Point your people to the Trinity as Jesus does. Remind them that Christ prayed that we would be one, just as he and the Father are one.

Are your members viewing submission as a four-letter word? Remind them that within the trinity the Son emptied Himself, took on flesh, and he submits to His Father while being co-equal.

As Paul says, Christ is the... God is the head of Christ.

Are your sheep and your flock apathetic regarding mission and evangelism? Teach them that our God is a sending God, He's a missional God. The Father sent the son on mission. The Father and Son send the Spirit on mission.

And now, the spirit empowered people of God have been commissioned by the Lord Jesus to make much of God the Father to His glory.

Brother pastors, in your prayers normalize addressing the Father through our one Mediator, the Lord Jesus, by the power of the Spirit, so that you can teach your people through their pastoral... through your pastoral prayers, the nature of God as you address Him.

In other words, Praise the triune God. Glory to the Father. Glory to the Son. Glory to the Spirit.

Make sure your people would not merely believe these truths, but see the beauty in them.

Let's keep the doctrine of this Trinity at the center of our churches.

Bless His Name.