

**Matthew 28.19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

This is the closest the Bible ever comes to teaching the Trinity. All three are mentioned and they have one name. But, doesn't the Trinity teach that there are three persons in one being, which would result in three names not one? Also, it is remarkable to observe what the verse *doesn't* say. It doesn't say, "baptizing them in the name of the Trinity," it doesn't say, "baptizing them in the name of the F, S, HS one God." Are we really supposed to accept that the first time Jesus mentioned to his disciples about the Trinity was the moment before he left? Did he leave them with a hint and then expect them to work out the details? No, this verse will depend on what your prior beliefs about the Father, Son, and holy spirit are.

The Father is God; the Son is the human Messiah; and the holy spirit is how the Father and Son are present in the world (especially in the church via the paraklete). The name should not be taken literally since the Father's name (Yahweh) is different than the Son's name (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit is *never* given a name in Scripture. Thus, the name should be understood in a metaphoric sense as the agenda, purpose, or authority of the Father, Son, and spirit. For example, Haman wrote a letter to exterminate the Jews in the time of Esther *in the name of* King Ahasuerus (Esther 3.12). The priests, Aaron's descendants, were to serve *in the name of* Yahweh forever (Deuteronomy 18.5). So, new Christians are to be baptized in the name of Father, Son, and spirit—the purpose or authority of Father, Son, and holy spirit.