

What is a Non-Trinitarian?

No one really knows for sure!

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I am often confronted with the unofficial yet habitually used term “nontrinitarian” in reference to what we believe about God. I personally have never been comfortable with this term. Let me explain briefly why I feel this way. “Nontrinitarian” is a label that refers to those who reject one or more aspects of the doctrine of the Trinity. Naturally, people use it to differentiate their belief in God from the more common but erroneous view of God being a Trinity. The unspoken and pervasive assumption is that if a person is nontrinitarian then they automatically believe in the true biblical teaching about God. Sadly, this is far from the truth.

The term “nontrinitarian” is a vague, ambiguous and confusing label. It says nothing of what one actually believes. It simply states what one does *not* believe. If you think about it, it is actually a very backwards way to express one’s faith. Why should our language be an expression of our disbelief rather than an expression of our faith?

Who is a nontrinitarian?

Basically anyone who rejects the idea that God is a Trinity. The list is quite extensive, actually. Here are a few examples of nontrinitarian groups: Christadelphians, Christian Scientists, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Oneness Pentecostals, The Way International and the United Church of God. Even other faiths, such as Judaism and Islam, can be included in this partial list. Though all claim to be nontrinitarian, their views differ widely on the nature of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Some of them hold to errors that are no less catastrophic than the Trinity itself! So, what is a nontrinitarian? No one really knows. It could be any one of the above groups.

What is your faith?

An expression of our faith is to clearly identify what we believe in. For example, how many of us would express our faith as to the correct day of worship with the term non-Sunday keeper? It sounds strange doesn’t it? It also fails to identify which day we actually keep. Such terminology does not express our faith in keeping the seventh-day Sabbath. The same goes for the nontrinitarian label. It can leave people confused and uncertain as to our biblical understanding of the truth about God. All they know is what we *don’t* believe.

Perhaps you’re thinking, ok, so what *can* we say? Here are some alternatives I use: the truth about God, the Godhead truth, Biblical Godhead, Father and Son message, Begotten Son etc. Every time we refer to our belief and view of God as nontrinitarian it is a missed opportunity to give a positive witness to what we actually believe about God. We seem to habitually opt for stating what we *don’t* believe about God. Why not make every opportunity a productive one to bear witness for the truth?

I want to express my faith and understanding of God without having to utilize a form of the word trinity. I actually think this feat is not just possible, but overall more positive and accurate. Will you join me? ✍

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