

Holy Trinity



Lord's Day 8
Heidelberg Catechism



Heidelberg, Germany

A Quick Overview

I. Misery

II. Deliverance

God the Father

God the Son

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Sacraments

Holy Baptism

The Holy Supper of Jesus Christ

III. Gratitude

The Ten Commandments

The Lord's Prayer

From Last Week:

What are these articles?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

End of Day 7, Heidelberg Catechism

The Day 8 Questions:

24. How are these articles divided?

25. Since there is only one divine being, why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

#24: How are these articles divided?

Into three parts:

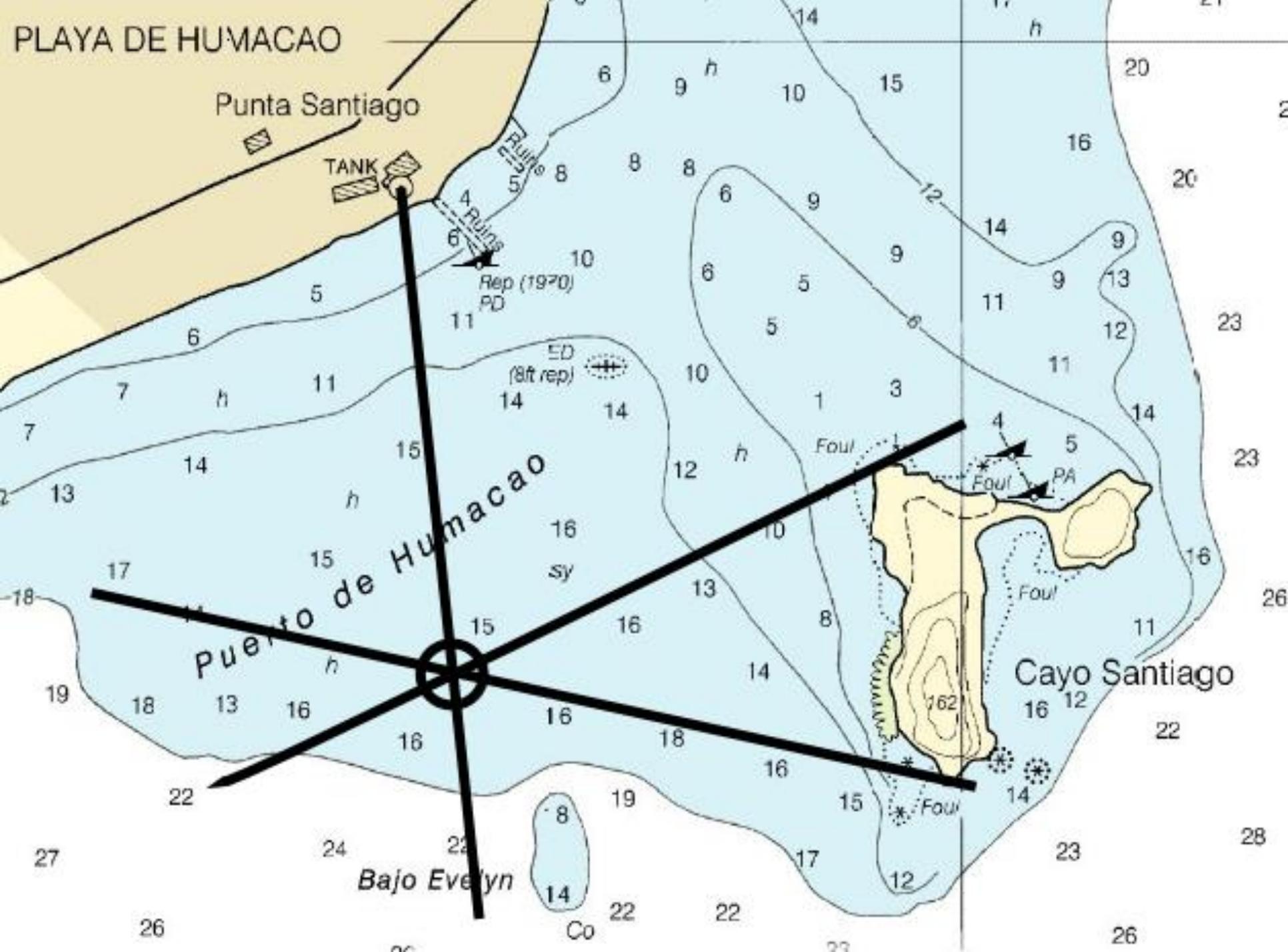
God the Father and our creation;
God the Son and our deliverance;
and God the Holy Spirit and our
sanctification.

#25: Since there is only one divine being, why do you speak of three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

Because that is how God has revealed himself in his Word: these three distinct persons are one, true, eternal God.

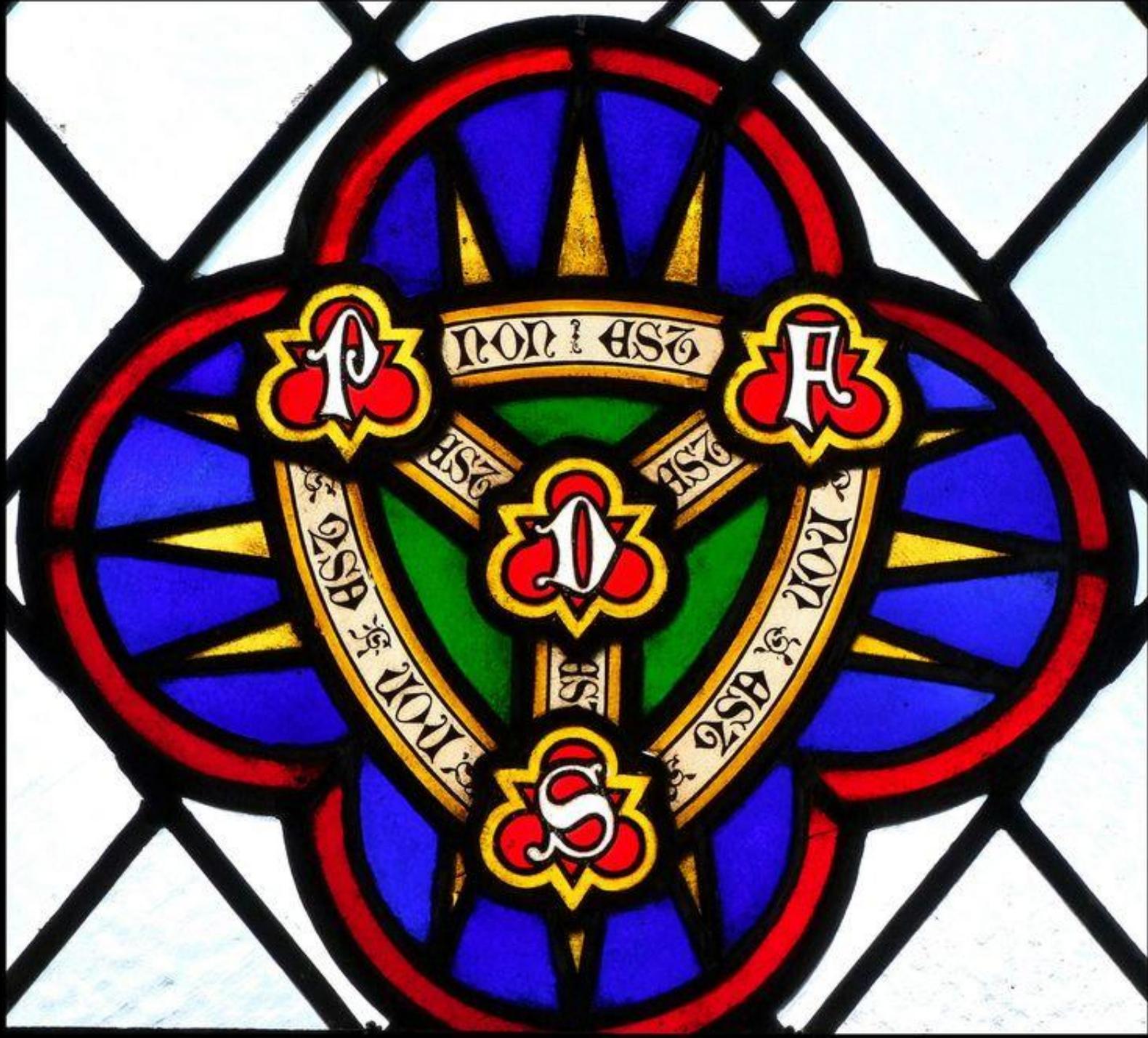


“Someone has some explaining to do.”



The Scriptures teach us that...

- God is a person.
- Jesus refers to God as Father.
- Jesus is a person.
- Jesus is the Son of God
- Jesus and the Father are one.
- The Holy Spirit is a person.
- The Holy Spirit is God
- God is one.



Historical Background

- **Ignatius of Antioch**(A.D. 110) was the first to use this word in connection with Father, Son, and Spirit.
- **Tertullian**, a Latin theologian who wrote in the early 3rd century, is credited as being the first to use the Latin words "Trinity", "person" and "substance" to explain that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are "one in essence—not one in Person"
- **The Doctrine of the Trinity** was fully crystallized by the end of the 4th Century.

Early Heresies...

- **Adoptionism:** Jesus was born a man of Mary and Joseph, and at his baptism became the Son of God.
- **Sabellianism:** The Father, Son, and Spirit are the same being or person, referred to variously in the Scripture.
- **Arianism:** The Father existed prior to the Son, and that Jesus was granted the title, “Son of God.”

Non-Trinitarian Church Groups:

- Unitarians
- United Pentecostals
- Jehovah's Witnesses
- Latter-Day Saints
- United Church of God
- Christian Scientists
- The Way International

One God

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Deuteronomy 6:4

So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

I Corinthians 8:4-6

Snapshot!

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17

Embedded in the New Testament:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit... **Matthew 28:19**

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **II Corinthians 13:14**

Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba, Father.*" **Galatians 4:6**

The Person of the Spirit

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. **John 14:26**

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. **John 15:26**

The Trinity in our Salvation

He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Titus 3:5,6

Wrap-up thus far...

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- The Father, Son, and Spirit are all distinct persons with separate roles in the Universe and in the Christian Life
- The Father, Son and Spirit are together One God.
- The Trinity is the unavoidable result of all the Scripture reveals about God.

Tonight's Take-home:

We believe and teach the Trinity, not because of theologians and church councils, but because any other interpretation of the biblical evidence is a distortion of the doctrines of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.

Let us pray...

