

## New City Catechism

Question 36: What do we believe about the Holy Spirit?

Answer: That he is God, coeternal with the Father and the Son?

John 14:16-17

Begin by reviewing what we know about the doctrine of the Trinity from our material way back in Q:3. Have your family members cut out each piece of the mixed-up diagram on the right. Arrange the pieces according to the directions below to make a diagram representing the essential truths of the doctrine of the Trinity.

1. Use the “is not” lines to make a triangle.
2. Put God in the center of the triangle
3. Put the Father at the top of the triangle.
4. Put Jesus at the bottom right corner.
5. Put the Holy Spirit at the bottom left corner.
6. Put one “is” arrow going from the Father to God.
7. Put one “is” arrow going from the Son to God.
8. Put one “is” arrow going from the Holy Spirit to God.
9. Put one “is not” arrow going from the Father to the Son.
10. Put one “is not” arrow going from the Son to the Holy Spirit.
11. Put one “is not” arrow going from the Holy Spirit to the Father.

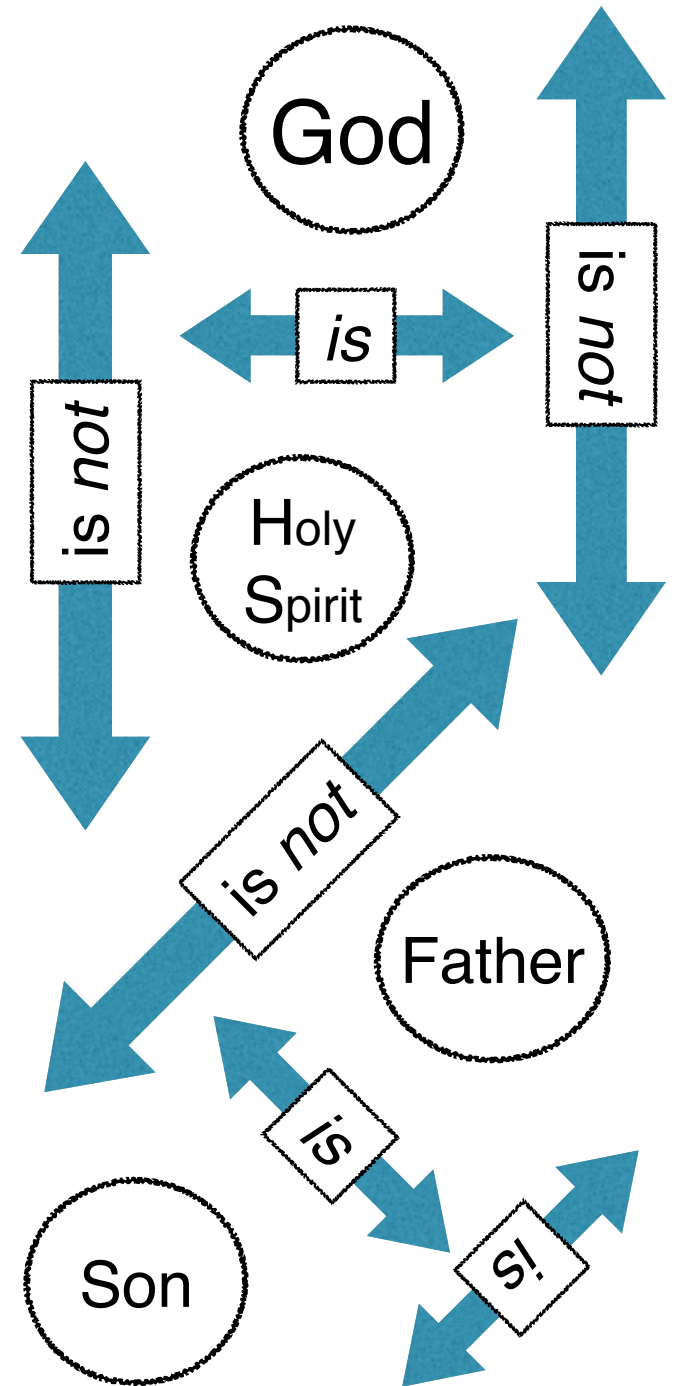
See if you can summarize what this diagram is telling us about our God.

Our answer today begins with the claim that the Holy Spirit is God. There are several verses in the Bible that demonstrate this truth, but **Read Acts 5:3-4.**

- How does this passage indicate that the Holy Spirit is God?

Our answer also tells us that the Holy Spirit is “coeternal” with the Father and the Son.

- What does “eternal” mean? (*existing forever*)
- Thus, “coeternal” means “existing forever with”—that is, the Holy Spirit has always existed along with the Father and the Son.



**Read Genesis 1:1-2.**

- What does verse 2 tell us about the Holy Spirit “the Spirit of God” in terms of how long he has existed? (*that he was already there at the beginning of creation*)

Let’s look at one passage that shows all three Persons of the Trinity present and active at the same time. **Read Matthew 3:16-17.**

- Where do we see each Person of the Trinity in this passage?

Finally, **read John 14:16-17.**

- What does Jesus say about the Holy Spirit’s presence with believers? (*“he dwells with you and will be in you”*).
- If the Holy Spirit is God, what does this mean about God’s presence with us? (*He is with us always. He is even in us!*)
- How does this make you feel?

Close by spending some time in prayer thanking God for his presence with us always by his Holy Spirit.

Please make use of the New City Catechism app or website  
Commentary, Video and Prayer as you see fit.