

**What Was God Doing Before He Created the World?**  
**John 17:1-5**

**Introduction**

**Why Does This Matter?**

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**What are Three Deadly Myths about the Trinity?**

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**What are Three Essential Truths about Trinity?**

The Father is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (John 17:1,2)

The Son is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (17:3,4)

The Holy Spirit is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (17:5)

**What does the “presence” of God do?**

- A \_\_\_\_\_-giving presence (17:13-16)
- A \_\_\_\_\_-giving presence (17:17-19)
- A \_\_\_\_\_-presence (17:21-23)

**Athanasian Creed:**

*The Father is made of none; neither created, nor begotten. The Son is [proceeds] from the Father alone; not made, nor created; but begotten. The Holy Ghost is [proceeds] from the Father and of the Son; neither made, nor created, nor begotten; but proceeding. So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is before, or after another; none is greater, or less than another. But the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity.*

**How Does Trinity Protect the Truth about God?**

Michael Reeves: The \_\_\_\_\_ to sculpt God according to our \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to make this God much like another, is \_\_\_\_\_ with us. You see it all down through history (Reeves, p. 16)

**How Does a Three in One God Satisfy the Deepest Longing of our Soul?**

*God is all right—why should we mind standing in the dark for a minute outside his window? Of course we miss the inness, but there is a bliss of its own in waiting. What if the rain be falling, and the wind blowing; what if we stand alone, or, more painful still, have some dear one beside us, sharing our outness; what even if the window be not shining, because of the curtains of good inscrutable drawn across it; let us think to ourselves, or say to our friend, ‘God is; Jesus is not dead; nothing can be going wrong, however it may look so to hearts unfinished in childness.’ Let us say to the Lord, ‘Jesus, art thou loving the Father in there?’*

*Let us comfort ourselves in the thought of the Father and the Son. So long as there dwells harmony, so long as the Son loves the Father with all the love the Father can welcome, all is well with the little ones.” (George MacDonald, Unpublished Sermons)*