

C O M M O N G R O U N D

by Joseph Tkach

Christianity is simply recycled mythology,” an atheist declared on a talk show. “Take the ‘Trinity’—it’s just a rip-off of the triads of antiquity, like Isis, Osiris and Horus of Egypt, or the Hindu gods Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva.”

Was this critic justified in rejecting Christianity—and the Trinity in particular—because it’s simply warmed over, rehashed mythology?

Not at all. While the triads of antiquity may be dim echoes of the Christian Trinity, the Trinity is *not* a triad or group of three gods. The Trinity is *one* God! There’s an enormous difference! The Trinity is an utterly unique theological concept! It’s the doctrine of the unity of God in three persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three are *one God*.

I know it’s next to impossible to visualize this. But because our human minds can’t grasp the concept doesn’t mean it isn’t true. God exists outside of space and time and beyond the possibility of complete human understanding.

Maybe a physical analogy will help. You probably learned in school that white light contains all colors. A prism can reveal those individual colors.

There are, in fact, three primary colors—red, yellow and blue—yet light is one! Remove one color, and you no longer have white light.

It’s the same, in a sense, with God—who, interestingly, is figuratively called “light” in the Bible. Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one God—distinct but not separate. And there’s nothing like that in all of mythology! □

