

Is the Trinity in James? James' short general letter to early Christians doesn't have a plethora of references to God, Jesus, and the holy Spirit, but what it does have is more than enough to figure out whether the Trinity doctrine is in the book of James. First of all, notice who James is a servant of:



“James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ” (James 1:1 NIV). James identifies himself as serving two distinct personages, namely Almighty God and Jesus Christ. These two are not mysteriously merged together, as Trinitarians assert. Their distinctive separateness is maintained. Notable by absence are references to the Trinity and the holy Spirit. If these are real, why isn't James serving them?—Perhaps because the Trinity is fictional. He's not serving the holy Spirit because it is not a person, even though it is real. **“The holy Spirit”** is called “it” at **John 1:32 (ESV); 14:17 (NAB, REB), Acts 2:33; 8:16; 11:15 NAB,** and **Romans 8:16,26,27 (NAB;REB)**. Persons are not called “it”. The holy Spirit is God's “power” (Acts 1:8), not a person.

“Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1 NIV) Is the Trinity in James?

**“God cannot be tempted by evil”** (James 1:13 NIV). This scripture itself proves that Jesus cannot be Almighty God, because “Jesus the Son of God . . . high priest . . . **has been tempted in every way**, just as we are—yet he did not sin” (Hebrews 4:14,15 NIV). The scriptures are crystal clear—God cannot be tempted, yet Jesus was tempted in every way, thus proving that Jesus cannot be Almighty God.

**“A pure and faultless religion in the sight of God the Father is this . . . ”** (James 1:27 REB). Notice that “God” is referred to as the Father. Jesus said that his **“Father”** is

**“the only true God” (John 17:1,3).** This excludes anyone else from being included in “the only true God”. In fact, clarifying the matter even further, Jesus said that **“the true worshippers will worship the Father” (John 4:23).**

**“Our glorious Lord Jesus Christ” (James 2:1)** – Trinitarians have claimed that, since Almighty God has **“glory” (Zechariah 2:1 NIV)**, references to Jesus’ glory mean that Jesus is God Almighty. However, Jesus said that **“the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory” (Matthew 16:27 NIV)**, so it is obvious that Jesus’ glory does not equal his Father’s glory, but derives from his Father’s glory. Thus, their claim is scripturally debunked.

“You believe that there is **one God. Even the demons believe that — and shudder” (James 2:19 NIV)**, as opposed to believing that other “gods” are also real. The demons know that there is one **“only true God”**, who is Jesus’ Father (John 17:1,3). The Trinity doctrine asserts that ‘the Father is God, the Son is God, and the holy Spirit is God. That’s three Gods, despite Trinitarian denials. James 2:19 makes it perfectly clear that there is only one Almighty God, not three Almighty Gods, as confirmed by James 5:4:

“The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty” (James 5:4 NIV). James shows here that the “one God” that he refers to is “the Lord Almighty”, just as Galatians 3:20 says “God is only one” (NASB), not three. The Bible never refers to Jesus Christ (**“the Lamb”**) or the holy Spirit as **“the Lord God Almighty” (Revelation 21:22 NIV).**

Is the Trinity doctrine in the book of James? There is only one “the Lord Almighty”, the one who “cannot be tempted”. Trinitarianism finds no support in the Letter of James. In fact, the doctrine of the Trinity is resoundingly contradicted by the short Letter of James.