

Session 2: Trinity

(First Pause)

“God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is Fully God, and there is one God.”

- Wayne Grudem’s summation of historic church doctrine, *Systematic Theology*, p. 226

What illustrations have you heard to try and demonstrate the Trinity?

Answers will vary – E.G. egg, water, clover...

What is the issue with these illustrations?

None sufficiently portray the persons of the Trinity as both each fully God yet separate.

Read Isaiah 55:8 – what does this say about the nature of God?

He and his ideas are beyond our comprehension.

(Second Pause)

Read Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7

(Third Pause)

Read Deuteronomy 6:4 and Matthew 3:16-17

Isn't the Trinity a contradiction?

No

How do these two passages help us better understand the nature of God?

They emphasise the two equally important parts of the Trinity: One God, three persons

(Final Questions)

Split your group in half and each tackle one of the following questions:

1. *What do these verses show the Father’s role to be?*

- *1 Corinthians 8:6 The origin of all things*
- *Revelation 1:1 The origin of Revelation*
- *John 3:16-17 The one who loved the world and sent Jesus*

2. *What do these verses show the Spirit’s role to be?*

- *John 16:12-16 & 1 Peter 2:20-21 Bringer of truth/Glorifier of Christ*
- *Romans 8:26-27 Intercessor in our weakness*
- *2 Timothy 1:7 The one who empowers*

Look at these three key texts where all three persons are mentioned together and answer the final questions:

- Matthew 28:19
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- Ephesians 1:3–14

Why is the Trinity important for Christians today?

*It separates us from other religions who claim Jesus as an important but not divine figure –
Jesus' divinity is also essential for the doctrine of salvation*

How does the Trinity shape Christian prayer and/or worship?

Matthew 6:6 and John 16:23-24

What does the Trinity reveal about love and community?

*It shows that companionship is intrinsic both to love itself – God is love – and to our nature
as made in the image of God. It also demonstrates humble service to those you love
(Hebrews 2:17)*

How would you explain the Trinity to a sceptic?

Answers will vary