



Life Group Study Notes

The Trinity

Ps. Bruce Fidler - June 25, 2017

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What was your most challenging subject in school?
- Who is a famous person you would like to meet? Why?
- Who is your closest friend?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Brief Definition Of The Trinity

“God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God” (Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*).

Biblical Basis For The Trinity

Sample Bible verses that refer to all three members of the Trinity:

- 2 Co 13:14 (ESV) *The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
- Jn 14:16–17 (ESV) *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth... You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.*
- Mt 28:19 (NIV) *[G]o and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

The Father, Son, and Spirit are referred to in the New Testament as God.

- Father: John 6:27; 1 Peter 1:2; Romans 1:7
- Son: John 1:1,18; Titus 2:13; Romans 9:5; 2 Peter 1:1; Isaiah 9:6
- Spirit: Acts 5:3-4

All three members of the Trinity are referred to in Scripture as eternal, omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.

Errors Regarding The Trinity

All errors regarding the Trinity deny at least one of three key truths about God:

- There is one God (not three).
- God is three persons (not one).
- Each person is fully God (not a lesser strain of deity).

Social Implications of the Trinity

The Trinity has implications for what it means for humans to be made in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27). God is a social being, and we are designed to reflect his nature.

God is **relational**. Humans are also relational by design/nature and need strong, healthy relationships of many kinds. It is our responsibility to deliberately pursue relationships, and not simply wait for them to happen.

God is **diverse**. Humans are also diverse in gender (male & female), ethnicity, gifts, callings, functions, abilities, and interests. We are to appreciate our differences and not be critical of one another. Our differences complement us. We are to learn from each other and work together.

God is **unified**. Humans are also called to unity under God's authority. Prejudice, hatred, violence and wars are hostile to God's intent for humanity. God intends to unite all of humanity under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

God is **co-equal**. Humans are also co-equal in the eyes and heart of God, and so have equal worth even if our gender (male & female), ethnicity, gifts, callings, functions, abilities, interests, educational levels, or socio-economic statuses are different. All thoughts of intrinsic superiority or inferiority must be rejected.

God is **structured**. There is order in the Trinity. The Father plans, directs, and sends; the Son represents him and does his will in all things; the Spirit is sent by both and carries out their will.

Humans are to also honor, respect, and submit to legitimate authority. God rules and blesses us through others. We need to respect the position of authority, even if we cannot the person (Matthew 23:2-3). We also need to accept responsibility for our roles, and be content in them. We should serve one another out of love, not begrudgingly.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- What did you learn or find interesting about the Trinity?
- What aspect of the social implications of the Trinity is especially applicable to you now?
- How would you try to explain the Trinity to a child? to a new Christian? to an unbeliever?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Ask God to give you a greater revelation of himself as Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Ask God to help you understand more of what it means to be made in his image.
- Worship him for who he is as Father, Son, and Spirit.