GROWTH GROUPS

May 20, 2012

Ephesians 4:1-6

Conversation Starter:

What analogies for the Holy Trinity have you heard (either from Sunday's sermon or at other times)? How do these analogies help your understanding? How do these analogies break down?

Understanding: Statement from "Core Beliefs" document.

"God"

God, taking the form of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; is three yet One. The Holy Trinity is a mystery that has yet to be fully understood. Scripture teaches that "God is love" therefore, we understand love to be the defining characteristic of the Trinity. In love, the Father created all that is, has been, and ever will be. In love, God the Son took the form of a person and paid the penalty for the sin of humankind by dying on the cross for our salvation. In love, God the Spirit resides in the heart of God's people and empowers us to live the Christian life.

Questions:

1. After reading the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) spend time talking about how the three persons of the Trinity are involved in the mission of God? What role do they play? How does your understanding of the Trinity's involvement influence your willingness to take up the Great Commission?

2. Read 1 John 4:13-21. Why would we would say "love" is the defining characteristic of the Trinity? What implications are here for we who are called Christ's followers?

3. Among other things, the Trinity displays God's beautiful pattern of *"unity in the midst of diversity."* In the Godhead, there are three distinct persons united in one purpose as God. In what ways is this *"unity in the midst of diversity"* reflected in God's creation? What implications are there for the church? Consider Ephesians 4:1-6 in answering this question.

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