

Course Overview

- WEEK 1: Introduction to Theology, The Bible, and Sources of Authority (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 1)
- WEEK 2: The Trinity (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 2-3, 6)**
- WEEK 3: Man and Sin (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 5)
- WEEK 4: Salvation (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 4, 7)
- WEEK 5: The Church (*Know What You Believe*, chapters 8-9)
- WEEK 6: The End (*Know What You Believe*, chapter 10)

Table Discussion

- What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think about the Trinity?

- How is understanding and embracing the Trinity relevant for your day to day life?

“It has been said that ‘the proper study of mankind is man.’ I believe it is equally true that the proper study of God’s elect is God; the proper study of a Christian is the Godhead. The highest science, the loftiest speculation, the mightiest philosophy, which can ever engage the attention of a child of God, is the name, the nature, the person, the work, the doings, and the existence of the great God whom he calls his Father.”

- Charles Spurgeon

The Trinity

- Definition** of the Trinity
- Distortions** of the Trinity
- Delight** in the Trinity

Definition of the Trinity

Who is God?
"God is the greatest possible being by whom all other beings exist."
 - Douglas Blount

What is 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

Definition of the Trinity

Unity – There is One God.

Equality – Each is fully God.

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Definition of the Trinity

Unity – There is One God

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 “Hear, O Israel: **The Lord our God, the Lord is one.** You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”

See also - Ex 15:11, 1 Kings 8:60, Isaiah 45:5-6, 21-22

Definition of the Trinity

Unity – There is One God

1 Timothy 2:5 For **there is one God**, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...

James 2:19 - You believe that **God is one**; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us **there is one God**, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Definition of the Trinity

Equality – Each person is fully God

Matthew 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the **name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of **the Lord Jesus Christ** and the **love of God** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.

Definition of the Trinity

Equality – Each person is fully God

The Father

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is **one God, the Father**, from whom are all things and for whom we exist...

Definition of the Trinity

Equality – Each person is fully God

The Son

Hebrews 1:8 But of the Son he says, “**Your throne, O God**, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.”

Romans 9:5 To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is **the Christ, who is God over all**, blessed forever. Amen.

Definition of the Trinity

Equality – Each person is fully God

The Son

- Attributes
- Authority
- Assertions
- Affirmation
- Accusations
- Association

Definition of the Trinity

Equality – Each person is fully God

The Spirit

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**"

See also Psalm 139:7-8, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11

Definition of the Trinity

Equality – Each person is fully God

The Spirit

- Seals the Believer
- Points to Christ
- Indwells Believers
- Reveals Righteousness
- Inspires Faithfulness
- Third in Trinity

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:16 And when **Jesus** was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a **voice from heaven** said, "This is my beloved **Son**, with whom I am well pleased."

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

John 1:1 In the beginning **was the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

John 15:26 But when the **Helper** comes, whom I will send to you from the **Father**, the **Spirit** of truth, **who** proceeds from the **Father**, **he** will bear witness about **me**.

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1:26 Then **God** said, “**Let us** make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 48:16 Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there.” And now the **Lord God** has sent **me**, and **his Spirit**.

Definition of the Trinity

Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 22: 41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” 43 He said to them, “How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 44 “**The LORD said to my Lord**, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet””? 45 If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?” 46 And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Definition of the Trinity

Glimpses of the Trinity

In Marriage and Family

In the Church

In our own Country

Definition of the Trinity



Definition of the Trinity

Unity – There is One God.
Equality – Each is fully God.
Distinction – God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Table Discussion

What analogies have you heard to define the Trinity?

According to our 3 words (unity, equality, distinction), how do these analogies fall short?

Distortions of the Trinity

Modalism: God is united and equal, *but not distinct*.

Subordination: God is distinct and unified, *but the persons are not equal*. (Arianism, Jehovah's Witness)

Tritheism: God is distinct and equal, *but not united in being*. (Mormonism)



Distortions of the Trinity

God is like an egg

Distortions of the Trinity

God is like water

Distortions of the Trinity

God is like a three-leaf clover

Distortions of the Trinity

God is like a man who is a
father, son, and brother

Delight in the Trinity

God in God

Delight in the Trinity

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. **The Father loves the Son** and has given all things into his hand.

- John 3:34-35

Delight in the Trinity

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**"

- Matthew 3:16-17

Delight in the Trinity

God in Man

Delight in the Trinity

In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

- 1 John 4:10

Delight in the Trinity

Man in God
Spiritual Life and Eternal Life

Delight in the Trinity

Spiritual Life: Prayer

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

-Romans 8:26

Delight in the Trinity

Spiritual Life: Prayer

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—
more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand
of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

-Romans 8:34

Delight in the Trinity

Spiritual Life: Scripture

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but
men spoke from God as they were carried along by the
Holy Spirit.

- 2 Peter 1:21

Delight in the Trinity

Spiritual Life: Scripture

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send
in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your
remembrance all that I have said to you.

- John 14:26

Delight in the Trinity

Spiritual Life: Overcoming Sin

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- Galatians 5:22-24

Delight in the Trinity

Spiritual Life: Every Blessing

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

- Ephesians 1:3

Delight in the Trinity

Eternal Life: Salvation

But when the fullness of time had come, **God sent forth his Son**, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"** So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

- Galatians 4:4-7

Delight in the Trinity

Eternal Life: Security

In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, **were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- Ephesians 1:13-14

Delight in the Trinity

Eternal Life: Sanctification

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Delight in the Trinity

Eternal Life: Glory

When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. **And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.** I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

- John 17:1-5

Definition of the Trinity
Distortions of the Trinity
Delight in the Trinity
