

Theme: The One True God is the Holy Trinity - Three Persons in Perfect relationship from all eternity - the Divine Community.

I. Intro – Ideas Have Consequences

- A. Visit to the Chiropractor - leg felt “dead”
- B. Problem was actually part of lower spine had shifted
- C. We often do not realize the underlying cause of things
- D. Ideas are that way - often hidden, but big effects
- E. The doctrine of the Trinity is like that - huge implications
- F. What is the Trinity? Why is it important?

II. The Trinity - Is It Biblical?

- A. Is the Trinity biblical?
 - 1. The term ‘Trinity’ is not used anywhere in Scripture
 - 2. Neither is “Deity of Christ,” “Humanity of Christ,” etc.
 - 3. The concept is seen many places in the Scripture

B. The Trinity in Scripture

As soon as **Jesus** was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lighting on him. ¹⁷ And a **voice from heaven** said, “This is **my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” Matt 3:16–17

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. ⁵ There are different kinds of service, but the same **Lord**. ⁶ There are different kinds of working, but the same **God** works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4–6

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

There is one body and **one Spirit** — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — ⁵ **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ **one God and Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Eph. 4:4–6

- 1. The Scriptures have been seen as pointing to Trinity
- 2. This goes to the earliest days of the church
- 3. What do we mean by the term “Trinity”?

III. Understanding the Trinity

A. There is only one God

You were shown these things so that you might know that **the Lord is God; besides him there is no other...** ³⁹ Acknowledge and take to heart this day that **the Lord is God** in heaven above and on the earth below. **There is no other**. Deuteronomy 4:35, ³⁹

Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are my witnesses. **Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one**. Isaiah 44:8

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, **the Lord our God, the Lord is one**.’” Mark 12:29 (quoting the Shema, Deuteronomy 6:4)

We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that **there is no God but one**. ⁵ For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), ⁶ yet **for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live...** 1 Corinthians 8:4–6

1. This was a central tenet for all Jews - and Christians
2. There is only one God - all other 'gods' are fakes

B. There are Three Persons Who are fully God

1. The Father is God

For us **there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came and for whom we live**; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live. 1Cor 8:6

Grace and peace to you from **God the Father** and the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:2

2. Jesus, the Son, is God

But **about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever**, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom...¹⁰ He also says, **"In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands**. Hebrews 1:8, 10

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made...¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1-3, 14

3. The Spirit is God

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 2 Corinthians 3:17

The **Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me**, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the

brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners Is61:1

C. Father, Son, Spirit are distinct from One Another, yet One God

As soon as **Jesus** was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lighting on him.¹⁷ And a **voice from heaven** said, "This is **my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." Matt 3:16-17

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because **you loved me before the creation of the world**. John 17:24

1. Three distinct Persons at Jesus' baptism
2. Who is Jesus praying to?
3. Jesus speaks of relationship before creation

IV. The Trinity - The Divine Community

A. The Trinity has many implications

1. Deity of Christ, the Spirit
2. Understanding Jesus as the God-Man
3. Full understanding of redemption

B. Implications of the Trinity - The Divine Community

Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because **you loved me before the creation of the world**. John 17:24

1. Jesus and the Father shared love before creation

2. This can only be speaking of Jesus as God
3. This means God has always been in relationship
4. Father, Son, and Spirit the Eternal Community

C. This means God is self-sufficient and relational

1. Single person can't be self-sufficient and relational
2. God is both self-sufficient and relational
3. God needs nothing outside of Himself
4. Father, Son, & Spirit is in Eternal relationship

D. Rest of the series will tease out the implications for us

V. Applying the Word

A. Do we see our Triune God is a Relational God?

1. God did not - and does not - need us
2. But God is Relational - within Trinity and with us
3. This is why He invites us to pray - relationship!
4. This is why He adopts us - relationship!
5. This is why His Spirit dwells in us - Relationship!
6. Other so-called "gods" are aloof - Trinity is not!

B. Communion - the depths God will go for relationship

1. The Table shows us the depths of God's love for us
2. He did not need us - but He wants us
3. How refreshing to know you don't need me; how

amazing to find that you love me - Casting Crowns

4. Come to the Table - for relationship with Trinity

The Trinity - The Divine Community

Matthew 3:16-17; John 17:24

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Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

Teaching Text: Matthew 3:16-17; John 17:24

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Matthew 3:16–17

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John 17:24

Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14

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