

Theme: The Trinity, One God in three distinct Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is the foundation of the Christian faith and life.

## I. Trinity Sunday

- A. We really enjoyed our time in Italy!
- B. A real sense of time and history there - especially Rome
- C. Many historic churches follow church calendar
- D. Today is Trinity Sunday - focus on Trinity specifically
- E. Why is the Trinity important?

## II. The Trinity - An Essential Doctrine

- A. Our text - built on the Trinity
  - There are different kinds of gifts, but the same **Spirit**.
  - <sup>5</sup>There are different kinds of service, but the same **Lord**.
  - <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same **God** works all of them in all men. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6
    - 1. Note Paul is using parallelism
    - 2. Each line similar but slightly different than previous
    - 3. Gifts, service, working - same, but distinct
    - 4. Spirit, Lord (Jesus), God (Father) - one God, but distinct Persons
    - 5. From texts like these Church came to understand God is Trinity
- B. The Trinity
  - We believe that there is one God Who is self-existent, eternal, infinite, unchanging, and almighty in His Being, and Whose character is perfect in holiness, truth, and love. This One God is eternally existent in three

Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Who are co-existent, co-equal, and co-eternal. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, not merely forces or modes of existence, yet each is truly the One True God. The Trinity, One God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - is the foundation of the Christian faith and life.

- 1. From the BRCC statement of faith
- 2. One God eternally existent in three Persons
- 3. Distinct Persons - not just modes or names
- 4. Trinity - foundation of the Christian faith and life

## III. The Trinity and the Christian Faith and Life

- A. The Christian doctrine of creation is Trinitarian
  - 1. Creation is from the Father
    - In the beginning **God created the heavens and the earth**. Genesis 1:1
    - Yet for us there is but one **God, the Father, from whom all things came** and for whom we live; 1 Corinthians 8:6
  - 2. Creation is through the Son, the Word of God
    - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> **Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made**. John 1:1-3
  - 3. Creation is shaped and given life by the Spirit
    - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters**. Genesis 1:1-2

When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. Psalms 104:30

B. The Christian doctrine of salvation is Trinitarian

Praise be to **the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing **in Christ**.<sup>4</sup> **For he chose us in him** before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love<sup>5</sup> **he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ**, in accordance with his pleasure and will...<sup>13</sup> **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**,<sup>14</sup> **who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession** — to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:3–5, 13–14

1. Election is from the Father - always in Scripture
2. Redemption was worked by the Son - our only access
3. Salvation is applied by the Spirit - who marks and keeps us

But when the time had fully come, **God** sent his **Son**, born of a woman, born under law,<sup>5</sup> to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.<sup>6</sup> Because you are sons, **God** sent the **Spirit** of his **Son** into our hearts, the **Spirit** who calls out, "Abba, Father." Galatians 4:4–6

1. God the Father sends the Son to work redemption
2. God the Father sends the Spirit to make us Sons
3. Salvation is from the Father, through the Son, and applied by the Spirit

C. Christian prayer is Trinitarian

In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. John 16:23

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. Romans 8:26

1. Prayer is to the Father, through the Son
2. Prayer is in the Spirit and aided by the Spirit
3. We have access to the Father because of Jesus - we do not need any other mediators
4. The Spirit Himself energizes, and guides our prayer
5. The Spirit Himself intercedes for us

D. The gifts of the Spirit are Trinitarian in nature

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

1. Even spiritual gifts are Trinitarian!
2. Gifts are from the Father, through the work of the Son, and applied by the Spirit

E. The Church is Trinitarian

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of **God's household**,<sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with **Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone**.<sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

<sup>22</sup> And in him you too are **being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.**  
Ephesians 2:19–22

1. The church is the household of God the Father
2. House of the Church is built on foundation of Jesus
3. Church is built and indwelt by the Spirit

F. The whole Christian life and faith is Trinitarian

1. We believe in the doctrine of creation by the Trinity
2. We believe in redemption & salvation by the Trinity
3. Christian prayer is specifically Trinitarian
4. Christian ministry is Trinitarian
5. The Church is the work and dwelling of the Trinity
6. This is why the Creeds - summaries of what we believe - are all Trinitarian in structure
7. Trinity is the foundation of Christian faith and life!!!

#### IV. Applying the Word of the Trinity

A. Do we see that the Trinity is essential to our life?

1. We can't just cop out and say we can't understand
2. This is not an option - Christians are Trinitarian
3. Without the Trinity all Christian doctrine falls apart
4. Don't listen to teachers who are not fully, robustly Trinitarian

B. Do we see the major implications of the Trinity?

1. Do we see that all of life is relational?
  - a. Trinity - God is relational by nature - and so are we!
  - b. We were created for relationships
  - c. We're redeemed & placed in Church - relationships!
  - d. Don't give into our culture and isolate
2. Do we see unity and diversity are both necessary?
  - a. One God, Three distinct persons - unity & diversity
  - b. We need both unity and diversity
  - c. True in Church, family, business, nation, etc.
  - d. Example: local church
    1. Unity - essential beliefs - Trinity, Deity of Christ, justification by grace through faith alone, etc.
    2. Diversity - minor doctrines, differences in gifts, personalities
    3. Unity and diversity make us strong
  - e. Example: family
    1. Unity - common commitment to God & each other
    2. Diversity - different strengths and weaknesses, personalities, likes and dislikes
    3. Embrace diversity - it makes a strong healthy family!

C. Communion - our Trinitarian communal meal

1. Here we are reminded of our Trinitarian salvation
2. Here we are reminded of our need for one another
3. Come, confessing sin and need for salvation
4. Come as part of the community of faith

## The Trinity

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

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Communion

2 Corinthians 13:14

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