



Catechism

The Trinity - One God in Three Persons

Key idea:

Is there more than One True God? No, there is only one true God. He eternally exists as the Trinity, one God in Three Persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct Persons, but are one in being, power, and glory.

Key text:

Deuteronomy 4:35, 39

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.

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.

Key points:

1. There is only One True God, and all other so-called gods are empty idols which ultimately connect people with demons, not the One True God.
2. The One True God eternally exists as the Holy Trinity, One God in Three Persons - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not modes, roles, or simply distinct ways of speaking about One Person, but are Three Distinct Persons within the One True God.
4. The experience of Jesus and the Holy Spirit as Divine Persons caused the apostles to understand that the One True God is the Holy Trinity.
5. The Trinity may be seen from the very first verses of Scripture and is clearly taught in the New Testament.
6. The Trinity is truly the foundation of all Christian life and doctrine and is worth spending time studying and meditating upon because it affects every area of life.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. Note: this is BRCC Catechism Question 6. The catechism has many other verses, questions, and resources for further study related to this question.
2. What part of Sunday's text and teaching stood out most to me? Why?
3. How does the idea of there only being One True God fit in our current culture? What does this mean about the "gods" of other religions? Are they just other names for the same God? How does Paul think of them according to 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 10:19-21?
4. How should I relate to people who follow other religions and gods? In the New Covenant should I destroy their places of worship and persecute them? Why or why not? What is my biblical responsibility towards them?
5. The BRCC statement of faith includes this regarding the Trinity: "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." Does it make a difference if we think of the Father, Son, and Spirit as Persons rather than modes of existence or spiritual forces? Why or why not?
6. If God was not Triune, but merely One Person, what difference would that make to the description of God we find in the Bible? How would God necessarily be different if He did not eternally exist as the Father, Son, and Spirit in relationship with One another?
7. Can I think of how each member of the Trinity is involved in creation according to the Scripture? In salvation? In the life of the Church? In my prayer life?
8. How does the nature of God as the Holy Trinity relate to each of our four parts of discipleship: Love our God, Connect With Others, Serve His Church, Reach the World? How would discipleship be different if God was not the Trinity?
9. Can I fully comprehend the Trinity? How One God can eternally exist as Three distinct Persons, and still be One God? If not, should I still spend time to study this biblical doctrine? How should the incomprehensible depths of the Trinity propel me to worship?
10. Whom can I pray for, share what I have learned, and invite to church this week?

Preview of next week: Be A Loser (Mark 8:31-38)