



Key Idea:

Trinity makes salvation possible and Trinity makes salvation sweet. Only with a God of Trinity can we be freely welcomed in together as brothers and sisters to share the joy of God and cry together, "Abba Father!"

Key Text:

Genesis 1:1-3. ¹ 'In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. ² 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. ³ And **God said**, 'Let there be light,' and there was light.'⁴ Genesis 1:1-3

John 1:1-3. ¹ '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.'⁴

1. It's important we think on the deep things of God in order to understand Him and our faith more fully.
2. A belief in the Trinitarian nature of God as Father, Son, and Spirit, one in essence and three in persons, united in love for all eternity is an essential doctrine of Christian faith.
3. If the Trinity isn't true, then Jesus isn't God and there is no atonement and no sinless sacrifice. We remain lost in our trespasses and sin.
4. Trinity was taught by Jesus, no other explanation of God makes sense, and nearly every doctrine of the Christian faith depends on the truth of Trinity.
5. In Genesis, we see God, by His Word and Spirit creates all things. John, at the beginning of his Gospel, affirms the Word, Jesus, was with God and was God.
6. The Triune nature of God means God is love. A singular, solitary god cannot have known love before he created something to love.
7. Trinity is one in essence and three in persons. Analogies based on things like shamrocks, water, eggs, and flawed arithmetic obscure the nature of God.

8. Once we understand the person of Jesus, what He said, what He did, how He referred to the Father, and what it means that He was filled with the Holy Spirit, we can better understand the Trinitarian nature of God.
9. God's love is reflected in creation, but man's sin has marred God's perfect creation. Fortunately, God doesn't abandon us to the curse, but joins us in it to rescue us from sin and death.
10. God the Father calls us to share in nothing less than what the Son has in Himself naturally, sonship with the Father. And God the Son, Jesus Christ, becomes our brother that we might share in the relationship He enjoys with the Father.

Questions for Discussion/Application

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. Why do you find the doctrine of God being one in essence and three in persons more or less difficult to understand?
3. Do you believe a Trinitarian view of God is required in the Christian faith?
4. Do you understand why the church fathers declared anti-trinitarian views of God as heresy?
5. Do you see where the teachings of Jesus clearly demonstrate the Father is God and the Holy Spirit is God?
6. Do you see examples where Jesus claimed to be God?
7. Do you understand why our salvation requires Jesus to be God?
8. Do you believe a single, solitary god as described by many religions could not be a god of love?
9. Do you see how the doctrine of creation depends on a trinitarian doctrine of God?
10. Do you see how grace and the Gospel depends on a trinitarian doctrine of God?
11. Have you heard the accusation by atheists that Christ's death on the cross was cosmic child abuse? Do you see that a proper view of Trinity disproves that assertion?
12. Do you understand why the idea of Trinity does not violate the laws of noncontradiction?
13. Does exchanging the Name Jesus in the Bible for the word God open new insights into the actions or teaching of Jesus?
14. Do you see how Trinity shapes the Christian's understanding of salvation, grace, and Gospel? How would a god of power be different than a God of love?
15. Do you see how a trinitarian view of God undermines the argument that your sin disqualifies you from the saving work of Christ?
16. Do you believe the best way to reflect the character of God is to love the Father as the Son loves the Father, to love the Son as the Father loves the Son, and to extend love to others as God loves us?

17. Does a Trinitarian view of God give you ideas on how you can present God to others who may not yet know Him?