

God is Three Persons

READ: John 17:1-26

ASK: What would the Church look like today if God's people began to live out Christ's prayer?

WATCH: <https://vimeo.com/167184118/ddea37c465>

LESSON:

There is one God who has revealed Himself in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three persons are the one God.

The Bible teaches God is one.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct persons.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one God, equal in power and glory.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all active in redemption's story.

Two serious errors to avoid.

The nature of the Trinity gives us a model to follow.

For more on this subject, read pages 39–52 in Michael Horton’s Core Christianity.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1 . The Mystery of the Trinity should shape us into a different kind of people. As you reflect on the Trinity, what are some of the effects that you hope this would have on your life? On your marriage? On your relationships in your church? On your relationships in your workplace?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

1 . The doctrine of the Trinity puts us face to face with this mystery: that God is incomprehensible. Write down a few of the ways that the mystery of the Trinity might inspire you to worship.

2 . Ephesians 4:4–6 says, “There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.” Take the time to write down some ways you might pray for the church to manifest unity in Christ. Take this time to pray for your church, the churches in your community, and the church around the world.

3 . Because the Trinity is hard to understand, people sometimes become afraid that they might get it wrong. Instead, it’s better to see that the Trinity should inspire awe and humility, revealing the limits of our understanding and language. Write down one new idea or thought you had, either in this study or inspired by this study.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.