

What Is God Like? Lesson 9: God is a Trinity

Introduction:

- The idea that God is three persons and only one God is a difficult concept to fully understand.

1. God has _____ Himself in the Bible as a Trinity.

- The word “Trinity” means” _____.

A. The Trinity is revealed in the Old Testament.

- **When God created the world:**

***Gen 1.26- 27** Then God said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness. 27 So God created man in **his** own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

- **When Adam sinned in the Garden of Eden:**

***Gen 3.22** Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of **us** in knowing good and evil.”*

- **When Isaiah had a vision of God in heaven:**

***Isa 6.8** And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for **us**?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me*

- **In the Psalms two distinct people are both referred to as “God”:**

Psa 45.6–7** **Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.

The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

7 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

Heb 1.8** **But of the Son he says,

*“**Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,***

the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.

B. The Trinity is revealed in the New Testament.

- **When Jesus was baptized:**

Matt 3.16–17 *And when **Jesus** was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the **Spirit** of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is **my** beloved Son, with whom **I am** well pleased.”*

- **When Jesus sent the disciples to be His witnesses:**

Matt 28.19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

- **Jesus is affirming:**

- **All three members of the Trinity are _____ persons.**
- **All three members of the Trinity are all _____.**

- **When the New Testament writers bless other Christians:**

2 Cor 13.14 *The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and the love of **God** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.*

Jude 1.20–21 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the **Holy Spirit**, 21 keep yourselves in the love of **God**, waiting for the mercy of our **Lord Jesus Christ** that leads to eternal life.*

- **When Paul is summarizing the Christian faith:**

Eph 4.4–6 *There is one body and one **Spirit**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— 5 one **Lord**, one faith, one baptism, 6 one **God and Father** of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

2. The _____ of the Trinity.

- The doctrine of the Trinity is a _____ that we will never fully understand.

A. God is three persons.

B. Each person of the Trinity is fully God.

C. There is one God.

A. God is three persons.

- The Father is not the _____.

John 1.1–2 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was **with God**, and the Word was **God**. 2 He was **in the beginning with God**.*

John 17.24 *Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that **you have given** me because **you loved me** before the foundation of the world.*

1 John 2.1 *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous**.*

Heb 7.25 *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who **draw near to God through him**, since **he always lives to make intercession** for them.*

- The Father is not the Holy Spirit.

John 14.26 *But the Helper, **the Holy Spirit**, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

Rom 8.27 *And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because **the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**.*

- The Son is not the Holy Spirit.

Matt 28.19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

John 16.7 *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. **But if I go, I will send him to you**.*

B. Each person of the Trinity is fully God.

- The Father is fully God.

Gen 1.1 *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.*

- The Son is fully God.

Col 2.9 *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,*

John 20.28 Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

- **The Holy Spirit is fully God.**

Matt 28.19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 5.3–4 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**”

1 Cor 2.11 So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

C. There is one God.

Deut 6.4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, **the LORD is one.**

Isa 45.5 I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;

1 Tim 2.5 For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

James 2.19 You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

D. The distinct _____ of the Trinity.

- All three members of the Trinity have different functions.
- All three persons of the Trinity work together with one mind, one plan, and one will.
- The members of the Trinity had different roles in _____.

Gen 1.1 In the beginning, **God created the heavens and the earth.**

John 1.3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Gen 1.2 *The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.***

- The members of the Trinity had different roles in our _____.

John 3.16 *“For **God so loved** the world, **that he gave his only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

John 6.38 *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.*

1 Pet 1.2 *according to the **foreknowledge of God the Father**, in the **sanctification of the Spirit**, for obedience to **Jesus Christ** and for **sprinkling with his blood**:*

- Our salvation is a result of the work of the Trinity.
 - The Father planned our redemption,
 - The Son accomplished it,
 - **AND** the Spirit applies the Father’s plan and the Son’s accomplishment to our lives.

E. There isn’t any thing on earth we can _____ the Trinity to.

- When we try to explain how God is like something on earth, we end up teaching something _____ about Him.
 - It is heresy to teach that God is only one person who appears to us in three different forms.
 - It is heresy to teach that each of the persons are not fully God, but just one part of God.
- _____ does the Bible use any analogies to illustrate the Trinity.

Deut 29.29 *The **secret things belong to the LORD our God**, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

F. The _____ of the doctrine of the Trinity.

- The _____ is threatened if we deny the Trinity.
 - If Jesus is not fully God, and a separate person from God, then:
 - He could not have borne the complete wrath of God for us.
 - He could not have risen from the dead.

- _____ by faith alone is threatened if we deny the Trinity.
 - If Jesus is not fully God, we would doubt whether we could really trust Him to save us completely.
- If Jesus is not fully God, we could not _____ to Him.
 - Only a God with all knowledge and all power can hear and answer all the prayers of all God's people.
- If Jesus is not fully God, we could not _____ Him.