

DOCTRINE

WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD BELIEVE

Trinity: God Is

We begin our study of essential doctrine not with what God has done, but with who God is, for the simple reason that before God did anything, He was. Therefore, let us consider who God is as He has revealed Himself in Scripture, as the one true, living, and Trinitarian God. Although the word “Trinity” was coined by Tertullian in the first century, the concept is clearly found in the Old and New Testament as attested by the historic affirmation of the Trinity throughout the history of the church.

The Trinity: One God who eternally exists as three distinct equal persons, Father, Son, and Spirit, who are each fully and equally God

Theology: We will start by engaging Scripture to understand the theology behind the doctrine of the Trinity.

Consider the following scriptures: 2 Chr. 15:3, Jer 10:10, John 17:3, 1 Thess. 1:9. What does this tell about the nature of God?

What is the implication of this truth for other religions and gods?

There are many scriptures that declare that the Father (Jn. 6:27, 1 Peter 1:3), the Son (Rom. 9:5, Gal 4:4) and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor. 3:16-18) are God. How is this reconciled with the statements of one God through scriptures like Gen. 1:26, 3:22, Is. 6:8?

What does it mean that the Father, Son and Spirit are distinct persons?

How does Matt. 3:16-17 support the distinct personhood of the Father, Son and Spirit?

How is the Trinity reflected in John 4:8 “God is Love”?

How does our desire for community and relationship reflect the image of God within us?

Implications: Let us consider the implications of the Trinity as it affects the way we live our daily lives.

Why is the Trinity an essential doctrine to Christian faith?

Why is it important to understand the nature of God as he has revealed Himself?

How do you relate to God the Father? The Son? The Spirit?

What does a Trinitarian life look like for you personally?

What aspects of the Trinity (community, relationship, submission...etc) are missing from your life?

How is God calling you to worship Him in light of His Trinitarian nature?

Prayer: Reflect on the truth of God's Word, and who it reveals God to be. Meditate on the concept of the Trinity and the implications that God is three distinct persons who are equally God.

Pray for wisdom and understanding of the revealed nature of God.

Pray that God would give us eyes to see what it looks like to live a Trinitarian life.

Pray for those who have yet to meet and know the one true God as revealed in the Bible.