

SCRIPTURE TRACK

Week 8 – Trinity

Psalm 34:3

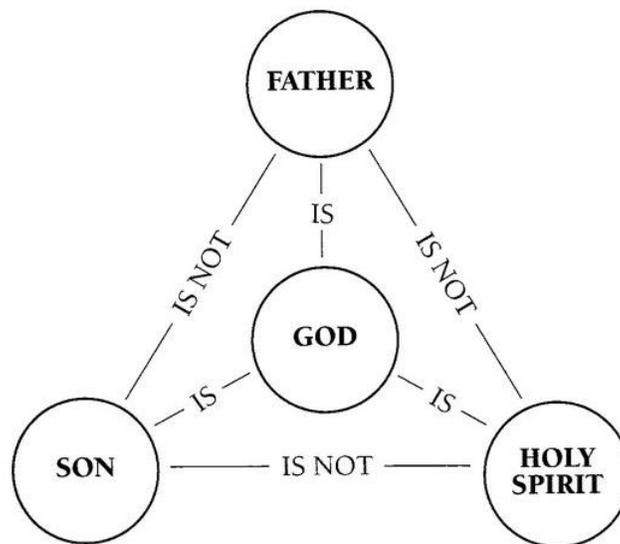
Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
And let us exalt His name together.

Goal: We have a jaw-dropping revelation of the God we love.

“If God is infinite and we are finite, we will never be fully able to understand him. The fullness of what he is will exceed our powers to grasp. Thus, we cannot expect ever to resolve fully this great mystery.”

Millard J. Erickson, Making Sense of the Trinity

3 Persons – 1 God



Is this doctrine Biblical?

The word “Trinity” is not used in Scripture

Early church fathers affirmed the doctrine of the Trinity.

More than 60 Bible passages reference 3 persons together

Mark 1:9-11 Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 28:19 Baptism Blessing

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We worship ONE God

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

God is Three Persons

Heavenly Father

Most Biblical references to “God” are identifying the Father – Matthew 6:25-33

It’s too easy to picture the Father as relates to us

Jesus taught us to pray to “Our Father” sharing sibling rights with us

Humans were designed to be fathers after the image of God

Eternal Son

Many Biblical references to “Lord” in the New Testament are identifying Jesus – Matthew 12:8

“For the Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Jesus didn’t become the Son at the incarnation

Jesus is fully God – Philippians 2:5-11

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,

did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing

by taking the very nature^[b] of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself

by becoming obedient to death—

even death on a cross!

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

Holy Spirit

Spirit – pneuma, breath

The Spirit is God – Acts 5:3-4

Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn’t it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn’t the money

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at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

“Do not be worried or surprised if you find Him rather vaguer or more shadowy in your mind than the other two. I think there is a reason why that must be so. In the Christian life you are not usually looking *at* Him. He is always acting through you.” C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Love must have an object

1 John 4:7-10 – Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

One God couldn't be Love

There is a sense in which the fact that God is love requires that he be more than one person. Love must have both a subject and an object. Thus, prior to the creation of other persons, humans, God could not have really loved, and thus would not have been truly love. If, however, there have always been multiple persons within the Trinity itself, among whom love could be mutually exercised, expressed, and experienced, then God could always have been actively loving. Genuine love requires that there be someone who can be loved.

Millard Erickson, *Making Sense of the Trinity*

Father Glorifies the Son & Son Glorifies the Father

John 17:1-5 - After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”

Timothy Keller defines glorifying as:

- Seeing beauty for who He is
- Not looking for benefits

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Spirit Glorifies the Son

John 16:13-15 – “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

All 3 Persons are active in our redemption

- 1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the **Father** has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
- Matthew 1:20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the **Holy Spirit**.”
- Hebrews 9:14 How much more, then, will the blood of **Christ**, who through the eternal **Spirit** offered himself unblemished to **God**, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!
- Luke 4:14 **Jesus** returned to Galilee in the power of the **Spirit**, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.
- John 3:34 For the **one** whom **God** has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the **Spirit** without limit.
- Romans 8:11 And if the **Spirit** of him who raised **Jesus** from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

“Thus the work of the Holy Spirit surrounds the work of Jesus Christ, as he goes before and after the incarnate Son like a set of holy parentheses embracing the story of salvation in Christ.”

The Deep Things of God, Fred Sanders
“God is a magnificent Father. God is a magnificent Savior, Jesus Christ. But if it were not for the magnificent Holy Spirit, I would still be a wretched, hateful sinner! It is not enough to have a Father-God who loves and provides for me. It is not enough even to have a Savior who died for my sins. For any of those blessings to make a difference in our lives, there must also be present in this world that Third Person of God, the Holy Spirit.”

The Magnificent Three, Nicky Cruz

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Our Response

Awe and wonder

“...adore the stupendous mystery of divine love! That God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost should all concur in the work of man’s redemption! What but pure goodness could move or excite God, who is perfect essential blessedness! That cannot possibly receive any accession of perfection or happiness from his creatures. What, I say, but love, but goodness, but infinite incomprehensible love and goodness could move him to provide such a remedy for the fatal lapse of his sinful unworthy creatures?”

Susanna Wesley’s devotional journal, 1711