

Theology Thursdays @ Lighthouse Church

July 17, 2025 - "What is the Trinity?"

Based on *Christian Beliefs* by Wayne Grudem, chapter three

Welcome!

Discuss:

- Introduce yourselves
- Share about a mystery / puzzle / riddle / escape room / etc. that you have enjoyed.

When something is _____, but it can be _____,
there is a desire to _____.

Proverbs 25:2

Our Approach:

- With reverence, awe, and fear
- Psalm 19 - The law of the Lord is perfect...
- Psalm 119:72 - The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces
- Search the Scriptures...together!

Part I - What is the Trinity?

The Trinity is a word used to describe that God is one being in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are distinct, and yet in complete unity; three persons in one being - triune.

There is no other _____ like _____.

1. The Bible's View of the Trinity
 - a. Genesis 1:26
 - b. Genesis 11:7
 - c. Genesis 17:22
 - d. Matthew 3:16-17
 - e. Matthew 28:19
2. The Meaning of the Trinity
 - a. God is three persons

- b. Each person is fully God
- c. God is one
 - i. Deuteronomy 6:4
 - ii. Isaiah 45:5
 - iii. 1 Timothy 2:5
 - iv. James 2:19
- d. This is a mystery - we can only know in part

How can anything in the _____ fully explain the
_____?

3. The Distinct Roles of the Trinity

- a. In Creation
 - i. Genesis 1:9-10 - The Father spoke
 - ii. John 1:3 - The Son made
 - iii. Genesis 1:2 - The Spirit hovered
- b. In new creation
 - i. John 3:16-17 - The Father plans
 - ii. John 6:38 - The Son sacrifices
 - iii. John 14:26; 16:7 - The Spirit indwells

“This is far different from our own experience where every person is a different being as well. But somehow God’s being is so different from ours that it can be both undivided and can unfold itself into interpersonal relationships among three distinct persons. This is far different from anything we have ever experienced, will experience, or can fully understand.” (*Christian Beliefs*, p. 38)

4. Unity and Diversity (p. 39)

- a. The Trinity provides a basis for unity and diversity we experience in everyday life.
 - i. In marriage
 - ii. In the Church / body of Christ

Discuss

1. Review three or four passages of Scripture that tell us about the Trinity. What exactly do these passages tell us about the Trinity?
2. How might we specifically praise and thank each person of the Trinity?
3. Why do all analogies fail in their ability to fully explain the Trinity? Does this mean we should try to come up with an analogy that works? Why or why not?
4. How do the different ways the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relate to each other provide us with a model for the ways we are to relate to each other?

Part II - A Deep Dive into John 14-17

The setting: John 14-17 are some of Jesus' last words to His disciples prior to his betrayal and crucifixion.

How do we see the unity and diversity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in this passage?

1. Ask God to open your eyes to see more of Him.
2. Read a few verses.
3. Consider / discuss how there is diversity or distinction.
4. Consider / discuss how there is unity.

Example 1

John 14:1 - Don't let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.

Jesus _____ himself with _____.

Jesus is _____.

Jesus is _____ from the _____.

Example 2

John 14:6 - ...How can we know the way? Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will also know my Father.

Jesus is _____ to the _____.

If you _____, you will also _____.

Discuss

1. Using the pattern above, continue looking at John 14-17.
2. Consider how we see the unity and diversity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

BONUS

- What are some common threads in these chapters?

Mind-blowing Observations

1. Jesus wants _____ to be _____.
2. God, through Jesus, invites us into His _____.
3. God's love for us is rooted in His _____.

God _____.

John 14

The Way to the Father

¹ “Don’t let your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ²In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³If I go away and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am you may be also. ⁴You know the way to where I am going.” ,

⁵“Lord,” Thomas said, “we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

⁶Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

Jesus Reveals the Father

⁸“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. ¹¹Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.

Praying in Jesus’s Name

¹² “Truly I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do. And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Another Counselor Promised

¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commands. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever. ¹⁷He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you.

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

¹⁸ “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.”

²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?”

²³Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴The one

who doesn't love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵ "I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

Jesus's Gift of Peace

²⁷ "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful. ²⁸You have heard me tell you, 'I am going away and I am coming to you.' If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe. ³⁰I will not talk with you much longer, because the ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over me. ³¹On the contrary, so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do as the Father commanded me.

"Get up; let's leave this place.

John 15

The Vine and the Branches

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ²Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in me, and I in you. Just

as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

Christlike Love

⁹ "As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ "I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this: to lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants anymore, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me, but I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce fruit and that your fruit should remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.

17 “This is what I command you: Love one another.

Persecutions Predicted

18 “If the world hates you, understand that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own. However, because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of it, the world hates you. 20 Remember the word I spoke to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours. 21 But they will do all these things to you on account of my name, because they don’t know the one who sent me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 The one who hates me also hates my Father. 24 If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would not be guilty of sin. Now they have seen and hated both me and my Father. 25 But this happened so that the statement written in their law might be fulfilled: *They hated me for no reason.*

The Counselor’s Ministry

26 “When the Counselor comes, the one I will send to you from the Father — the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father — he will testify about me. 27 You also will testify, because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16

1 “I have told you these things to keep you from stumbling. 2 They will ban you from the synagogues. In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 They will do these things because they haven’t known the Father or me. 4 But I have told you these things so that when their time comes you will remember I told them to you. I didn’t tell you these things from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going away to him who sent me, and not one of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ 6 Yet, because I have spoken these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don’t go away the Counselor will not come to you. If I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 About sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will no longer see me; 11 and about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

12 “I still have many things to tell you, but you can’t bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. 15 Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I

told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.

Sorrow Turned to Joy

¹⁶ “In a little while, you will no longer see me; again in a little while, you will see me.”

¹⁷ Then some of his disciples said to one another, “What is this he’s telling us: ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me,’ and, ‘Because I am going to the Father’?” ¹⁸ They said, “What is this he is saying, ‘In a little while’? We don’t know what he’s talking about.”

¹⁹ Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, and so he said to them, “Are you asking one another about what I said, ‘In a little while, you will not see me; again in a little while, you will see me’?” ²⁰ Truly I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice. You will become sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. ²¹ When a woman is in labor, she has pain because her time has come. But when she has given birth to a child, she no longer remembers the suffering because of the joy that a person has been born into the world. ²² So you also have sorrow now. But I will see you again. Your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy from you.

²³ “In that day you will not ask me anything. Truly I tell you, anything you ask the Father in my name, he will give you. ²⁴ Until now you have asked for nothing in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be complete.

Jesus the Victor

²⁵ “I have spoken these things to you in figures of speech. A time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures, but I will tell you plainly about the Father. ²⁶ On that day you will ask in my name, and I am not telling you that I will ask the Father on your behalf. ²⁷ For the Father himself loves you, because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God. , ²⁸ I came from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I am leaving the world and going to the Father.”

²⁹ His disciples said, “Look, now you’re speaking plainly and not using any figurative language. ³⁰ Now we know that you know everything and don’t need anyone to question you. By this we believe that you came from God.”

³¹ Jesus responded to them, “Do you now believe? ³² Indeed, an hour is coming, and has come, when each of you will be scattered to his own home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me. ³³ I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world.”

John 17

Jesus Prays for Himself

¹ Jesus spoke these things, looked up to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you gave him authority over all people, , so that he

may give eternal life to everyone you have given him. ³This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and the one you have sent ~~—~~ ~~#~~—~~#~~ Jesus Christ. ⁴I have glorified you on the earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵Now, Father, glorify me in your presence with that glory I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus Prays for His Disciples

⁶ “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from the world. They were yours, you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸because I have given them the words you gave me. They have received them and have known for certain that I came from you. They have believed that you sent me.

⁹ “I pray for them. I am not praying for the world but for those you have given me, because they are yours. ¹⁰Everything I have is yours, and everything you have is mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by your name that you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I was protecting them by your name that you have given me. I guarded them and not one of them is lost, except the son of destruction, so that the Scripture may be fulfilled. ¹³Now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy completed in them. ¹⁴I have given

them your word. The world hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹I sanctify myself for them, so that they also may be sanctified by the truth.

Jesus Prays for All Believers

²⁰ “I pray not only for these, but also for those who believe in me through their word. ²¹May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us, so that the world may believe you sent me. ²²I have given them the glory you have given me, so that they may be one as we are one. ²³I am in them and you are in me, so that they may be made completely one, that the world may know you have sent me and have loved them as you have loved me.

²⁴ “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, so that they will see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the world’s foundation. ²⁵Righteous Father, the world has not known you. However, I have known you, and they have known that you sent me. ²⁶I made your name known to them and will continue to make it known, so that the love you have loved me with may be in them and I may be in them.”

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