



VERITAS
CHURCH

BELIEF EQUIPPING EVENT

SESSION ONE

WHY DOES THE TRINITY MATTER?

WHY THE TRINITY?

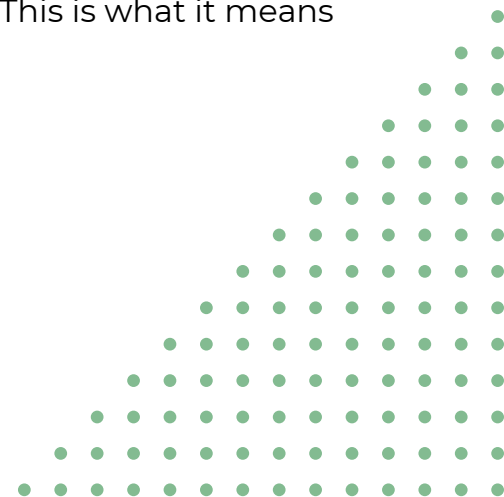
We study the Trinity because we need to rightly understand and worship the God who reveals himself to us in Jesus and sends the Holy Spirit.

WHERE DO WE SEE THE TRINITY IN SCRIPTURE?

Everywhere!

WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

The Bible teaches us that God is one in essence, three in person. This is what it means for God to be Trinity.



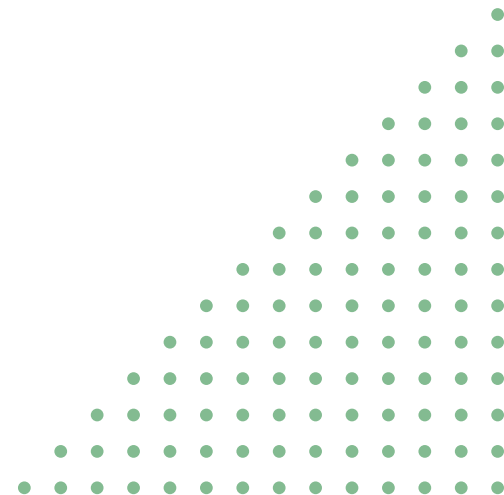
SESSION ONE

WHY DOES THE TRINITY MATTER?

JOHN 5:19-29 ESV

So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will. For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."



SESSION TWO

THE TRINITY AND THE GOSPEL

MEET THE SON, KNOW THE TRIUNE GOD

The incarnation of Jesus gives us the clearest revelation of who God is as Trinity. Read John 1:1-5, 14

SALVATION IS TRINITARIAN

At every turn, the gospel is trinitarian. God the Father sent the Son to accomplish salvation for us; the Father and the Son send the Spirit to apply salvation for us.

THE GOSPEL IS GOD-SIZED

The gospel is no less than God saving sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but, it is far more. The gospel is God-sized because, in the gospel, the Triune God brings us into relationship with himself all by himself.



SESSION TWO

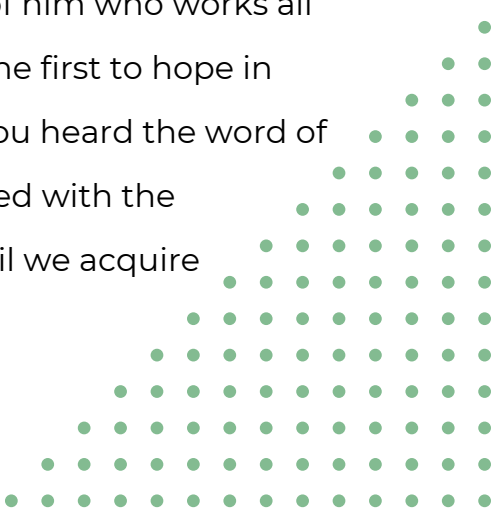
THE TRINITY AND THE GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-5, 14 ESV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

EPHESIANS 1:3-14 ESV

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.



SESSION THREE

COMMUNION WITH THE TRINITY

INSEPARABLE OPERATIONS

The works of the Trinity are undivided. Each act of God is the undivided work of the Trinity, but we can “appropriate” a work to one of the persons, and because of this, we can have communion with each person of the Trinity.

WE ARE ADOPTED BY THE FATHER

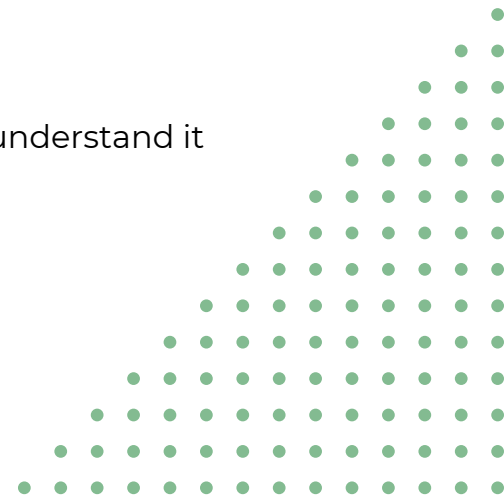
Adoption by the father means we are loved by the Father eternally as his daughters and sons. As sons and daughters, we are invited to share in the relationship that Jesus has with the Father.

WE ARE UNITED WITH THE SON

We share in all of Jesus's benefits and privileges as the Son of God, we experience his grace and have fellowship with him.

WE ARE INDWELT WITH THE SPIRIT

- God makes his home in us through the Spirit
- The Spirit gives us gifts because he is a gift
- The Spirit bears fruit within us
- The Spirit illuminates the word he inspired so that we might understand it
- The Spirit stirs up our affections for Christ



SESSION THREE

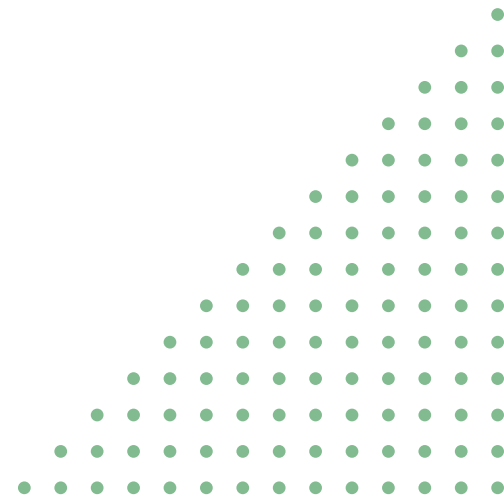
COMMUNION WITH THE TRINITY

GALATIANS 4:1-7 ESV

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

ROMANS 8:12-17 ESV

So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs— heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.



ATHANASIAN CREED

Now this is the Christian faith:
That we worship one God in trinity and the
trinity in unity,
neither blending their persons
nor dividing their essence.

For the person of the Father is a distinct
person,
the person of the Son is another,
and that of the Holy Spirit still another.
But the divinity of the Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit is one,
their glory equal, their majesty coeternal.

What quality the Father has, the Son has,
and the Holy Spirit has.

The Father is uncreated,
the Son is uncreated,
the Holy Spirit is uncreated.
The Father is immeasurable,
the Son is immeasurable,
the Holy Spirit is immeasurable.
The Father is eternal,
the Son is eternal,
the Holy Spirit is eternal.

And yet there are not three eternal
beings;
there is but one eternal being.
So too there are not three uncreated
or immeasurable beings;
there is but one uncreated and
immeasurable being.
Similarly, the Father is almighty,
the Son is almighty,
the Holy Spirit is almighty.

Yet there are not three almighty
beings;
there is but one almighty being.
Thus the Father is God,
the Son is God,
the Holy Spirit is God.
Yet there are not three gods;
there is but one God.

Thus the Father is Lord,
the Son is Lord,
the Holy Spirit is Lord.
Yet there are not three lords;
there is but one Lord.

Just as Christian truth compels us
to confess each person individually
as both God and Lord,
so the Christian religion forbids us
to say that there are three gods or lords.

The Father was neither made nor created
nor begotten from anyone.
The Son was neither made nor created;
he was begotten from the Father alone.
The Holy Spirit was neither made nor
created nor begotten;
he proceeds from the Father and the Son.
Accordingly there is one Father, not three
fathers;
there is one Son, not three sons;
there is one Holy Spirit, not three holy
spirits.
Nothing in this trinity is before or after,
nothing is greater or smaller;
in their entirety the three persons
are coeternal and coequal with each other.

So in everything, as was said earlier,
we must worship the trinity in their unity
and their unity in the trinity.

Anyone then who desires to be saved
should think thus about the trinity.

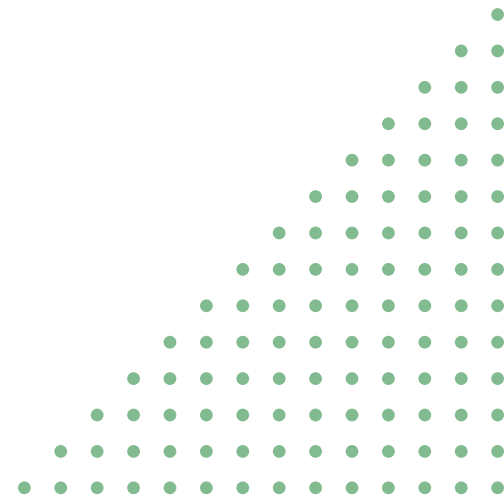


NICENE CREED

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, died, 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 and giver of life,
who 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 universal and apostolic church.
We affirm one baptism, the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.



GLOSSARY

APPROPRIATION - Matthew Barrett's definition in *Simply Trinity*: "Since God is one in essence (simple), every operation is the one, singular, indivisible work of the Trinity. Yet a particular work in creation or salvation may be appropriated by a person of the Trinity in a special way that is consistent with that person's eternal relation of origin. Appropriations draw our attention to each person's distinctiveness. For example, the Father is Creator, which conveys he is the origin in the Trinity." This does not mean that Jesus and the Spirit did not create, the Bible teaches that they did, but we can appropriate the work of creation in a special way to the Father, without excluding the Son and Spirit.

ARIANISM - A heresy that taught that Jesus is not co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father. God the Father is the only God, Jesus is a created being. The famous phrase of Arians was that "there was a time when the Son was not."

DIVINE SIMPLICITY - Divine simplicity means that all that is in God is God, and that each of the three persons are fully God, not parts of God. God is not made up of parts. His essence is his attributes, and his attributes are his essence. Each of the three persons possess the whole divine essence, so the three persons are not parts of God.

ECONOMY OF SALVATION - Matthew Barrett's definition in *Simply Trinity*: "God's operations toward the created order (creation, providence, or redemption)."

ETERNAL GENERATION AND PROCESSION - Eternal generation means that the Son is eternally from the Father. Eternal procession means the Holy Spirit eternally precedes from the Father and the Son. This is how we distinguish the persons of the Trinity from one another.

ETERNAL RELATIONS OF ORIGIN - Matthew Barrett's definition in *Simply Trinity*: "Distinguishes how each person is related to another, identifying the everlasting provenance (principle/origin/source) from which each person proceeds. Paternity: The Father is unbegotten, and therefore the eternal origin of the Son. Filiation: The Son's origin is the Father, begotten (generated) from the Father's essence from all eternity. Spiration: the Father and Son are the origin of the Spirit, spirating the Spirit from all eternity. These relations alone distinguish the persons."

GOSPEL - The good news that God saves sinners and restores his world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



GLOSSARY

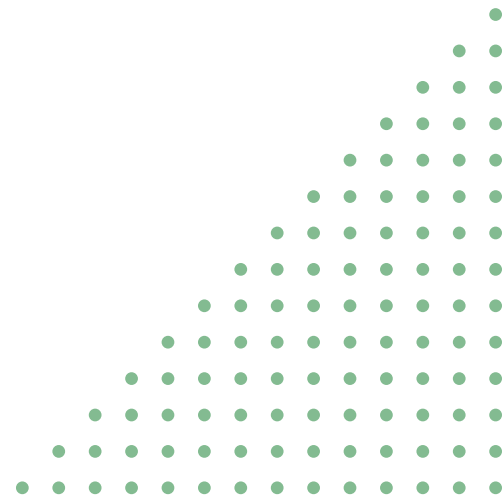
IMMANENT TRINITY - Matthew Barrett's definition in *Simply Trinity*: "The Trinity in and of itself, apart from creation and salvation."

INSEPARABLE OPERATIONS - Matthew Barrett's definition in *Simply Trinity*: "Since the persons of the Trinity are indivisible in essence, they are also indivisible in their external operations. Having the one, simple will in common, they perform a singular act in any external operation."

MISSION - Matthew Barrett's definition in *Simply Trinity*: "Refers to the Son and Spirit being sent into the world. Each person's mission reflects each person's eternal relation of origin, although missions do not constitute eternal relations, nor should everything in the missions (e.g. incarnate suffering or submission) be projected back into the immanent Trinity"

MODALISM - A heresy that taught that God is only one person who takes on different forms or modes. For example, in the Old Testament God is the Father, then during the gospels he becomes the Son, and then finally in the book of Acts he becomes the Spirit.

TRINITY - God has eternally existed as the one God who is Father, Son, and Spirit.



RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Delighting in the Trinity - Michael Reeves

The Deep Things of God- Fred Sanders

The Trinity: An Introduction - Scott Swain

Simply Trinity - Matthew Barrett (more challenging)

EQUIPPING EVENTS

Equipping events are one-day events that serve to equip the partners/attenders of Veritas in the areas of Christian story, Christian belief, and Christian formation. They will primarily run on a Spring, Summer, and Fall track. Our hope for these events are that you leave equipped with a deeper understanding of God's truth, greater formation into the image of Jesus, and an increased desire to live into the story of Jesus!

