

T **R** **I** **N** **I** **T** **Y**



INTRODUCTION

"The historic formulation of the Trinity seeks to circumscribe and safeguard this mystery (not explain it; that is beyond us), and it confronts us with perhaps the most difficult thought that the human mind has ever been asked to handle. It is not easy; but it is true." J.I. Packer

Why this series?

Because knowledge of our God as One God in three persons is the foundation of our faith.

What impact should the Trinity have in my life?

Because we have been made in the image of God, then surely knowledge of who our Creator is should help us find the true purpose for our lives.



SERIES

Within the Trinity there is the fullest, most satisfying, and complete interchange of love amongst three Holy Persons and consequently this Trinitarian love must be the foundation of all our human love.

Week 1

Discovery of **One God** in three persons in loving relationship.

Week 2

Discovery of the **Father's** loving plan.

Week 3

Discovery of the **Son's** loving service.

Week 4

Discovery of the **Spirit's** loving intimacy.



1. WHO IS GOD?

A. GOD IS LOVE

1 John 4:8b

“For although the whole world has most carefully sought to understand the nature, mind and activity of God, it has had no success in this whatever. But...God Himself has revealed and disclosed the deepest profundity of his fatherly heart, his sheer inexpressible love.” **Martin Luther**

B. GOD IS ONE

“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.” **Deuteronomy 6:4-5**



2. WHO ARE THE THREE PERSONS?

“The Old Testament proclaimed the Father openly, and the Son more obscurely. The New Testament manifested the Son, and suggested the deity of the Spirit. Now the Spirit himself dwells among us, and supplies us with a clearer demonstration of himself. For it was not safe, when the Godhead for the Father was not yet acknowledged, plainly to proclaim the Son; now when that of the Son was not yet received to burden us further...with the Holy Spirit...It was necessary that, increasing little by little, and, as David says, by ascensions of glory to glory, the full splendor of the Trinity should gradually shine forth.”

Gregory of Nazianzen



2. WHO ARE THE THREE PERSONS?

As soon as Jesus (God the Son) was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God (God the Holy Spirit) descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven (God the Father) said, "This is my Son, whom I love: with him I am well pleased."

Matthew 3:16-17



3. WHEN DID THE TRINITY BEGIN?

"Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

John 17:24

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters...And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

Genesis 1:1-3

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness"...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Genesis 1:26-27



4. IS THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit (Spirit) will come upon you, and the power of the Most High (Father) will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God (Son)."

Luke 1:35

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Matthew 28:19

*"He said to them (Son): "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father (Father) has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit (Spirit) comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." **Acts 1:7-8***



5. WHY SHOULD WE STUDY THE TRINITY?

- A. Because we experience God as Father.
- B. Because we experience God as Son who loves the church.
- C. Because we experience God as Spirit who makes us holy.
- D. Because to know God as Triune cultivates humility.
- E. Because to know God as Triune fuels a loving community.

