



# TRINITY

Part 1: God the Father  
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*To deny the Trinity is to lose your soul –  
To try and explain it is to lose your mind.*  
- Augustine

We believe that there is one God...  
*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Deut 6:4*

...Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing as three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

## **The Trinity at Creation**

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. – *Genesis 1:1-2*

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness..." – *Genesis 1:26*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. – *John 1:1-2*

## **The Trinity at the Incarnation**

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God." – *Luke 1:35*

## **The Trinity at Baptism**

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." – *Matthew 3:16-17*

## **The Trinity at the Great Commission**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." – *Matthew 28:19-20*

## **The Trinity according to Jesus**

"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning." – *John 15:26-27*

*(Continues on back)*

God the Father is God – *Romans 1:7*

God the Son is God – *John 1:1*

God the Holy Spirit is God – *Acts 5:3-4*

## **The doctrine of the Trinity changes our lives because we get to witness the role of God the Father as Initiator**

God the Father initiated creation - *Genesis 1:1* (see above)

God the Father initiated relationship

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.

– *1 John 4:9-10*

God the Father initiated salvation

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

– *John 3:16-17*

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” – *John 6:44*

God the Father initiated forgiveness and restoration

*Luke 15:11-32*

## **On Your Way Home**

Pay attention to everything around you in terms of creation. What does God say about Himself in nature?

### **Small Group Discussion Questions**



- 1) If you could ask God one question, what would it be?
- 2) What aspect of God do you struggle to understand? Can you add any metaphors to try and comprehend the Trinity?
- 3) What type of relationship did you have with your father? How has that relationship (good or bad) defined you as a person?
- 4) How does God, defining Himself as a Father, affect you and your relationship with Him?
- 5) Read the story from Luke 15:11-32. What can you learn about God the Father from that story?
- 6) How can we pray for you tonight?