

Christian Beliefs Week 4: Teaching Ch 23: What is the Trinity?

- **Doctrine of the Trinity:**
- **Distinct Roles of each Person in the Trinity.**
- Genesis 1:26, John 1:3
- *How are the different roles within the Trinity seen in our salvation?* John 3:16-17; 6:38; 14:26; 16:7).
- Jude 20-21. “Build yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.” *What roles do you see in this verse?*
- Jesus is baptized in Matt 3:16-17, and there were three different activities happening:
- **Each Member is Distinct in their personhood.**
- **Jesus is God.**
- John 1:1-2; Heb 1:3; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1; Rom 9:5, Is 40:3 is also Matt 3:3, Col 2:9
- When the term “Lord” is used, it usually means Jesus, God the Son.
- *Why is it crucial to believe Jesus is equally God and not created by the Father or not eternal like the Father?* Heb 1:8
- **The Holy Spirit is God and a person.**
- We know the HS is a person as He is labeled helper, counselor, and comforter.
- 2 Cor 3:17; Acts 5:3
- **God the Father.**
- When the Bible refers to just “God,” it usually means God the Father. 1 Cor 12:4-6

- **Where else is the Trinity mentioned in the Bible?**
- Gen 11:7; Isa 6:8; 2 Cor 13:14, “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” *What do you learn about each person of the Trinity in this verse?*

- 1 Peter 1:2, “According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood.” *What do we learn about each person in the Trinity in this verse?*

- You don’t want to use 1 John 5:7, which says, “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.” It is based on a very small number of unreliable Greek manuscripts, the earliest from the 14th century AD.
- Psalm 110:1; Is 48:16; Matthew 28:18-19

- **Only One God:**
- Rom 3:30, 1 Tim 2:5; Deut. 6: 4-5; Is 45:5, 21-22; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 Cor 8:6
- Since there is only one God, there is only one will.

- **Unity and diversity exist within the Trinity.**

- **Scripture does not ask us to believe in a contradiction.**

- **Summary of this teaching in 3 statements:**
 - God is three persons.
 - Each person is fully God.
 - There is one God.
 - **Errors come when one denies any one of the three statements.**
 - Modalism (or Sabellianism):

 - Arianism:

 - Subordinationism:

Why might those who hold to a feminist view of man-female relationships have an issue with the eternal subordination of the Son to the Father?

- Adoptionism:

- Tritheism:

Discuss:

- How has this discussion increased your understanding of the Trinity? What stuck out to you?

- Why is the doctrine of the Trinity so important to the Church and the Christian faith?

- How do you relate to each person of the Trinity? Is there One who you tend to focus on or One who you often neglect?

- How has learning about the members of the Trinity helped you grow in your faith? Is there a person of the Trinity you want to learn more about?

- (If you want to learn more about Mormonism and why it's wrong, you can read Systematic Theology p 325-332.)

