

EQUIP

THE TRINITY



Session 1: Understanding the Trinity

20 Sept 23

Word association...

“He who does not adore the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as equal in divine majesty, worships not the true God, but a creature of his own imagination.” —*Hermann Witsius*

Tri-une = Three-one

God is one: **“une”**

Deut 6:4–5

Isa 45:5–6

Isa 44:6–8



God is three: **“tri”**

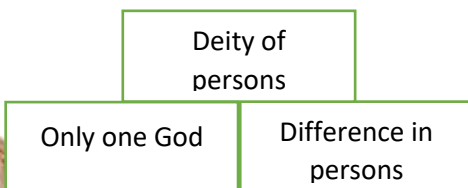
John 5:17–24

1. What is Jesus’ defence?
2. Does Jesus violate what we have seen in the OT? Why/why not?
3. What do we learn about God from Jesus’ defence?
4. How is Jesus different from or like the Father?

John 15:26, Matt 28:19

1. How is the Spirit (the “Helper” or “Advocate”) described?
2. How is he like the Father and the Son?
3. How is he distinct from the Father and the Son?

Two dangers



Denial of *deity*



Arius (Arianism)

Denial of *difference*



Modalism or Moodalism



I. OF FAITH IN THE HOLY TRINITY

THERE is but one living and true God, ever-lasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Maker, and Preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in **unity of this Godhead** there be **three Persons**, of **one substance**, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.¹

Problem with “god”

Session 2: The Beauty of the Trinity

“The trinity of God is the secret of His beauty. If we deny this, we at once have a God without radiance and without joy (and without humour!); a God without beauty.” —*Karl Barth*



For the love of God

1 John 4:8

A creation from love

John 17:24–26

Genesis 1:1–3; John 1:1–5; Col 1:15–16

1. What *suggestions* are there in Genesis 1 that the *Trinity* created?
2. How does John develop the language of Genesis?
3. What is the significance of John’s language on our view of creation?
4. What does Colossians suggest about the goal of creation?
5. (Key) How does this change the way you see yourself (as a created being)?

A recreation from love

“Incurvatus in se”

Galatians 4:3–7

1. According to Paul, what are the distinctive roles of
 - a. the Father
 - b. the Son
 - c. the Spirit, in bringing salvation?
2. How does understanding the relationship between the Father and the Son enhance what it means to be “adopted as sons” (v5)?
3. (Key) How does seeing all three persons of the Trinity working for our salvation shape our view of what it means to “be saved?”

One thing...

¹“Church of England Articles of Religion,” n.d., <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/worship-texts-and-resources/book-common-prayer/articles-religion>.