

EVERY TRACK EVERY WEEK

WEEK 2: Leader Study Guide

God is One

-Welcome!

-Intro: Introduce yourself, Say THANK YOU for being here! Revisit last week's points

****Point everyone to PODCAST!** Gospeldrivenathlete.com

***Encourage group participation** as necessary for a quality bible study.

***Exchange numbers** or *invite attendees to join your ETEW Facebook group.*

INTRO:

The topic of this discussion is the Trinity. The Trinity has been a hot topic for centuries in the church. It is a fascinating doctrine that in many ways goes above and beyond what our finite brains can comprehend.

That said, scripture is clear that God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit all share the same attributes, yet at the same time exist as three distinct persons. You can faithfully say that all members of the trinity are God and you can also faithfully say that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are unique persons with unique roles in the Godhead.

Aside from this biblical paradox, the most important thing to take away from today's study, and the reason why the church has held tightly to this doctrine historically, is that without the trinity, the gospel makes no sense.

Simply put, God the Father redeemed us by Sending God the Son to live and die for us and the reality of the gospel is made known to us and creates faith in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit whom God also sent as our helper. What God does, he does in the Son, by the Spirit. The three can all be said to be God, and yet all are unique.

If you take away the trinity, there is no good news & there is no salvation.

-Ice Breaker Question: *Have you ever wished you could be in more than one place at the same time? Were you able to pull that off?*

-Scripture References: *Deut 6:4, Isaiah 44:6, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Matthew 3:16,17, Matthew 28:19, John 14:26, 15:26, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Titus 3:5.6*



-Question 1: In the Old Testament, Deut 6 says, “hear O Israel the Lord is one...” and Isa45:6 says, “I am the Lord, and there is no other.” What is the significance of God asserting that He is the only, ONE true God? Why is that important?

***Answer:**

- 1) There is only one true God who is eternal, all powerful, all knowing, kind, vengeful, jealous, and deserving of full glory who created us, takes care of us, and who redeems us
- 2) He shares His glory with none other and there is none other that compare.

-Question 2: But let’s back up even further in the Old Testament... all the way to the first chapter of Genesis. This is the account of creation. When God created the heavens and the earth out of nothing. Gen 1:26 says, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness” ... then in Gen3:22 God says that “The man [Adam] has become like one of us knowing good and evil” What is all this about US? I thought God asserted that He is ONE? How can He be ONE and there still be an US?

***ANSWER:**

- 1) This is the earliest introduction and hint of there being multiple persons that make up the one true God.
- 2) *While persons is a readily acceptable way to describe the Godhead, it is not perfect. When we say ‘persons’ we do not mean autonomous persons in the way we often think that individual people are autonomous and separate.*
- 3) The persons of the Godhead are not separate from each other. They are distinct “actors”... who have distinct roles, but they are not separate.

Question 3: Have you ever heard the term “Trinity”? What do you understand that to mean?

***ANSWER:**

- 3 in 1
- Tri- unity
- One in essence. 3 in person.
- 4) Heidelberg Catechism question 25 deals with this specifically:

25.Q. *Since there is only one God, ¹ why do you speak of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?*



A. Because God has so revealed himself in his Word² that these three distinct persons are the one, true, eternal God.

- Father, Son, and Spirit are the distinct persons of the Trinity that make up what is known as the Godhead.
- The Trinity actually stands as a great evidence that God authored scripture. Given that the Scriptures were written over the course of thousands of years, man could not have so clearly and yet simultaneously so mysteriously created such perfect progressive revelation (meaning truth that is revealed more clearly over the course of time) concerning the Triunity of God. People in the Old Testament times had a picture of the Trinity, but it was as if looking in a mirror dimly lit. We have a clear picture of the Trinity now, since Christ (God the Son) has come from God the Father, and sent God the Holy Spirit. As it is, there are still elements of God's nature that will remain a mystery to us as finite beings, and yet scripture is clear that God is One in nature (or essence) and three in person (Father, Son, Spirit).
- The common picture of an egg as representative of the Trinity is inaccurate. This imagery allows for separation of the Godhead. An egg yolk is not the egg. An egg shell is not the egg. Whereas the Son IS God. The Spirit IS God. The Father IS God. There's a big difference, so we have to be careful not to go beyond what God gives us. While the Trinity is mysterious and while we cannot fully grasp or correlate the Trinity to things in our physical world, God reveals all we need to know about the Trinity in His written word. The tension here is ok.

-Question 4: So according to scripture, God is One. There is ONE God, but there is also an US factor there... What can we logically deduce when Jesus said, "I and the Father are one" -Jn10:30 or "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."? -Jn14:9

ANSWER:

- We can logically deduce that if Jesus said He is one with the Father that Jesus is God.
- There are numerous places where Jesus himself flat out claimed that He is equal with the Father.
- The fact that Jesus willingly submitted to the Father does not mean that He is subordinate to the father. There is a difference between economic submission and ontological submission.



Basically, that means that Jesus chose to submit to the Father. He is not beneath the Father or somehow inferior.

-Question 5: What are we to do with the fact that throughout scripture, God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit share all the same attributes (eternality, holiness, gloriousness, truth, etc.)?

ANSWER:

- Good and necessary consequence from this is that **all three are God.** If all three persons share the same divine attributes... attributes that created beings do not share... attributes that are limited to describing God, then all three are God. These persons make up what is known as the Godhead.

-Question 6: So, we have the persons of the Godhead... the Trinity. God the Father. God the Son. God the Spirit. What are the unique roles of each person of the Trinity?

ANSWER:

--God the Father redeemed us by sending God the Son to live, die, and be resurrected for us. The reality and effectuality of this is made known to us by God the Holy Spirit.

-Father: Creator

-Son: Redeemer

-Spirit: teaching, speaking, bearing witness to Christ, convicting the world of sin, leading, praying,

- What God does, he does IN the Son, BY the Spirit.

-Question 6: How should these facts inform our actions and our lives?

ANSWER:

1) In his book "What is the Trinity" David F. Wells writes, *"there is an invisible boundary between [God] and us, both with respect to his being and with respect to what we know. We cannot cross that boundary to know him savingly. He is not found in our deepest self. He is outside the range of our intuitive radar. In fact, we are alienated from him and shut out from his fellowship and knowledge. We cannot access him on our own terms and on our own timetable. No, it is he who must cross that boundary if we are to know him. The initiative must be his, and the timing his. And this he has done in Christ."*

2) The fact that God saves us through the accomplished work of Christ, applied to us by the Spirit should give us great rest. Knowing who God is, as he has revealed himself to us in the Trinity, gives us great confidence because we can clearly see that he gives us everything we need in order to



know Him, and he does so exactly as we need it and how we need it- from the Father, in the Son, by the Spirit.

-Lets pray.

