

Deep Life

2/24/08

Director: Scott



8:15 Worship Team
9:00 Leader's Meeting (Prayer, People, Program)

9:35 Greetings!
Open in Prayer – Nathan A

Worship:

9:55 JH Upstairs

HS+C Announcements (Dana) (3 big, 2 small) (5min)

- HS Mexico – training today! 2-4pm, essays due, FORMS due!
- Find Erik Anderson – Car Rally for HS – coming up on Feb 26 – be ready! We have space for MORE!
- College – Monday nights @ 7:30pm. Snack Time 4 the Soul (ST4TS) is coming this week – invite friends!
- Grow – read your Bibles and walk with Jesus!
- Birthdays?

10:00 Small Group Time – into a group of 4-5 people, same gender (try to keep the same until end of year)

- Catch up on life
- Share Prayer Requests
- Pray!

10:10 Lesson: **Theology 101: The Trinity**

MAIN POINT: God exists in a three-in-one unified relationship. And God invites us to share His uniting love.

Hook (5min)

- Give student a concordance and have him or her find the word "trinity" in the Bible. (it's not there)
- What is the Trinity? Is there one God or three? Does this confuse anyone? Why is this important?

Trying to Understand (15min/10:15)

A. Why the Trinity?

- "God exists in a three-in-one unified relationship. Christianity is the only religion to make this claim about God."
- Why this claim? Because the teaching of the Bible. Deut 6.4; John 20.28; Matt 28.19; Gen 1.1-3
- This is who God is. *The goal of theology is to know and worship God – with all the fullness we can understand as humans.*

B. How the doctrine of the Trinity came about: Coming to an understanding

- (How theologians came to understand that God exists eternally as Trinity.)
- Justin Martyr - AD120: Word and Father are distinct but not separable.
- Tertullian - AD 160: studied Scripture and coined words: *trinitas, persona, substantia*; explained God exists as one substance or essence, but as three persons
- Oscar Cullman - AD 1950's: unity centers around function (Hebrew thinking): see Mark 2.8-10
- Recently:
 - o Enlightenment deism, Jehovah's Witnesses and Unitarianism - deny Trinity
 - o Mormonism - denies Trinity and says humans can become gods

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C. Orthodoxy and heresy

- The heresy of Tritheism - "there are three Gods"
 - o There are not three gods; if you say this, you are wrong.
 - o Athanasius (cAD 300) fought a form of this in Arian heresy See Eph 4.6
- The heresy of Modalism (Sabellianism) - "there is one God who wears 3 masks"
 - o Heresy: one person, three names; Orthodoxy: one substance; three persons (one name: Matt 28.19)
 - o See Matt 3.16-17
- Analogies:
 - o Water- one essence,
 - o Augustine (cAD 350) - greatest thinker on subject. God exists in unified relationship: bonded by love Lover - Beloved - Love
 - o (St. Patrick story) Shamrock - share in each other's life (John 14.10; cfl John 2.24)

The Revelation of God (10min/10:30)

- "We only know God through what He has revealed to us." Why did God reveal this to us as humans?
- Relationships: our relationships should be modeled after the Trinity.
 - o Parents. Marriages. Friendships. You see this in the NT (Eph 5.21-6.9). All are meant to draw us closer to God.
 - o Marriage is a picture of the unity we are to have with the Lord. There is no marriage in heaven (Mark 12.25) – because the picture isn't needed anymore.
 - o Serving, Sacrificing, Forgiving – these are the marks of love in the Trinity, and should be in our relationships as well.
- Invitation: God invites us into this unifying love - John 17.20-23
 - o God wants us to be one, and one with Him
 - o God always existed as Trinity. He was not lonely. He created us to share in the joy and love He has within Himself He gave us the capacity to experience His joy - but only in His perfect love. You were created to experience the Trinity!

Reflection Time (5min/10:40)

1. Reflect on the revealed mystery of God – He is three; He is one. He is love. Reflect on God in the fullest extent of your understanding.
2. Reflect on the wonder that one of the members of the Trinity is living in you. God is drawing you into His life – wanting to fill you up and draw you in. Reflect on the absolute joy of being invited into the unity of our Creator.
3. Reflect on the overwhelming love of the Trinity – who gave up the Son to the Cross – for me and you. The Son was, for the first time, separated from the Father and Spirit, so that we could be united with God. Reflect on the sacrificing love of God, and commit to love and follow Him.

10:45 Close in Prayer



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"de Trinitate" (on the Trinity)

Jesus Christ is God

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|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| John 1.1-3 | Mark 2.5-12 |
| John 10.30 | John 1.15 |
| John 20.28 | John 5.17-18 |
| Acts 20.28 | John 8.58 |
| Philippians 2.6 | John 10.38 |
| Colossians 1.15-19 | John 12.41 (see Isaiah 6.1) |
| Titus 2.13 | John 12.44-45 |
| Hebrews 1.3, 8 | John 14.7-11 |
| 2 Peter 1.1 | John 17.5 |
| | Romans 9.5 |
| Also: | Hebrews 13.8 |
| Matthew 12.8 | Revelation 22.13 |
| Matthew 3.3 (see Isaiah 40.3) | Isaiah 9.6 |
| Matthew 22.43-45 | Micah 5.2 |

The Holy Spirit is God

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|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Genesis 1.1-3 | Zechariah 4.6 |
| Judges 3.10 | Zechariah 7.12 |
| 2 Samuel 23.2-3 | Matthew 28.18-20 |
| 2 Chronicles 20.14-15 | John 16.13-15 |
| 2 Chronicles 24.20 | Acts 2.17 |
| Job 33.4 | Romans 8.9 |
| Psalms 51.11 | Romans 8.26-27 |
| Psalms 104.30 | 1 Corinthians 3.16; 6.19 |
| Psalms 139.7 | Ephesians 1.13-14 |
| Isaiah 59.21 | Ephesians 2.22 |
| Isaiah 61.1 | Hebrews 10.15-16 |
| Ezekiel 31.5 | |

The Trinity

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|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Genesis 1.1-3 | Acts 2.32-33 |
| Genesis 1.26 | Acts 2.38-39 |
| Isaiah 6.3-8 | Romans 5.5-6 |
| Matthew 3.16-17 | Romans 8.9-11 |
| Matthew 28.18-20 | Romans 15.30 |
| Luke 1.35 | 2 Corinthians 13.14 |
| Luke 4.18 (see Isaiah 61.1) | Hebrews 9.14 |
| John 14.16-17 | 1 Peter 1.2 |

Note: The word "trinity" is not in the Bible; it is a Latin word made up in the 2nd century by a theologian named Tertullian. The Bible is clear, however, that there is one God existing in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The verses above are not even all the verses in the Bible on this subject. The Bible is clear: God is Trinity.

"To transform religious and irreligious students into Fully Devoted Followers of Christ."