



Lecture 3

The Trinity

Understanding the Trinity brings clarity and a deeper understanding of God's Word.

2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the partnership of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Isaiah 48:16

“Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret, from the time it took place, I was there. (Jesus) and now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit”

The Trinity is one God existing in three Persons. It is important to understand this does not in any way suggest three gods. Keep in mind when studying this subject that the word “Trinity” is not found in Scripture. This is a term used to attempt to describe the triune God—three coexistent, co-eternal Persons who are one God.

Each is wholly God, but each is also a uniquely separate “Person.” Using the word *person* is one of the best ways to describe this concept within the limitations of our language.

When we speak of God existing in three Persons, we mean that God’s being consists of three distinct centers of intellect, emotion, and will. Each Person of the Trinity had a unique role in creation and in the salvation of humanity. The Holy Spirit is unique and is not the Father or the Son and vice versa.

The most difficult thing about the Christian concept of the Trinity is there is no way to perfectly and completely understand it. The Trinity is a concept that is impossible for any human being to fully understand, let alone explain. God is infinitely greater than we are; therefore, we should not expect to be able to fully understand Him. The Bible teaches that the Father is God; the Word, Jesus, is God; and that the Holy Spirit is God. The Bible also teaches there is only one God. Though we can understand some facts about the relationship between the different persons of the Trinity, ultimately, it is incomprehensible to the human mind. This does not mean however that the concept of Trinity is untrue or that it is not based upon the teachings of the Bible. The Word of God is God’s message to us, He has introduced Himself clearly as three distinct persons and One God.

Isaiah 61:1

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to the prisoner.”

Matthew 28:19

“Having gone on your way therefore, teach all the nations, making them your pupils, baptizing them into the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

There is subordination within the Trinity. Scripture shows that the Holy Spirit is subordinate to the Father and the Son, and the Son is subordinate to the Father. This is an internal relationship, an “economic subordination” for the purpose of function, and does not deny the full deity and perfect equality of each person of the Trinity. This is simply an area which our finite minds cannot understand concerning the infinite God.

The next Scriptures help us to understand the roles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Father blessing the Son:

Matthew 3:16-17

“And Jesus, having been immersed, immediately went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened, and He saw God's Spirit descending in a form like that of a dove coming upon Him.¹⁷ And behold, a voice out of heaven, saying, This is my Son, the beloved One, in whom I take pleasure.”

Jesus asking the Father to send the Holy Spirit:

John 14:16-20

“And as for myself, I will ask the Father, and another Counsellor of the same kind as I am He will give to you in order that He might be with you forever, the Spirit of the truth, whom the world is not able to receive because it does not see Him with discernment and does not know Him experientially. But, as for you, you know Him experientially, because by your side He dwells, and in you He shall be. I will not leave you behind, helpless. I come to you. Yet a little while, and the world no longer sees me, but as for you, you see me. Because I live, also you shall live. In that day you shall know experientially that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you.”

Jesus asking the Father:

Luke 22:42

“Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my desire but yours, let it keep on being done. And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him.”

Jesus anticipating the Holy Spirit:

John 16:13

“However, whenever that One comes, the Spirit of the truth, He will lead you into all the truth, for He will not speak from himself as a source, but as many things as He hears He will speak, and the things that are coming He will make known to you.”

John 5:36

“But, as for myself, I have a witness greater than that of John, for the works which the Father has given me in order that I might bring them to a final consummation, the works themselves which I am constantly performing, they are bearing witness concerning me to the effect that the Father has sent me on a mission.”

John 14:26

“And the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my Name, that One will teach you all things and recall to your mind all things which I spoke to you. Peace I am leaving behind for you.”

1 Corinthians 8:6

“yet to us there is one God, the Father, out from whom as a source are all things and we for Him, and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whose intermediate agency all things exist and we through Him.”

Revelation 4:11

“Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because, as for you, you created all things, and because you willed it, they existed and were created.”

Revelation 1:1

“A revelation possessed by Jesus Christ, which God [the Father] gave to Him...”

John 5:16-17

“And on account of this the Jews went to persecuting Jesus, because these things He was doing on the sabbath. But He answered them, My Father keeps on working until now, and as for myself, I also am continually working.”