



Welcome!

Truth Applied

- A (common) prayer ...

“Father, we thank you for your love and for dying on the cross to save us and for living in our hearts.”

- ❖ *lex orandi; lex credendi* — prayers shape beliefs
- ❖ Do you think of and pray to a “Trinitarian” God?

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

- Common questions ...
 - Is the “Trinity” biblical? Where did we get it?
 - Is such belief required of Christians?
 - Because $1 \neq 3$, does it even make sense?
 - Does it even matter to our faith and life?

Truth Applied



Truth Applied

- Remember: Using the “4 Ds”
 - *Drama* — real history; Jesus as main character
 - —>*Doctrine* — drama teaches actual truths
 - —>—>*Doxology* — “praise”; joyful worship
 - —>—>—>*Discipleship* — engage with love for others and by doing good works
- ❖ Know, to Understand, to be Grippled, to Join!

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

- ❖ Start with Drama: THE Story —> revealed knowledge of our God!
- Together: **John 17:1-26**
 - Describe the relationship of Jesus and the Father.
- Together: **John 16:4-15**
 - How does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit? Father?
 - What does (or will) each do?

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

- ❖ Start with Drama: THE Story —> revealed knowledge of our God!
- Together: **John 17:1-26**
 - Son glorifies the Father by Father glorifying the Son.
 - Jesus has complete love and unity with the Father.
 - Father-Son relationship has existed forever.
 - Jesus is praying to the Father, making requests.

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

- ❖ Start with Drama: THE Story —> revealed knowledge of our God!
- Together: **John 16:4-15**
 - Holy Spirit — “Helper”; comes after Jesus leaves; convicts us concerning sin, righteousness and judgment; guides us into truth; glorifies Christ.
 - Father — Sent Jesus; gave Jesus everything.

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

- **GOD is one in essence / nature (OT):**
 - **Deut. 6:4**—“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” (*Shema*)
 - **Isaiah 45:5**—“I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.”
 - **Isaiah 44:6**—“I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no God.”

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

• **GOD is one in essence / nature (NT):**

- **Matt. 4:10**—“For it is written ‘You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.’”
- **Eph. 4:5-6**—“One Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.”
- **1 Cor. 8:4,6**—“... there is no God but one ...”
- **Acts 24:14**—“I worship the God of our fathers ...”

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

• **GOD is three in persons (NT):**

- **John 1:1-2, 14**—In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God ... [14] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

❖ Jesus is God ... and yet with (distinct from) God.

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

• **GOD is three in persons (NT):**

- **Pentecost**—Holy Spirit comes and fills all believers.
- **Acts 5:3-4**—“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit ... ? [4] ... You have not lied to man but to God.”

❖ Holy Spirit is God ... but distinct from Jesus and Father.

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

• **GOD is three in persons (OT and NT):**

- **Creation**—All active and involved (Gen. 1:1-2, 26; Col. 1:15-17)
- **“Angel of the Lord”**—Another person as God (Gen. 22:11-18, 32:24-30; Ex. 3:2-6; Dan. 3:24-25)
- **Jesus’s baptism**—All three present / distinct (Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34)
- **Great Commission**—Command to baptize “in the name of” all three (Matt. 28:16-20)

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

- ❖ From *Drama*: to *Doctrine*: Unfolding facts of THE Story —> belief in a Trinitarian God!
- ❖ **Inseparable God** — Worship one God and him alone.
- ❖ **Distinct roles**—Good gifts are from the Father, in the Son, by the Holy Spirit. Father sends, Son atones, Spirit indwells.
- ❖ **No contradiction** — God is 1 in essence / nature, but 3 in persons.

Truth Applied

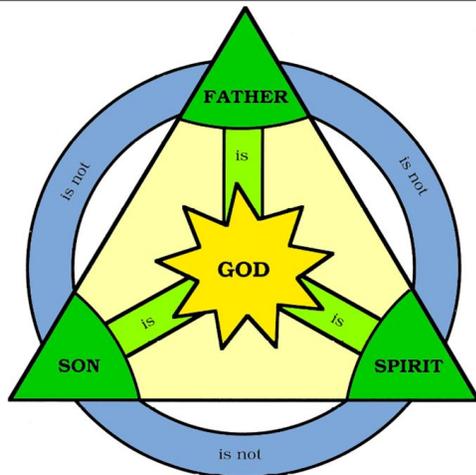
 **EQUIP** / ADULT
BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.

GOD is 3 and 1

- ❖ From *Drama*: to *Doctrine*: Unfolding facts of THE Story —> belief in a Trinitarian God!
- ❖ **Homoousios** — Essence is One — Each person is God in the same way and to the same degree; equally omniscient, omnipotent, eternal, loving, just and holy.
- ❖ **Perichoresis** — Mutual Indwelling — Each person is “within” each of the others.
- ❖ **7 Trinitarian Statements** — ...

Truth Applied

 **EQUIP** / ADULT
BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.



Q5. Are there more Gods than one?

Answer: There is but one only, the living and true God.

Q6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

Answer: There are three persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

— *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

Truth Applied

 **EQUIP** / ADULT
BE DISCIPLES. MAKE DISCIPLES.

“In the doctrine of the Trinity beats the heart of the whole revelation of God for the redemption of humanity. As the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, our God is above us, before us, and within us.”

— Herman Bavinck

“No sooner do I conceive of the One, than I am illuminated by the splendor of the Three; no sooner do I distinguish the Three than I am carried back to the One.”

— Gregory of Nazianus

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

❖ *Doctrine*: Heretical challenges to the Trinity

- ❖ **Subordinationism** — The Father is the one God, while the Holy Spirit and the Son are secondarily divine.
- ❖ **Arianism** — Father created Jesus and the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ **Partialism** — Each of the three gods is a separate part of the divine whole.
- ❖ **Modalism** — Father, Son and Holy Spirit are manifestations or “masks” of the one true God.

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

❖ *Doctrine*: Let’s play “Why is it heresy (by analogy)?”

- ❖ Water, which can be liquid, ice or vapor.
- ❖ Shamrock, where each leaf is part of the whole.
- ❖ Sun, which is the star itself, but emanates light and heat.
- ❖ Man, who is a husband, father and worker.
- ❖ Apple, which has skin, fruit and seeds.
- ❖ $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

❖ *Doctrine* —> *Doxology*: Truth leads to praise!

- ❖ **Thanksgiving** — 2 Thess. 2:13—“But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.”
- ❖ **Blessings** — 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: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

❖ *Doctrine* → *Doxology*: Truth leads to praise!

- **Benedictions** — 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.”

❖ *lex orandi; lex credendi* — prayers shape beliefs

- **“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. One God forever. Amen.”**

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

❖ *Doxology* → *Discipleship*: Our life is changed!

- **Unique Witness** — Christianity is not poly-theistic, pantheistic, nor non-atheistic, but also not singular.
- **Right Worship** — Worshipping God as he’s revealed himself in Scripture; How worthy is he of our worship?!
- **Beyond Comprehension** — Shows humans are made by God, not a god made by humans.
- **Redemption** — Holy Spirit grants Faith → Faith in the Son → Adoption by the Father.

Truth Applied



GOD is 3 and 1

❖ *Doxology* → *Discipleship*: Our life is changed!

- **Love** — Infinite and eternal love within the Godhead.
- **Unity in Diversity** — Trinity is a model of true unity (purpose and essence) across complete diversity (person and role).
- **Community** — Eternal perfect community within God himself.

Truth Applied



Next steps ...

- How does the Trinity inspire more or different worship?
- What new Trinity realization can you share with someone?
- How might the Trinity help your Gospel witness to others?
- Pray that love, unity and community manifest in the Trinity would manifest itself in our church.
- Write out a “Trinitarian prayer” in your own words, thanking and praising God for who he is.
- Read — **Psalm 90:1-17**

Truth Applied

