**The Trinity**

**November 18-19, 2017**

*“No man can fully explain the Trinity, though in every age scholars have propounded theories and advanced hypotheses to explore this mysterious Biblical teaching. But despite the worthy efforts of these scholars, the Trinity is still largely incomprehensible to the mind of man.” – Dr. Walter Martin*

*“The Trinity can be explained, in part, by analogy. But all analogies fail in some way as they attempt to explain how God (the Creator) is using creation. But nothing in creation is exactly like God’s being. Attempts to simplify or fully explain this mystery all fail and often lead to beliefs that are contrary to the Bible’s teachings. In short, the doctrine of the Trinity is something we will never fully understand, for parts of it are beyond our comprehension. It is in part of one those “secret things” that “belong to the Lord our God”.*

*It is extremely important that the mystery be true. For example, if Jesus is not both fully God and a separate person form God, then he could not have borne the complete wrath of God, died, and risen from the dead.” -Grudem*

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts” Isaiah 55: 8-9*

Bible confirms God in three parts: “The word “Trinity” is never found directly in the Bible but is confirmed through several different references.” -Grudem

Read the passages below, do these confirm a unique God in 3 parts (triune)? What are some of the different characteristics or roles of the 3 parts? Is there significance to these roles?

Genesis 1:26 – 27 *(make man in “our” image)*

 Matthew 3:16-17 *(Jesus Baptized)*

 The three members of the Trinity are performing 3 distinct activities

 God the Father: Speaking

 God the Son: Baptized

 God the Holy Spirit: Resting on the Son

 Matthew 28: 18-20: Great Commission- baptize in the name of all three members

 Jude 20-21

Triune persons are fully God: Each person of the Trinity is fully God, each person has full deity.

Read the passages below. These are intended to show that each part of God is fully God. What stood out to you from the passages? Do you believe these confirm the deity of the 3 persons? Is this something you, or someone you know has struggled with? Is it difficult to comprehend that Christ, fully God, walked this earth also as a man?

 God the Father: Genesis 1:1 (the deity of God the Father is also shown throughout scripture).

 God the Son: Colossians 2:8-10, John 20:30-31, Mark 2: 4-11

 God the Holy Spirit: Acts 5:3-5, 1 Corinthians 2:9-13

One God: The Bible states that there is only one God (not three). God is a unique, single God. This is critical to understanding our faith because there are some which have incorrectly believed that Christians worship multiple god’s.

Read the passages below. What stands out to you from these passages? Do you believe these confirm that there is just one God? Do you believe this, or do you know someone who does not believe there is one God? Why is this necessary to understand about God?

 Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Isaiah 45:5-7, Romans 3:28-30, 1 Timothy 2:3-6

The three members of the Trinity have different roles.

 Creation- read the passages below about the Creation and the 3 parts different roles. What do you learn from these passages? What does this teach you about God being 3 specific parts, but also one complete and unified being?

 God the Father spoke the earth into being. Genesis 1:9-10

 God the Son carried out those words: John 1:1-5

 God the Spirit hovered over the face of the waters: Genesis 1:2

 Salvation- read the passages below about Salvation. What are the different roles the 3 persons have in salvation? What stood out to you from these passages? How do these passages give a fuller picture of a single God working in 3 distinct parts? Could salvation have been provided through any other means or was this fully necessary?

 God the Father: John 3:16-17

 God the Son: John 6:38-40

 God the Spirit: John 14:25-26, John 16:7-11

Conclusion:

 What stood out to you from these passages? How has the study given you a fuller and more detailed view of who God is? Do you stand with greater confidence to who He is or left more confused? How will this study effect how you pray?