



Doctrine—the Trinity
From sermon 8.25.19

Read *Luke 3:21-22*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: the biblical God has a vast array of qualities and characteristics—all profound and glorious. None more so than His existence as a Trinity. We serve One God revealed in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are co-equal in essence, power, and worthiness. They are, at the same time, distinct in their roles and ministries. The doctrine of the Trinity is woven throughout the Bible.

What's been your understanding of the beautiful doctrine?
What components still challenge you today? How do you deal with those?

Islam accuses us of polytheism. Is that true?
See also *Deuteronomy 6:4 & Mark 12:29 [Hebrew: shama]*

- Some translations read: "the Lord is our God, the Lord alone."

We know (as believers) the *shama* also addresses Unity_____. See *John 17:3 & 20-23*

Note: It is impossible to have multiple gods anyway—*Isaiah 45:5*

Than what are other so-called gods of world religion? _____
See *Deuteronomy 32:17 & 1 Corinthians 8:4-6*

How is God revealed as Trinity in the...

- Beginning (Genesis): the plural pronouns of Genesis 1 & 3. "Elohim" is plural_____
- Prophets: Scriptures where two or three members are present, working, or speaking_____
- Gospels: Jesus comes in bodily form, prays to the Father, promises the Spirit_____
- New Testament Epistles: numerous references and teaching_____. See *Ephesians 2:18*

What are some of the human/worldly illustrations you know of or mentioned Sunday used to explain the Trinity? As a group, also list the strengths and weaknesses of each.

<u>Illustration</u> _____	<u>Strengths</u> _____	<u>Weaknesses</u> _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Egg• US Government• H2O• <u>Business [marketing, production, development]</u>• <u>Family (same last name)</u>		

Teaching Notes: So profound, yet vital, is this doctrine, that it has been challenged and attacked over the history of the Church. Great councils have met and poured over the Scriptures to respond to those attacks. They also produced some of the best Creeds and Confessions.

--4th Century: Modalism—one God showing up in three different roles. Was the Father from eternity past up to the Incarnation. Was only the Son for 33 years of earthly ministry. Is now the Spirit.

--5th Century: Arianism—Belief the Jesus was of the same material as God, but less than God. Belief that Jesus was created. Also: when here, He was part God and part human.

--20th/21st Century: Oneness Movement (Pentecostalism) same as Modalism.