

# TRINITY

Week of June 29, 2014 • Message 2

Today, we will be discussing the Trinity, in four different ways, so in your group, spend your time on the sections that are most important to your group!

## What Scripture Teaches

Read Deuteronomy 6:4. What does it mean to say God is “one”?

Read Genesis 1:27 & 2:24. What’s it mean that God made humans to express his image most fully in a two-in-one kind of relationship?

Read John 8:58 & John 10:30. What does Jesus have to say about the “oneness” of God?

*In passages like Matthew 28:19, Acts 5:3-4, and 1 Peter 1:2, we get confirmation that the Holy Spirit is also to be considered co-equal with the Father and the Son. Let’s talk about how to understand all this.*

## Understanding Oneness & Threeness

*In light of the paradox of God’s oneness and threeness, some key doctrines were proposed by early Christians. The first three were rejected as heresies, but are still widely held by people today:*

- ❖ TRI-THEISM teaches that Father, Son and Holy Spirit are teammates.
- ❖ MODALISM teaches that God wears three different hats.
- ❖ ARIANISM teaches that only the Father is truly God.

Can you identify biblical examples for why each of these can’t be right? Which of these three is most tempting to you anyway?

Classical Trinitarian Doctrine says that *God is one single being whose essence sustains three distinct persons*. One What, Three Whos. Does that explanation satisfy you or help you understand God better?

## Implications of the Trinity

On Sunday, I mentioned three implications of the doctrine of the Trinity: 1. God needs nothing, 2. People didn’t make this up, 3. a Triune God is the ultimate object of worship. What do these mean to you? Can you think of other implications?

## Take the Trinity Home

What do you think of the doctrine of the Trinity?  
What does it teach you about love and relationships?  
What approach should we take with people who deny the Trinity?  
How should the doctrine of the Trinity affect our spiritual lives?  
How should it affect our speech?

**for further study, consider this message from 2011**

<http://lafayettecc.org/news/077-02-dogma-part-02-the-trinity>

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