

John-32
“The Trinity & Me”
John 14:15-31(NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome our first-time guests and those who are watching online!

If you're just joining us, we're in John's Gospel...

John was not only one of Jesus' disciples...He was an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry, miracles, death and resurrection...but he was also one of Jesus' best friends...

The first half of John's Gospel covers about three years of Jesus' ministry...the other half covers the last hours of Jesus' life...

Jesus is done with His public ministry...Now He's in a upper room with His disciples...They're having the Passover Meal together, and Jesus is pouring into them...He's teaching, and encouraging them...

He's praying for them...He's preparing them as best as He can for what's about to happen...In a little while He's going to the cross...

So with hours left of His life, He's sharing as much as He can with them...and it's hard for them to grasp what He's saying...

Last week Alyse did a great job walking us through the first 14 verses of John 14

Jesus tells them about heaven (which He calls His Father's House) and He tells them how they can get there...

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me-Jn 14:6 (NIV)

Now we know that the world doesn't believe this...but remember why John is writing his gospel...He's writing it so that we will believe...

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.-Jn 20:31 (NIV)

John really wants us to believe Who Jesus is and how we can have a relationship with Him!

Keep this in mind as we finish up the chapter...because now Jesus is going to start teaching His disciples one of the hardest things for any of us to understand...

The Doctrine of The Trinity...

John 14:15-31 (NIV)

Pray

Have you ever noticed in life how something can be true even though it's hard to understand?

For instance...

A platypus is a mammal but it lays eggs...

It has webbed feet and a bill like a duck...

But it has fur like an otter...

A female platypus produces milk for her young but doesn't have any nipples...She secretes her milk through her skin, and the baby just laps it up...

All of that is true...but it's hard to understand...

Just because something is difficult to understand doesn't mean that it's not true...

The concept of the Trinity is hard to understand...it's a mystery and even though the word "trinity" isn't in the Bible...the concept is all through the Bible...

There is one God...

He is eternal...He's always existed...

The opening words of the Bible are...

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth-Ge 1:1 (NIV)

When was it? In the beginning...You can't go back any further than that...but God was there before that!

What did God do? He created everything and said it was good...then notice what the Bible says in verse 26 of the same chapter...

26 Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...-Ge 1:26 (NIV)

Whose the “us”?

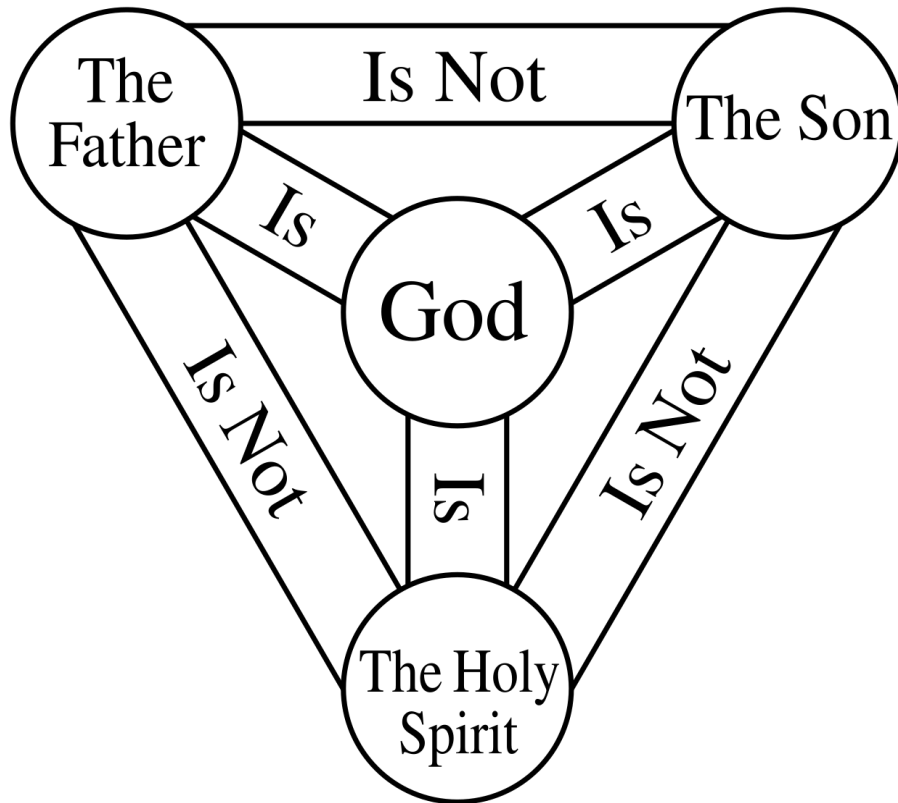
Theologians believe that this is the Godhead speaking...

God The Father,
God The Son,
God The Holy Spirit

Let us make...

They're always in unity...They're always in agreement...They never work against one another...They are in perfect unity and harmony within the Godhead...Listen...It's mysterious but it's true...and we see this truth all through the word of God

One God who has revealed Himself to us in three distinct Persons...Father, Son & Spirit



Now, there's lots we can say about the Trinity, and how we relate to the Godhead, but to keep it as simple as I can, we'll concentrate on what Jesus says in our text...

Jesus tells us that

God the Father **GIVES**

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—Jn 14:15–16 (NIV)

Notice that the Father gives...He’s a giver...He provides...God the Father provides for us!

In fact, one of the first names given to describe God is in Genesis 22...God tests Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his son Isaac...Just as Abraham was about to follow through...God intervenes and what did He do? He provided a ram for the sacrifice...

13 Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son. 14 Abraham named the place Yahweh-Yireh (which means “the Lord will provide”).

To this day, people still use that name as a proverb: “On the mountain of the Lord it will be provided.”-Ge 22:13–14 (NLT)

All through the Bible we see that the first Person of the Trinity...God the Father...gives!

The Apostle Paul tells us in **1 Tim 6:13** that He is the giver of life itself...The fact that you're here is a gift from God...

You are not an accident...

You are not a mistake...

You are not just a clump of cells that grew up...

You were created on purpose and for a purpose

God knew you before you were born...

He formed you in your mother's womb...

He is the reason why you exist...

He's a giver...He gave you life!

God the Father not only gives us life...but He gives us the ability to live this life...to work and support yourself and your family...

Moses told the children of Israel...

18 But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth-Dt 8:18 (NIV)

Jesus said that we should pray and and ask our Father in Heaven to give us our daily bread...**Matt 6:11**

He says a few verses later that God the Father knows what we need...so we don't have to worry like those who don't know God...

Did you know that He even gives us wisdom and joy to get through this life? **Ecc 2:26**

God the Father is a giver!

The ultimate gift from God is our salvation...

16 “For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him-Jn 3:16–17 (NLT)

This is good news for all of us who are saved...These are just some of the things that He's freely given to us!

Maybe you had a father who wasn't a good provider, maybe you had a father who was absent, or abusive or unattentive...all he did was take...

Listen to me that's not Who God is...He's a good Father, a loving Father, a generous Father...If you don't know Him, He wants to be your Father...

God The Father gives...

God The Son **ASKS**

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—Jn 14:16 (NIV)

Did you know that if you are saved, then Jesus talks to God the Father about you? He does!

The Bible tells us that Jesus, God the Son...sits at the right hand of the Father and He prays for us...He intercedes for us...

...for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us-Ro 8:34 (NLT)

Jesus pleads our case to the Father just like our own personal defense attorney...

Why do we need a defense attorney? Because we have a spiritual enemy who accuses us...In Revelation chapter 12, John calls the devil “The accuser”...He makes accusations about us to God the Father...

9 This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels. 10 Then I heard a loud voice shouting across the heavens, “It has come at last— salvation and power and the Kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters has been thrown down to earth— the one who accuses them before our God day and night.-Re 12:9–10 (NLT)

The devil talks about us...and here's the thing...most of the time he doesn't even have to make things up...

We sin...we're not perfect...and the devil will accuse us... "See, Mike said he's a Christian...well look at what he just did...or said...or thought...that's not very godly"

Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity...He just simply leans over and says, He Dad...I died for that...I've already paid in full for that...It's covered by My blood...Please forgive that...and that...and that one too!

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.-1 Jn 2:1 (NLT)

25 ...He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf.-Heb 7:25 (NLT)

How awesome to know that Jesus is praying for us! He knows what we're going through...

He knows our struggles, our hurts, our doubts
and He's praying for us...He talks to our
Heavenly Father about us...

Little boy and the desperate civil war soldier
That's what Jesus does for us!

God The Father gives...
God The Son Asks...

God The Spirit **HELPS**

**15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16
And I will ask the Father, and he will give
you another advocate to help you and be
with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The
world cannot accept him, because it neither
sees him nor knows him. But you know him,
for he lives with you and will be in you-Jn
14:15–17 (NIV)**

I was having a conversation with a couple of
Jehovah's Witnesses...

If you're not familiar with their teachings...
They deny the doctrine of The Trinity...They
believe that Jehovah God created Jesus who is
like "god" but not divine...not God in the
flesh...and certainly not equal with God...

They even use our text here in ***Jn 14:28*** and
say even Jesus said...

"for the Father is greater than I"-Jn 14:28
(NIV)

But this verse speaks to Jesus' position...He
left Heaven...stepped into flesh...this is called
the Doctrine of the Incarnation...It's what we
celebrate every Christmas...Jesus is
Emmanuel God with us...

While here on earth fully-God, fully-human,
Jesus prays to His Father, The Father is greater
in position...but not in being...They are equally
great in being...They are both equally God...

So in this discussion with these two Jehovah's Witnesses, I ask them Who is the Holy Spirit? They believe that the Holy Spirit isn't a "Who" but an "it".

It's God's impersonal force...like electricity or wind...but not a person...and not God...

But look at the personal pronouns Jesus uses... Him...He

17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you-John 14:17

In an article called "The Person of the Holy Spirit" General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God Doug Clay writes...

"The Holy Spirit is a Person..."

He has intellect (1 Cor 2:11)

He has feelings (Eph 4:30)

He has a will (1 Cor 2:11)

He speaks (Acts 13:2)

He's not just a Person...He's God...

He's active in creation (Gen 1:2)

He's active in salvation (Jn 3:5-7)

He's active in judgement (Jn 16:8)

He's active in resurrection (Ro 8:11)

He's active in Spirit baptism (Acts 1:5, 2:4)"

"When the Bible speaks about the Holy Spirit, the Bible speaks in two ways—The Holy Spirit is a Person and the Holy Spirit is God"—Skip Heitzig

If this isn't enough biblical evidence to show that the Holy Spirit is God...You always have Acts 5...

The story of Ananias lying to Peter...

3 Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!”-Ac 5:3–4 (NLT)

The Holy Spirit isn’t an it...He’s God the Holy Spirit...

Notice in verse 16 that Jesus calls the Holy Spirit an Advocate...Some of your older NIV’s use the word Counselor

The ESV, NKJV, NASB, all use the word Helper

These all describe Who the Holy Spirit is! The word in Greek is **par-ak'-lay-tos** it means to come alongside to help...

Jesus is going to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit because He knows that we're going to need help doing the things that He's asking us to do as disciples...

Serve one another...

Love one another like Jesus loves us...

Obey everything He tells us...

Be a light in this dark world...telling everyone about Jesus...

Yeah we need The Holy Spirit

Notice that Jesus says

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—

The Greek language has two words for another...

het'-er-os means another of a different kind...

al'-los means another of the exact same kind...

Icecream with the Grandkids

Ezekiel didn't like Legend's non-dairy ice-cream he wanted **het'-er-os** another of a different kind...He wanted **al'-los** the exact same kind that Sarai had...

Jesus is saying that when the Father sends The Holy Spirit, He will be another **al'-los** Advocate, Helper, Counselor, Comforter...

All the things that I've been to you...The Holy Spirit will be to you...I'm going back to the Father...but He's going to send another...

And Just like I helped you, counseled you, taught you, comforted you...The Holy Spirit is going to do those things and more!

Jesus had to go back to the Father...

But He said in vs 18...He wasn't leaving them as orphans...He wasn't going to leave them helpless, and teacherless...

The Holy Spirit isn't going to leave...look at vs 16...He's going to stay forever...

...But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.-Jn 14:17 (NIV)

So this is how awesome the work of God the Holy Spirit is on this side of the cross...

The Holy Spirit draws us to Jesus...
He convicts us of our sin...and leads us to the Savior...

The moment we're saved, He comes and lives inside of us...

He helps us live holy lives...He sets us apart...gives us spiritual gifts, we start to see His fruit in our lives...
He empowers us...comes upon us...

There's a whole other experience available to every believer called The Baptism in the Holy Spirit...

The Holy Spirit comes upon us...He gives us a holy boldness to share our faith...He gives us a new way to pray...a new prayer language...He gives us power to live our life on mission for Jesus!

We need God the Holy Spirit!

Do you see the wonderful truth that's wrapped up in the mystery of the Trinity?

God the Son asks...God the Father gives...God the Holy Spirit helps...

And because of this incredible truth...we as believers have an amazing promise that we can hold on to...

Supernatural **PEACE**

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. -Jn 14:27 (NIV)

Jesus gives us a supernatural peace...His peace... a peace that completely trusts God the Father no matter what the situation is...

See we think that peace means a life free of troubles and problems...that's the way the world gives "peace"

It's escapism...People try to smoke away their issues...drink away their problems...they hideaway and run from the uncomfortable things in this life...and think that they have some "peace"

Jesus' peace isn't like that...

Jesus gives us supernatural peace as we face the troubles in this life...

He gives us peace as we go through the heartaches, and the disappointments...

It's a peace that says no matter what...I trust in God...God's got my back...my world may be falling apart but I'm not!

We may have troubles...but that doesn't mean our hearts are troubled...

Pastor Clay

"My body isn't well, but I'm doing great"
That's Jesus' peace...

The disciples needed it...and so do we...

If you need some supernatural peace today...in a few minutes we're going to pray for you...

But I want to close with another look at vs 15

15 “If you love me, keep my commands-Jn 14:15 (NIV)

Do you know what that means? Well, it means that if we're not obeying Jesus...if you're not living your life according to His Word and guided by His Spirit...Then you're actually not loving Him the way you should be...

For some of you, this may be why you feel like your life has no peace...has no power...no direction...

It's time to get back in step with God...put God first...do what He's asking you to do...stop doing what He's asking you to stop doing...

For others it explains why you don't really know God at all...You know about Him...but you don't know Him...There's only one way to God and that's through Jesus...

God the Father loves you, and He wants you to be saved...God the Son paid the price for your sin on the cross, and God the Holy Spirit is speaking to you right now...offering you a new life...a purpose filled life!

As we close, let's spend time with our Awesome God...Let's worship Him, Let's surrender to Him...Let's give Him our devotion and praise!

What's the Holy Spirit Saying To You Today?
Altar Time