



Lesson Three: Who Is God?

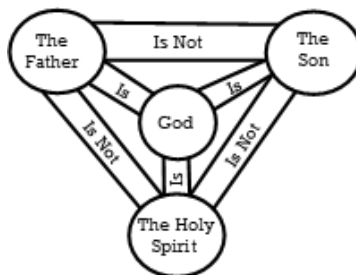
NOTES

In this lesson we will look at who God is. While this is only one lesson in the class, it is the key question you should ask when approaching the Bible. It also is a relationship you will explore throughout your life and eternity.



“The Trinity”

The word “Trinity” is not actually in the Bible. Rather, the elements of it are and we build the whole picture from the parts. The Bible says that The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God and there is one God. We understand from this that God is three persons in one. We don’t understand this but that is evidence that we did not simply invent it.



- God is three persons.
- Each person is fully God.
- There is one God.

Why do we say God is three “persons”?

God has:

- Will
- Emotion
- Rationality
- Relationship

These tell us that we can have a relationship with God since we are made like Him (see video 6).

The trinity shows that God is:

- Beyond human understanding
- One in nature but different in roles.
- One Whose nature calls us to unity in diversity (I Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:16).
- Relational
- A God who loves and glorifies God

DOODLES



DISCUSS

What are some implications for us when we look at the Trinity?



“The Father”

NOTES

DOODLES

The Father is not more divine than the other persons of the Trinity but has a role of authority.



DISCUSS

How does the Father having a higher authority but not a higher value mean for our human relationships?

The Father is not more divine than the other persons of the Trinity but has a role of authority.

What does it mean that God is Father?

- We are His children.
- He has always had the nature of a father.
- He has always had a Father relationship with the Son.
- He provides.
- He protects.
- He sets standards, rules, and expectations.
- He will never not be a father and is always good.
- He is a perfect father.



REFLECT

Which of these is most surprising, confusing, or beautiful to you?

When the Bible says simply, “God” it is generally referring to the Father even though all the persons of the Trinity are God.



DISCUSS

After looking at what it means that God is our Father, what does that mean about how we relate to Him?

NOTES

DOODLES

Jesus: Divine and Human

- He understands us and can help us because He's both completely powerful and able to relate to us.
- God works in the cosmic as well as the concrete, both outside of time and in the world He created.
- He lived as the only sinless man, thus fulfilling the law and having no sins of His own to pay for. Therefore, He was a worthy sacrifice for us.
- He could actually die as a sacrifice for our sin. A spirit cannot be nailed to a cross.
- Humans, being made in God's image (more on this later) are by nature not completely unlike God. Jesus is made like us (Phil. 2:7) and we will be made like God. (1 Jn. 3:2).

What did Jesus Come to Do?

- Jesus came to show who God is, to teach His ways, to die as a sacrifice for our sins (more on that later), to overcome death by rising from the dead, and to rule over God's people.
- The Bible is the story of Jesus coming to redeem the world. We will see more of this as our course proceeds but here are some basic points of who Jesus is and what He did:

Jesus will reign on earth one day. The Bible that prophesied of His coming tells of His coming again. Then all the evil things that have been allowed will be judged and He will be gloriously in charge.

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Jesus is God. He said He was God, the prophecies and miracles proved it, and this is what Christians believe.

Jesus is the Messiah, the one prophesied throughout the Old Testament to come rescue Israel.

Jesus came to earth for us. He was born as a human to go through all that you go through and ultimately to die in our place. Hebrews 10:10 explains that a sacrifice needed to be made to satisfy God's justice and so He had to have a body in order to die for us.

Jesus rose from the dead. This was witnessed by hundreds of people. Jesus had satisfied the requirement that sin must lead to death (He wouldn't be truly just if he just ignored wrong) and made it so that death isn't the end for us.


He did this because He loves you! Read John 3:16. You have it in writing.

Jesus taught us that we can be one with Him and how we should live. We should continually trust in Him and love one another as we wait for His return.


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NOTES

DOODLES

 Are these different from what you expect Jesus to do and be?

DISCUSS

 Why are we so focused on Jesus?

DISCUSS



“The Holy Spirit”

The Holy Spirit is mysterious to us and we often push Him to a lesser level of deity or think of the Spirit as an impersonal force. This is incorrect since the Spirit is as much God as the Father and Son. His role, though, is one of pointing to the Son and the Father. The Spirit moves in the believers to give God glory.

The “third person” of the trinity is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person just as the Father and Son are. The Holy Spirit grieves (Is. 63:10; Eph. 4:30), loves (Rom. 15:30); can be insulted (Heb. 10:29); and wills and chooses (I Cor. 12:11).

The Holy Spirit is first mentioned during the account of creation in Genesis 1:2. He is present in the events of the Old Testament, coming upon people at times. Soon after Jesus ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit began to dwell in those who had been made new (more on this in a later lesson).

Before Jesus left the earth after He rose from the dead, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be our guide in His place. The Holy Spirit came to the believers not long after Jesus went to heaven and has been with us ever since.

The Holy Spirit begins to live in us when we put our trust in Jesus. He guides us and over time we get more familiar with when He is leading us. Later, when we talk about the Church, we will talk about how the Holy Spirit gives special abilities to believers.

John 3:8
The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.”

NOTES

DOODLES

As Christians, we live a life that most people cannot understand. The Bible says that we manage our lives not just by what we can see but by spiritual truth that the Holy Spirit and Bible show us (II Corinthians 5:7). Jesus said that the people who are guided by the Spirit are like the wind – others can't see what's going on and where they are going because they live by a guidance that cannot be seen by everyone else (John 3:8). Actually, the Bible says that the things of the Holy Spirit seem like total nonsense to outsiders and only if God reveals truth to us can we understand spiritual things (I Corinthians 2:14).



DISCUSS

What does it mean to hear the Holy Spirit?

What does the Holy Spirit Do in Us?

- Prays on our behalf when we have no words
- Lives in us and makes us come alive spiritually
- Comforts us
- Gives us spiritual abilities to serve the church
- Empowers us to do things we otherwise could not do
- Moves us to glorify God



DISCUSS

How have you experienced God change you from the inside?



WATCH

“Attributes of God”

If you wanted someone to get to know you, you would probably not list your characteristics. Of course, God cannot fit into a list. But if you were to describe someone to someone else, you might find yourself describing their characteristics, qualities, and values. This list is an attempt to describe what the Bible tells us about God Who is—don't forget!- a person we can get to know.



REMEMBER!

God is all of these things all at the same time.


NOTES

DOODLES

- **Self-Existence:** God does not need us or the rest of creation for anything, yet we and the rest of creation can glorify Him and bring Him joy.
- **Immutability:** God is unchanging in His being, perfections, purposes, and promises, yet God does act and feel emotions, and he acts and feels differently in response to different situations.
- **Eternality:** God has no beginning or end, and He sees all time equally, yet God sees events in time and acts in time.
- **Omnipresence:** God does not have size or spatial dimensions and is present at every point of space with his whole being, yet God may act differently in different places.
- **Omnipotence:** God can do anything. God (and God alone) is all-powerful.
- **Omniscience:** God knows everything.
- **Spirituality:** God exists as a being that is not made of any matter, has no parts or dimensions, is unable to be perceived by our bodily senses, and is more excellent than any other kind of existence.
- **Invisibility:** we cannot see God but see what He does, we see His glory reflected in our world, and see His character in Jesus.
- **Truthfulness:** He is the true God, and that all His knowledge and words are both true and the final standard of truth.
- **Goodness:** God is the final standard of good, and that all that God is and does is worthy of approval.
- **Love:** God eternally gives of Himself to others. The Bible tells us that God is love.
- **Grace:** God's is good toward those in misery and distress and toward those who deserve only punishment. God withholds punishment for a long period of time.
- **Holiness:** God is separated from sin and devoted to His purpose of being glorified by His creation.
- **Peace/Order:** God's nature and His actions are not confused or chaotic even when He does many things at once.
- **Righteousness/Justice/Wrath:** This means: God always acts in accordance with what is right and just and He hates sin.
- **Sovereignty:** God determines what will be as He sees fit, whether He chooses to reveal all His will to us or not.
- **Joy:** God delights in Himself and all that reflects His character. He rejoices over His children.
- **Beauty:** God is the sum of all desirable qualities. He defines beauty and creates beauty in our world for us to enjoy with Him.
- **Glory:** God is worthy of all honor. He is awesome and of the weightiest importance.

NOTES

DOODLES



Are any of these surprising or difficult for you to accept?

REFLECT

If you would like to read a more thorough description, check out A.W Pink's *The Attributes of God*.

“Every intellectual mistake, every destructive emotion [...], and every harmful behavior stems in part from not knowing or refusing or forgetting at the moment who God is.” – Tim Keller

“What comes into your mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you.” -A.W. Tozer



“Made in the Image of God”

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, tells us that God created people “in His image.” This means that people are similar to God’s nature and represent Him in the world by carrying out His purposes. This does not mean that God looks like a human or has a body – except for Jesus while He was on the earth.

We share some of God’s attributes more than others (e.g. we are not all-knowing but do have wisdom and knowledge).

- Being made in God’s image also means that:
- We are above animals and are given “dominion” of the earth.
 - We are body, soul (or spirit), and mind.
 - We have value and dignity.
 - We are relational.
 - We can relate to God.
 - God can become human; a human can have divine nature.
 - We can be represented by God.
 - We can represent God.
 - We carry God’s identity with us.

We never want to try to fit God into our image – or some form we are comfortable with. Making anything our god that is not the true God is called idolatry. That includes even things about God that we made up rather than finding in the Bible.

God is more glorious and powerful and good than we can imagine but He made us like Him enough that we can relate to Him in a powerful way. While we can’t understand Him, we can know Him.



NOTES

DOODLES

Genesis 1:27

So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

II Peter 1:4

And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.



REFLECT

What is a way you have seen God in a way that you invented? What is the result?

Practice

Do something this week that helps you enjoy God and/or reflect one of these attributes. For example: organize something since God is a God of order or create something or enjoy beauty or love and forgive someone.

Memory Verse

Exodus 15:11 (NLT)

"Who is like you among the gods, O LORD— glorious in holiness, awesome in splendor, performing great wonders?"

Exodus 15:11 (ESV)

"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"