Section: Doctrine of God

**TEACHING NOTES**

Good evening Disciples church family. I am so excited to be leading you tonight through our next two Q&A’s in our word of truth catechism. We have a lot to dive into so I’ll begin by reading both questions and answers.

**Q2. Are there more gods than one?**

**No. There is only one true God.**

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

**God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

These two questions have some often confused layers and they **ARE NOT** openhanded topics. What this means is that if someone were to deny these truths then they are NOT truly Christian. There are many open-handed topics - things two genuine believers can disagree on and still be genuine believers - however these two doctrines tonight are not open handed. These two truths are a primary point at which the majority of our world’s false religions fail+-. What I mean is that the majority of false religions in the world prove they are false based upon a denial or twisting of these two truths. I am prayerful that our time tonight will be beneficial for your understanding of the topics.

Before we dive in I want to make the weight of these doctrines and their importance understood. The topic of the number of Gods that exist and the Trinitarian nature of the one true God are vital to our faith. Some false religions claim to believe in *one* God but deny the deity of Jesus. Many false religions claim there are many gods not just *one.* None of these false beliefs match up with the God of scripture. In fact many of the false religions that are the *most dangerously convincing* false religions are the ones who take some truth and mix it with error so that it seems likely or plausible.

In the end ultimately they are worshiping a god that does not exist because it is not the God of scripture. Mormons proclaim to believe in Jesus as lord and savior (however, in their view, he is one god among many and you and I can become gods one day of our own planets), Jehovah’s Witness claim to believe in the god of the bible and Jesus as a god (but the key here is that, in their view, he’s a lesser god whom the one true God created-this is NOT what the bible teaches). Muslims believe God is Allah and that He is ONE but they do not believe in Jesus as god rather they claim he is a prophet. The Oneness Pentecostal church believes in one God who takes on the form of the father, son, and spirit at different times. They are called modalists because they believe God takes on these different modes but they DO NOT believe that God exists eternally as three distinct persons.

In all off these false religions we see a fundamental misunderstanding of the triune nature of God. Here’s why this matters so much, if you trust in Jesus, but the “Jesus” you trust in is not God, can you be saved? The plain answer is NO. If you believe in a “Jesus or a God” that does not exists, then your faith is in falsehood and God does not simply give you a pass because you got close. To be clear you and I are not saved by the **depth** of our knowledge ***about*** God but we are most certainly **ONLY** saved by faith in the **ONE TRUE GOD**!

**Q2. Are there more gods than one?**

**No. There is only one true God.**

This truth is clearly proclaimed all throughout scripture and it is one of the most foundational truths of the early church. Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” Well there you go right? No need to spend more time here, this passage says the Lord is one, with how clearly that is proclaimed we can head to group time right!? In one sense it really is that simple, the truth that there is only ONE GOD is simple and clear, however in another sense given the triune nature of the one true God we need to do real business with this question. Rightly understanding the truth that there is only one God will help to lay a proper foundation for question 3 in regard to the trinity.

Open your bibles to the book of Isaiah. I will be jumping through a few chapters but before I do that let me give you some background so you can see why this section of scripture is clearly pronouncing that God is one!

The book of Isaiah is broken up into two major sections, you have the life of the prophet Isaiah where he warns the people of God over and over again that they will be punished for their idol worship and their turning away from the one true God, followed by a prophetic declaration of hope in the future messiah. This theme repeats all throughout the first section of Isaiah. We then see Isaiah’s prophecies come true and Israel is exiled into Babylon.

In chapter 40 we see Israel return from exile and the book of Isaiah declare that God is the only God and the future hope of the messiah will come to pass. In a short verse in chapter 40 the Israelites complain and basically say maybe this God is not the true god because we were left in exile for so long. Perhaps we should turn to the gods of the people who captured us. This is a set up for the next chapters 41-46 to declare how God is the ONLY God and that the idols of these other nations are nothing. When the very nation of Israel (God’s chosen nation in the old covenant) declare that maybe He isn’t God, God answers and answers sternly about who He is and the FACT that there are no other gods but Him!

Isaiah 40:27-28 27Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? 28Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

God begins to lay the foundation of who He is here in His response to Israel questioning Him.

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? **I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he**.

Isaiah 41:16 you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Isaiah 43:10 “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he.

**Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. 11I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior**.

Isaiah 44:6-8 6Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “**I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. 7Who is like me?** Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. 8Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses!

Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”

Isaiah 45:5-6 5 **I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God**;

I equip you, though you do not know me, 6that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that **there is *none besides me*; I am the LORD, and there is no other**.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): **“I am the LORD, and there is no other.**

Isaiah 45:21-22 21Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And **there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me**. 22 “Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For **I am God, and there is no other.**”

Isaiah 46:9-10 9remember the former things of old; for **I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me**, 10declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

From chapters 40-47 God utterly mocks idols asking them to tell Him what the future would hold and what the past did hold, He even asks the people who trust in idols to ask their idols why the future and past hold what they hold. He proclaims over and over again I alone am LORD, I alone am God, besides me there is no other, besides me none can know the future the past and the purpose of both, besides me there was no creator, all of these fake gods all these idols are fashioned by men they had to be made but I the LORD am from everlasting to everlasting, I am God and there is no other!

God so clearly declares in these chapters that He knows of no other god, He is the alpha and the omega the beginning and the end the first and the last there are NO OTHER gods!!!!! God never in all of these passages says there are more than one God.

**Q2. Are there more gods than one?**

**No. There is only one true God.**

Now let’s move to our second question for the night and I’ll do some overlapping of thoughts here to help tie these two together.

With that let’s turn our focus to our second question for the night.

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

**God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

One of the reasons we struggle with the triune nature of God is that we regularly try to get God to fit into our natural human understanding. When there are truths proclaimed in scripture and we do not have a natural mental category for, we often try and make them fit with things we do know. However, this is backwards.

If God declares two things to be true and we don’t understand because we don’t see how they can be simultaneously true from our own perspective and experience, then we must make a new category in our minds and hold these things as truth. We do this because God declares them to be true and apart from God we cannot have truth. It is so very helpful for us when we are at a crossroads of our thoughts verses Gods word which is truth, to make a new mental category.

Consider this, nothing in our lives or the physical universe around us exists as one being and three persons for us to compare the triune nature of God to. Since this is the case we often try to use things we do have in our world, however unfortunately they all fall into heretical errors when we look at them closely. For example, many times growing up I’ve heard it said that the trinity is like an egg or a 3 leaf clover or water. I’ll use the water example for clarity, it can be frozen, liquid, or steam. The problem here is that in order for water to be frozen, or liquid, or steam it would have to be divided. Water cannot be steam and frozen at the same time. Water can take on different modes and this is what the oneness Pentecostals teach about God. We call this modalism which is heretical. God is not divided. God is not the Father who becomes the Son who becomes the Holy Spirit. God has eternally been Father, Son, and Spirit one being 3 persons. So if you’ve used those examples throw them out and don’t feel bad about it just correct it.

When it comes to truths about God we simply have to make a new category. I’ve really found this to be a helpful practice and to avoid error in doctrine and theology. One of the best places to start is when making these new categories, is to consider some definitions of terms. Here is our definition of the Trinity in our word of truth catechism:

**Trinity:** One God, three Persons. There is but one eternal Godhead that exists in three co-equal, co-eternal Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully and completely God; each has the same essence and is described in Scripture as possessing the attributes of God.

The Baptist Confession of Faith declares this of the Godhead: “The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God. This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons, the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit.

These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided.”

Now it would help to do a little more defining of terms so we can overcome some common mistakes. When we use the word person in our common English language we never think to separate personhood from being.

**ILL: Anything that exists has being. This is what it means to exist. This water bottle exists therefore it has being, I exist therefore I have being. However the water bottle doesn’t have personhood.**

**If I crush it and throw it away no one cares for the bottle as if I’ve hurt it. However if I snuck in the babies room during a lecture and started crushing babies and throwing them in the trash you would rightly lose your mind and I’d be arrested. Because children have personhood and being, the water bottle only has being. Do you see the difference? When the early church fathers used this language this is what they meant. God exists eternally as one being and three persons.**

A helpful phrase to remember is this, “distinction without division”. The three persons of the triune God are distinct, but they are not divided.

One example of distinction is in role…The Father elects a people to be saved and sends the Son to die in their place, the Son takes on a human nature and dies for the elect, the Spirit causes new birth and regeneration within the elect person unto salvation. God the Father elects, Christ comes and pays the sacrifice, the Holy Spirit makes the election and atonement a reality for the once dead in sin person when He causes new life! They each play distinct roles but none of them are lesser in value dignity or worth. None of them are divided.

The Son is not less than the Father, the Spirit is not less than the Son etc. The Father, Son, and Spirit have different functions or roles that are distinct and that they willingly perform but they do not have a different value or dignity, they are not divided for they are all fully God.

Here is a helpful quote from RC Sproul in his booklet titled “What is the Trinity”: **“It is the prerogative of the theologian to make fine distinctions; that is what theology is about. Therefore, I tell my students, “One of the most important distinctions you will ever learn to make is the one between a distinction and a separation.” We say that a human being is a duality—he has a physical dimension and a non-physical dimension, which the Bible describes in terms of body and soul.**

**If I distinguish a person’s body from his soul, I do no harm to him, but if I separate his body from his soul, I not only harm him, I kill him.”**

So the Godhead exists as One God, one being and three persons. There are distinctions between the persons but not division or separation of the Godhead. The persons willingly fulfill different roles but this does not make them of lesser value or subordinate. Jesus is not the Father, the Father is not the Spirit, the Spirit is not Jesus or the Father. They are however all God. Each person is fully, completely God. They never act outside of the will of God. The three persons are unified in will and never contradict in deed or thought.

To these points, let’s hear from the historic confession again: “All three (Persons of the Godhead) are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations.”

God has eternally existed, therefore all 3 persons of the triune God have eternally existed. There was never a time when one of them came into being. This means that none of the persons of God were created. This distinction is extremely important. Jesus was not created at some point in time. God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and God the Father have always been. In the gospel of John we actually see these truths specifically about Christ in the clearest ways.

John 1:1-3 1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

This term for in the beginning here is meant to get your attention. It’s meant to point you to the Genesis account of creation, Genesis also starts with this phrase “In the beginning”. The Hebrew words literally mean as far back as you can go God is. We can see this truth even clearer in the fact that John goes on to say everything that became, became because of this Word, who we find out later in John1:14 is Christ Jesus.

Verses 1&2 of chapter one in Johns gospel is Johns way of saying Jesus was the same God who the people heard about in the synagogue’s as the priest read from Genesis that in the beginning God was! He, God, existed, from eternities past to eternities future, God was and is and always will be. God is the uncaused cause. He is the always has been, never coming into existence at a point in time. John is saying that same God of Genesis is the same God who is Jesus. He gives personhood to this Word when he proclaims that HE was with God in the beginning.

John places an exclamation mark on His point when he says that the heaven and earth that was created by God in genesis was created through Jesus. Jesus created all things, nothing became apart from Christ Jesus who was and is eternally God. Now we see some language here in this first chapter of John that reveals distinction. The Word was God and He was WITH God. So remember we don’t see division here just distinction.

If the scriptures clearly teach that there is only one God (and they do!) and that each person Father, Son, and Spirit are God, then we will see clearly that the triune understanding of God is the only proper understanding with what scripture reveals to us about God.

What I want to do with the rest of our time is simply show you how scripture declares that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Spirit is God.

**Deity of the Father:**

The deity of the Father is an area that’s never really contested. Is the Father God?

1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

We see quite clearly here that the Father is called God. Again this really is not an area that’s contested so I want to spend more time focusing on the Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit. But the trinity does hinge on the truth that the Father is God AND the Son is God AND the Spirit is God so it’s worth laying out here clearly that scripture calls the Father God.

**Deity of the Son-Jesus Christ:**

One key way to see the deity of Jesus is to see what scripture says about what He does and to ask if those things that Jesus does could be true of a lesser being even an angel. Scripture is filled with clear proclamations of Jesus as the creator of all things. Everything that exists came into existence through Him. Therefore He must be eternal and He must be sovereign. The scriptures never credit angels with this ability or power.

Gen. 1:1 1In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

Col. 1:16 16For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

Hebrews 1:2-3 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.3He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

So clearly is Jesus credited with creating all things that it is hardly a truth to be contested. Essentially what we can see here is that unless a thing was eternal then it came into existence through Jesus therefor Jesus must have been eternal this is an attribute only given to God.

**The 1689 Confession of faith says these things this way, “The Son of God, the second person of the Holy Trinity, is truly and eternally God. He is the brightness of the Father’s glory, the same in substance and equal with him. He made the world and sustains and governs everything he has made.”**

The scriptures declare that not only was Jesus the creator but all things exist and continue existing for Him and by Him.

Colossians 1:16-17 16For by him (Jesus) all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Can such things be true of anything other than God? The answer is of course not!

Now this is clearly not the strongest argument for the deity of Jesus, however it is very clear and compelling evidence that Jesus is God. Perhaps you may be asking then, “what evidence can be clearer?” - Jesus was called God, and He Himself claimed to be God.

In the gospel of John we see multiple statements from Jesus where He claims (as God did in the old testament) “I am”. The term “I am” in the Greek is this phrase “Egō eimi”. This is the very same term that God used to tell Moses His name. In Exodus chapter 3.

Exodus 3:13-15 13Then Moses said to God, “If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ what shall I say to them?” 14God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” 15God also said to Moses, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Now one key note here that is really awesome, God said, “I am who I am… tell them (the people of Israel) I am has sent you”, then God goes on to say tell them (the people of Israel) YHWH (LORD) has sent you. God said, “YHWH is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations”. The name “I am” and “YHWH” (LORD) are used as interchangeable names here. Jesus uses the term “Ego eimi” or “I am”, and most times He does He is literally calling himself “YHWH” (LORD). What this means for us is that when Jesus purposefully did this, He claiming for Himself the official name of God. The most famous of these is found in John chapter 8.

John 8:53-59 53Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! **Who do you make yourself out to be?”** 54Jesus answered, “**If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, ‘He is our God.’** 55But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. 56Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” 57So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” 58Jesus said to them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”** 59So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Jesus not only claims here to be the great “I am” (ego iemi), He also claims that God the Father was seeking His (Jesus’s) glory! Think back to a passage I read from Isaiah,

Isaiah 42:8I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.

Jesus said, “The Father whom you (the Jews) call God is the One who is seeking my glory”. Then we see that the same God, the One who Jesus claimed was seeking Jesus’s glory, said in Isaiah; “I will NOT give my glory to another”. So either Jesus is crazy or Jesus is God, just like the Father is God. **Jesus so clearly proclaimed to be God here to the Jews (and remember they would have certainly known what Jesus was claiming) that they picked up stones to kill him.** We see this same thing (Jews attempting to kill Jesus for claiming to be God) repeat itself later in the gospel of John.

John 10:30-33 30”…I and the Father are one.” 31The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. 32Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” 33The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

Jesus claimed to be one with the Father, He claimed that He was the giver of eternal life like the Father, and when asked if He was the messiah He replied, *I have told you plainly and the works that I have done prove it plainly*. Jesus claimed to be God and to be the awaited for Messiah. These passages so clearly point not only to Jesus’s deity, but also to the triune nature of the one true God. Jesus is God and the Father is God, but Jesus and the Father are two distinct persons.

In John chapter twenty we see the account of doubting Thomas. Thomas clearly calls Jesus his Lord **AND** his God, yet Jesus never rebukes him. If Jesus were not God he would have most certainly rebuked Thomas. Instead Jesus actually goes on to say that those who believe this (that Jesus is Lord and God) are blessed.

John 20:27-29 27Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.” 28Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” 29Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

We see a few clear truths in these different passages. Jesus claimed to be God, Jesus was called God, and Jesus’s enemies wanted to murder Him because He claimed to be God. We truly didn’t even brush the surface of the scriptures that claim this truth. Now we must see that scripture calls both the Father and the Son, “God.”

So either we have multiple “Gods”, which we know is NOT what scripture declares, or we have one God (being) who exists as multiple persons. Remember church, we must be careful not to go beyond what scripture reveals or to remove/change what scripture reveals. Remember we need to make new categories in our minds when it comes to the being of God because, as I said earlier, nothing in the creation is exactly like God.

Scripture declares clearly that there are three persons; Father, Son, and Spirit, and scripture gives each of these 3 persons titles and characteristics only found in those possessing personhood, and only found in the attributes of God. Therefore all three person Father, Son, and Spirit are person and are God.

One of my favorite passages that point to Jesus as God is found in:

**John 12:37-41 37Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, 38so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:**

**“Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” 39Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, 40“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.”**

***41Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him (Jesus).***

Turning to this prophecy in Isaiah we see this:

**Isaiah 6:1 & 5-10** **1In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.**

**5And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”**

**6Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. 7And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”**

**8And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”**

**9And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ 10Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”**

Church Isaiah a prophet of old whom God spoke to the fathers of the Jews through saw the throne room of God where angels (cherubim) worshiped Jesus. Isaiah said he saw the King the LORD (all caps meaning Yahweh). We know this is referring to Jesus because no one has seen the Father as Jesus declared in John and in John chapter 12 we see the writer applying this very event in Isaiah to Jesus.

Let there be no doubt in your minds today church that Jesus is God and He is on the throne and ruling. One day he will wipe away every tear and remove sin completely. Until then he reigns and has secured salvation for His people.

**The deity of the Holy Spirit:**

One of the clearest passages of scripture that declare the Holy Spirit to be God is found in Acts.

Acts 5:1-4 1But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, 2and with his wife’s knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles’ feet. 3But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”

Peter proclaims that Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, then he says very clearly you have not lied to man but to God. Peter believed the Holy Spirit to be God. This could not be clearer than here in this passage however that’s not the only place that scripture refers to the Holy Spirit as God.

It’s really very clear that the Holy Spirit is God.

When we take these truths, and the clarity from scripture about these truths, you end up with only one option to understanding God, He is triune in nature, one being yet three persons.

I wanted to show you the clarity from scripture that Father and Jesus and the Spirit are all called God, that they are most certainly not the same persons (distinction) and that they are most certainly never divided. When we rightly understand and see these truths in scripture we will agree then with our Q&A tonight:

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

**God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.**

I want to reference the 1689 historic Christian confession one more time, this portion says, **“The Father is not derived from anyone, neither begotten nor proceeding. The Son is eternally begotten of the Father. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations. This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on him.”**

We’ve seen these things in our lesson tonight. There is more study to be had in these vast truths, but let’s close with this beautiful and encouraging statement from the confession, **“This truth of the Trinity is the foundation of all of our fellowship with God and of our comforting dependence on him.”**

The Father loving chose you before time, the Son came to do the work needed to redeem you, and the Holy Spirit causes you to be saved and remain in an eternally secure relationship with God. All three Persons of the Trinity are needed for this redemption! All three Persons of the Trinity have you, and you have them, everlasting! The one true God is the way, the comfort, and the prize!

Love the one true God! Trust the one true God! Cast ALL of your hope and dependence upon Him!

Let’s pray.