

TRINITY

Pillars - Trinity • February - March 2022

Overview

What greater subject of study could there ever be? What could we focus on that could ever have such a profound effect? We're setting our sights on God himself. The eternal and almighty God who is beyond compare. It's a series that will no doubt be informative. It will definitely provoke conversation and may even leave us with more questions than answers. But most of all, it will inevitably lead to worship. We'll move from awesome wonder to fearful reverence and from loud praise to lost-for-words silence because there is no one in all eternity like Him.

Trinity is part II of Pillars. These Pillars series are designed to help us build a framework of basic belief so we can grapple with some of the challenging questions in our culture and the everyday pursuit of following Jesus.

Outline

1. Trinity - An introduction
2. Father
3. Son
4. Holy Spirit
5. Infinite & Personal
6. Transformed into his image

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Week 1 • 13 February 2022 • Deuteronomy 6:4

1. A. W. Tozer wrote - “What we believe about God is the most important thing about us.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? How does what you believe shape how you see the world and live life?
2. As you reflect on Sunday’s message, how did the view of Trinity presented affect your view of God? What is now clear? What questions do you still have?
3. Imagine a friend told you they thought all gods and religions are the same. What might you ask or say in response?
4. Have a look at 1 Peter 1:15. What do you think it means to be holy as he is holy?
5. Why not take some time to pray together and worship God for who He is and what He is like?

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Week 2 • 20 February 2022 • The Father

1. Have you ever researched your family tree or whakapapa? What do you know about your ancestors or where you are from?

One of the most profound things we can know about God is that He has revealed Himself in all eternity as a Father.

2. Have a look at Ephesians 1:3-6. What stands out to you most about what the Father has done for you?
3. Read Luke 15:11-32. If we understand the Father figure as God in the parable, what do we learn about Him?
4. In the book *Delighting in the Trinity*, Michael Reeves writes about the mistaken belief that God is just some “heavenly policeman”.
 - a. How would a “heavenly policeman” be different to a “heavenly Father?”
 - b. Which do you think is closer to the way you have viewed God and why?

5. What difference does (or will it) make in your life to relate to God as your heavenly Father?

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Week 3 • 27 February 2022 • The Son

1. What is the furthest you've ever moved away from 'home'?
2. As we think about how Jesus entered humanity, it can be easy to forget where he came from.
 - a. How do these verses describe the divinity of Jesus?
(Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:1-4)
 - b. What stands out to you most?
3. Read Philippians 2:5-11 together. How does this poem of Jesus demonstrate his humility?
4. Paul's goal in this passage is that Jesus would be an example of how we treat one another.
 - a. What are some examples of how Jesus' example might be lived out today?
 - b. What is one specific action you can take to live this out?

5. Having described Jesus as God who humbled himself even to death on the cross, Paul's poem finishes with Jesus worshipped as only God deserves. Why not take some time to focus on Jesus in prayer and worship as a group. You could use some of the verses we've looked at today as a basis.

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Week 4 • 6 March 2022 • Holy Spirit

1. People have a mixture of feelings and perspectives on the Holy Spirit for a variety of reasons (e.g. church tradition or experience). What is your experience of the Holy Spirit? What comes to mind when you hear about Him?
2. Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit is God (John 14:16-17; Acts 5:3-4).
 - a. What have you seen in this series about what God is like?
 - b. How does it make you think about the Holy Spirit knowing He is of exactly the same nature?
3. Have a look at the following verses. What are some of the roles of the Holy Spirit in the church?
 - a. John 14:16
 - b. John 14:26
 - c. Acts 1:8
 - d. Romans 8:10

- e. Romans 8:16
 - f. 1 Corinthians 12:11
 - g. Ephesians 1:13-14
4. As you think about the verses above, how essential is the Holy Spirit to our lives as followers of Jesus? What would it be like without Him?
5. In Scripture, the filling of the Holy Spirit is empowering and transforming - He always has an effect in our lives. Paul calls for us to keep on being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit is the best thing we can ask the Father for and that He is faithful to answer that prayer (Luke 11:13). Why not take time to pray that the Father would fill you afresh everyday with the Holy Spirit.

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Week 5 • 13 March 2022 • Infinite & Personal

1. I could never do that? Some skill or ability - what would it be?

The focus of this week is the idea that there are things about God that we will never be ourselves.

2. Have a look at these verses and note down what it tells us about God.
 - a. Psalm 90:2
 - b. Isaiah 46:9-10
 - c. Psalm 135:5-6
 - d. 1 Kings 8:27
3. What stands out to you and why? Is there anything that's hard to comprehend?
4. As you think about some big things in your life or the wider world right now, how might those things look different from God's perspective?

5. One of the challenges with these concepts about God is that we can become over-familiar and not think they are too different or special. What are some ways we can guard against this complacency?

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Week 6 • 20 March 2022 • Into His Image

1. Who do people say you most look like? Have you ever met your doppelganger?

Having considered attributes of God we will never fully attain to, this week we look at some of the ways we will one day be fully like God.

2. Have a look at Galatians 5:22-23.
 - a. How might the way God expresses those attributes differ from the way we commonly interpret them?
 - b. What is most challenging to you here?
3. As you think about these characteristics, what would be different in the world around you were you to fully live them out in a God-like way in the following places?
 - a. At home
 - b. In your neighbourhood
 - c. At your place of work or study
 - d. At church

4. While God is working out all of these attributes in our lives, some may seem more challenging than others. Is there one that stands out to you as a particular area to work on? Why not pray about that together.

5. It's important to remember that it's God who is faithful to finish this work in us by grace. It's also noticeable that the more we see of God, the more like Him we become (2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2). With this and all we've seen in this series in mind, why not spend some time praying and worshipping Him together.