

Trinity –Unity of the Father and the Son shared with Us

John 17:20-24 NLT - 20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one--as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me. 24 Father, I want these whom you have given me to be with me where I am. Then they can see all the glory you gave me because you loved me even before the world began!

This passage gives us a glimpse of the love and unity shared by Jesus with the Father. This is the experience Jesus prays that we will have as well.

What are some of the things that we share which create a bond of love and unity with other believers? How can we maintain that unity and still have different opinions or viewpoints? How do we let our differences destroy our unity?

Ephesians 4:1-6 NLT - 1 Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. 2 Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. 3 Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. 4 For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. 5 There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 and one God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all.

Paul begs the Ephesians to live in a way that promotes unity. What are some things that will require of us? Which of these do you find most challenging? What would need to change for us to “make every effort to keep ourselves united in the Spirit”?

“Trinity” Deeply Rooted week #1

INTRODUCTION

It’s time to spend some focused energy on our foundation, on that to which we have tethered our lives. It’s time to get back to our roots. What exactly is your life anchored in? If it’s anything other than the unmovable Rock of Jesus and His Kingdom, we’re bound to be uprooted when the winds pick up and the storms rage on. During this series we will meditate and memorize God’s word throughout our week, and then discuss what we learn during our group time.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH

TRINITY –

We believe in one eternally existent, infinite God, Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of the universe; that He only is God, holy in nature, attributes, and purpose. The God who is holy love and light is Triune in essential being, revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

MEMORY VERSE

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NLT - 4 "Listen, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. 5 And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength.

2 Corinthians 13:14 NLT - 14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS – THE TRINITY

RUMINATE ON GOD'S WORD

We read the bible to be formed and transformed, not merely to gather information. Reading of the scripture in this way requires unhurried time and an open heart. Only God's Spirit can fully interpret God's Word, and as you ruminate (deeply reflect) on His Word, the Spirit has the opportunity to give you personal insight. We can break it down into four parts

- reading - This is a reflective, gently paced, one-bite-at-a-time kind of reading. As you read, ask God, "What are you saying to me just now?"
- meditate- Let's be clear, this is not an Eastern religious practice, it is our taking time to reflect on the passage and repeat it in our minds, and throughout our day. Speak it out loud, find ways to incorporate it into the thoughts, feelings and experiences of your life
- pray – a natural product of meditating on God's Word will be to communicate with God. As we find God addressing us directly through His Word, our hearts cry out to Him. Perhaps we feel joy and gratitude, or repentance and pain. But as God's Word penetrates our lives, our response will be heartfelt prayer.
- Rest – as a result of spending time reading, meditating and praying through God's Word, you can come to a place of sabbath-time rest in God's presence. Simply receive from Him by being with and near to Him.

Share with the group what God has shown you in this week's passage.

At Jesus' baptism we see God in 3 persons.

Matthew 3:13-17 NLT - 13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" 15 But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." So John agreed to baptize him. 16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Jesus was without sin, so why do you think He was being baptized? More than merely the fact that Jesus was the Son of God, what did God convey about the nature of their relationship?

Romans 6:3-4 NLT - 3 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? 4 For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

In what way does baptism invite us into a relationship with the triune God? In light of the relationship between the Father, Son and Spirit, how should we view our relationship to God?

Romans 8:11 NLT - 11 The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.

Baptism is a representation of death and resurrection. As Jesus emerged from the water, how do we see the Spirit of God involved? How does Romans 8:11 tell us the Spirit is also involved in the resurrection of Christ? What is our relationship to the Spirit?