

Go Deeper Notes

Trinity Sunday

Every week as we say the Creed we affirm our belief in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Is this something that you have given much thought to, or something that you repeat week on week because it is part of the service?

The Nicene Creed was first written in AD 325 in order to formalise what the early church believed, and the fact that, as Christians, we believe in a Trinitarian God (one God, three distinct persons).

Why is it so important that as Christians we believe this doctrine?

1) The Trinity distinguishes our God

If God was mono-personal He could not be eternally loving and gracious as before the creation of the world he could have only loved himself (because there was no one else to love!).

We believe that God is never changing, and also that God is love (1 John 4:8). The Trinity explains how God was love before creation.

Our tri-personal God is also distinguished from polytheism (eg Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva of Hinduism). We do not worship three Gods. We believe in One God, three persons (Deut 6:4)

2) The Trinity makes sense of the Old Testament

Re read Genesis 1, and reflect on the mention of the Holy Spirit and the plurality of God.

The Spirit of God is mentioned more than 100 times in the Old Testament and also foretells of Jesus' coming.

3) The Trinity provides a framework for the New Testament

Jesus was both fully human and fully God, and had been from the beginning (John 1:1).

There are passages where all three members of the Trinity appear, from Jesus' baptism (John 1:32-34; Matt.3:16-end; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:22-23) to Jesus' own teaching (John 14:26; John 16:15; Rom.8:9; Gal 4:6; Titus 3:6). We baptise in the name of the Father, and of The Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matt.28:19) and the Father's love, the son's grace and the Spirit's fellowship are always with us (2 Cor. 13:14)

4) The Trinity explains our mission

The Father sent His son out, and the Son sent the Spirit – we should see our great Commission (Matt 28:18-20) to be a continuation of the Trinity's mission to the world.

At the cross we see Jesus glorify His Father as He lay down His life for us, that we might receive the Spirit and be adopted as children of God. We too are called to lay down our lives for others (John 15:13) glorifying God as we do, and continuing the mission of our Triune God.

(This was adapted from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-reasons-trinity/?amp>)

Easy listening <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qULnbRmUOF8>