

Theology: The Trinity – Father, Son, Holy Spirit

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 34:6-7; John 16:12-15

Introduction

Basil of Caesarea (330-379 AD)

The doctrines of the Scriptures must be practiced in humility and holiness in order to experience God's glory. Let us recover holiness in the life of the church. (page 99 – Basil of Caesarea: His Life and Impact)

Apostle's Creed 150s AD

I believe in God the Father almighty;

and in Christ Jesus His only Son, our Lord, Who was born from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, Who under Pontius Pilate was crucified and buried, on the third day rose again from the dead, ascended into heaven, sits at the right hand of the Father, whence he will come to judge the living and the dead;

and in the Holy Spirit, the holy Church, the remission of sins, the resurrection of the flesh, life everlasting.

Nicene Creed 325 AD

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

Who is God?

Genesis 1:1 (CSB): *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

אֱלֹהִים

אֱל | הִם

Elohim

him (plural) El (God)

A.W. Tozer – *The doctrine of the Trinity, as I have said before, is truth for the heart. The fact that it cannot be satisfactorily explained, instead of being against it, is in its favor. Such a truth had to be revealed; no one could have imagined it. (Page 23 – Knowledge of the Holy)*

Who is God? God is Trinity. One God, Three Persons.

Knowing God

Knowing God based on who He is verses knowing God for what He does.

Essence verses Function

- Essence: the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of something, especially something abstract, that determines its character. (Oxford Dictionary)
- Function: an activity or purpose natural to or intended for a person or thing. (Oxford Dictionary)

Exodus 34:6-7 (CSB): ⁶ *The Lord passed in front of him and proclaimed: The Lord—the Lord is a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in faithful love and truth, ⁷ maintaining faithful love to a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity, rebellion, and sin. But he will not leave the guilty unpunished, bringing the consequences of the fathers' iniquity on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation.*

The Essence of the Trinity

The essence of God is equally shared between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Meaning, who the Father is...is who the Son is...is who the Holy Spirit is.

John 16:12-15 (CSB): ¹² *"I still have many things to tell you, but you can't bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.*

Matthew 28:19 - Isaiah 6:1-3 - Revelation 4:8 - Isaiah 55:8-9 - 1 Peter 1:1-2

