



THE GOD WHO IS THREE IN ONE WITH US

John 1:1-18 |

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RELATED SCRIPTURES

John 14:8-11; 15-26 | 2 Cor. 13:13 | Matthew 28:18-20 | Col. 3:16-17 | Eph. 5:18-21

SUMMARY

To know God is to know Him as Trinity. The New City Catechism begins with the question: What is your only hope in life and death? To which my children sometimes say, sing, or shout: *"That we are not our own but belong, body and soul, both in life and death, to God and to our Savior Jesus Christ."* It's a wonderful, soul-anchoring truth that we can only affirm through belief in the Trinity. God is one. There is only one God who is one in essence and three in persons.

Kevin DeYoung asks, "Okay, I understand I got three in one, one in three. **What difference does this make for anything in my Christian life?**

First, the Trinity helps us to understand how there can be unity in diversity...This is one of the most pressing questions in our world. Some folks focus almost exclusively on diversity, on the fact that people are so different. They don't see any common ground. Others want to press for complete uniformity in thought, in government, and in expression. The Trinity shows us that you can have a profound, real, organic unity with diversity, so that **the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are working in complete union in our salvation.**

The Father appoints. The Son accomplishes. The Spirit applies. We encounter God as fully God in the Father, in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. And yet, their divine work is neither interchangeable nor redundant.

Second, when you have a triune God, you have the eternity of love. Love has existed from all time. If you have a god who is not three persons, he has to create a being to love, to be an expression of his love. But Father, Son, and Holy Spirit existing in eternity have always had this relationship of love.

Finally, and most importantly, the doctrine of the Trinity is crucial for the Christian because there is nothing more important in all the world than knowing God. If God exists as one God in three persons, if the one divine essence subsists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, if we are baptized into this triune name, then no Christian should want to be ignorant of these Trinitarian realities. In the end, the Trinity matters because God matters."

EXTRA RESOURCES (click links):

[ST. PATRICK'S BAD ANALOGIES](#) | [NEW CITY CATECHISM](#)

GROUP QUESTIONS

- From the sermon, or your direct reading of John 1:1-18, share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you about the reality that God speaks.
- John 14:15-26 tells us that the Father and the Son make their home with us, and together they send the Spirit to remain in us forever. What do you suppose is the significance of God moving outward toward us in this way?
- Colossians 3:16-17 + Ephesians 5:18-21 + 2 Corinthians 13:13 show us that God is relational. He wants to be known. How do these verses say we are to know God? What is that looking like in your life right now?
- If there's one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of these portions of Scripture, what is that thing?