

“Why Does the Trinity Matter?”

Sermon Series “God Questions: Real Questions – Authentic Faith” February 5, 2012

I John 1:1-4

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Ephesians 3:16-19

I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

1. God draws us into the inner circle, the Trinity.

2. The Trinity models and empowers “us” to be “us.”

3. The Trinity models and empowers us to love the world.

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Sermon Reflection Questions – February 5, 2012

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Last week I gave a brief introduction to the nature of the Trinity, and how as we seek to understand the Trinity we must be careful to not put the infinite God into a finite understanding. This week we will look at why it matters that our God is Triune, what difference does it/should it make in our worship of God and the way we live that out.

1. The first point in the message was that God draws us into the inner circle of the Trinity. Who is your inner circle (i.e. your closest friends)? What benefit do you have from having an inner circle?
2. As you begin today take a brief recap of last week’s message and explain in your own words the nature of God being Triune, that is, one God in three persons? What are the ways that the Trinity can be misunderstood?
3. Read Ephesians 3:16-19 and 1 John 1:1-4. In what ways does God draw us into His inner circle? What affect does that have on our lives?
4. Read Titus 3:4-7. How do we enter the inner circle of the Trinity? What action does each member of the Trinity take in order to bring us into the inner circle?
5. The second point on the outline said that the Trinity both models and empowers us as believers to function as a true community. Read John 17:20-26 and Genesis 1:26-27; what do these passages teach us about how the nature of the Trinity is to be reflected in our lives? What would be the practical implications of being “one”, what would it look like?
6. In what ways do you feel that you live out the “oneness” of the Trinity well and in what ways is it difficult to do so?
7. The final point is that the Trinity models and empowers us to love the world. How do you see the Trinity working in harmony according to Titus 3:4-7 and how can we live out the modeling of the Trinity as we fulfill God’s mission? Read also, I Corinthians 12:4-6 to see the working of the Trinity within our spiritual gifts.