

Trinity

Some may think, “Why talk about the Trinity?” or “Why not discuss something more practical?”

The doctrine of the Trinity is the doctrine of God. What could be more meaningful, helpful, and _____ than to know God rightly.

“The doctrine of the Trinity is the most immense of all doctrines of religion. It is the foundation of theology. Christianity, in the last analysis, is Trinitarianism...The Trinity of Divine Revelation is the doctrine that holds in it all the hope of man; for it holds within it the infinite pity of the Incarnation and the infinite mercy of redemption.”-Shedd

Writing about this doctrine Augustine declares, *“In no other subject is error more dangerous, or inquiry more laborious or the discovery of truth more profitable.”*

Lesson 1-Eternal Relations of Origin

Christians are _____ (belief in 1 God)-Natural religion can reveal this

“Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one.”-Deuteronomy 6:4

Christians are _____ (belief in 3 divine “persons”)-This truth is revealed by God

“The doctrine of the Divine Unity is a truth of natural religion; the doctrine of the Trinity is a truth of revealed religion...this doctrine is not discoverable by human reason.”-Shedd

-The Persons of the Trinity are mentioned as _____ Persons in Scripture

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”-Matthew 28:19

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”-2 Corinthians 13:14

“And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to Him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him and behold, a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’-Matthew 3:16-17

-The Persons of the Trinity are all referred to as _____ in Scripture

“Father...And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”-John 17:1, 3

“Jesus came and stood among them...Thomas answered Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’-John 20:26, 28

“Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...You have not lied to man but to God.”-Acts 5:3, 4

Therefore, we say: 1. God is One, 2. The Father is God, 3. The Son is God, 4. The Holy Spirit is God, 5. The Father is not the Son, 6. The Father is not the Holy Spirit, 7. The Son is not the Holy Spirit

The doctrine of the Trinity is _____ and an _____ Christian teaching

To deny the doctrine of the Trinity is to fall into _____-A distinction is to be made between being an accidental heretic and a purposeful heretic. Heresy refers to the denial of an _____ Christian doctrine.

Heresy alert: _____ *“Denies there is more than one person in the Godhead. Persons are mere functions, as if what makes God Father, Son, and Spirit are the forms He takes when He creates or saves.”-Barrett, 324*

While the Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct Persons they are not _____. The Persons do not each make up 1/3 of God. Augustine reminds us, *“The whole divine nature is in each divine Person.”* On the Trinity, 65.

Each Person of the Trinity possess all of the divine _____ (the divine essence). They are equal in power and glory.

We are here dealing with the area of **ontology**: The nature of _____. So, when we talk about who God is in Himself, we are talking about the ontological Trinity. Right now, we are not talking about how God works outside of Himself but who He is in Himself and who He has revealed Himself to be. It is the utmost pride and wickedness to try to redefine God in your own ways.

So, then what is the difference? The only thing that distinguishes the Persons of the Godhead are the eternal _____ of origins.

The Father is unbegotten. The Son is _____ of the Father. The Spirit proceeds from the Father and Son. Paternity (Father), Filiation (Son), Spiration (Spirit)

Eternal Relations of Origin: *“Distinguishes how each person is related to another, identifying the everlasting source from which each person proceeds. These relations alone distinguish the Persons, identifying each Person’s personal property.”-Barrett, 320*

Let’s break down each word:

_____-These things are outside of time. The Father has eternally been Father. The Son has eternally been Son. The Spirit has eternally been proceeded from Father and Son.

_____-The Father, Son, and Spirit related to one another in terms of Paternity, Filiation, Spiration

_____-There is an order in origin. The Spirit’s origin is from the Father and the Son. The Son’s origin is from the Father.