

Essentials of the Faith

Nature of God: Our God is Triune

1. Our God is Triune

a. Our God is ONE

Our God is ONE in essence – there are not three (different) parts

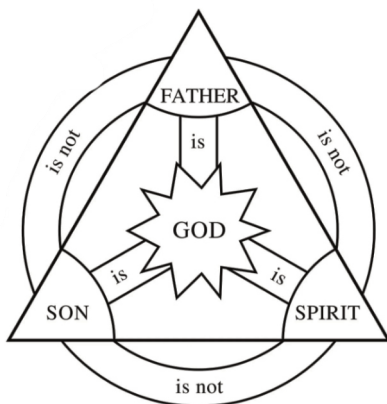
Our God is ONE in nature – there are not three (different) kinds

All three members are the same God – there are not three (different) gods

b. Our God is ONE, existing in THREE PERSONS

The Beauty of Trinity

- Illuminates His Beauty
- Validates His Love
- Beautifies Creation itself
- Salvation has a triune shape (each member has a role to play)
- Our prayers have a triune shape to them



Small Group Questions:

1. How do you feel about the doctrine of the Trinity? Excited, interested, puzzled, concerned, or overwhelmed? Why do you feel this way?
 2. Is it important to understand the Triune nature of God? Why or why not?
 3. Pastor Eric contrasted the concept of a Triune God vs. a Solitary God. In what ways does the Triune nature of God make him beautiful? What beauty would be lost if God were a Solitary God?
 4. How might we respond to other Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, or Islam) when they assert according to the scripture (especially the Shema in Deut. 6:4) that God is one not three? Read the verses 4-19. How does that help color the conversation?
 5. What does it mean that God is one?
 6. What does it mean that our One God exists in three persons?
 7. Which Divine Person created? Which Divine Person is responsible for our salvation? Which Divine Person hears our prayers?
 8. Do you understand the Trinity better now, or are you more confused than ever?
 9. Why is this considered an “essential of the faith?”
-

For Further Study and Reflection:

- *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit* by Bruce Ware
- *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves
- *The Deep Things of God* by Fred Sanders
- *Putting Jesus in His Place* by Bowman and Komoszewski
- *The Triune God* by Fred Sanders
- *The Trinity* by Saint Augustine