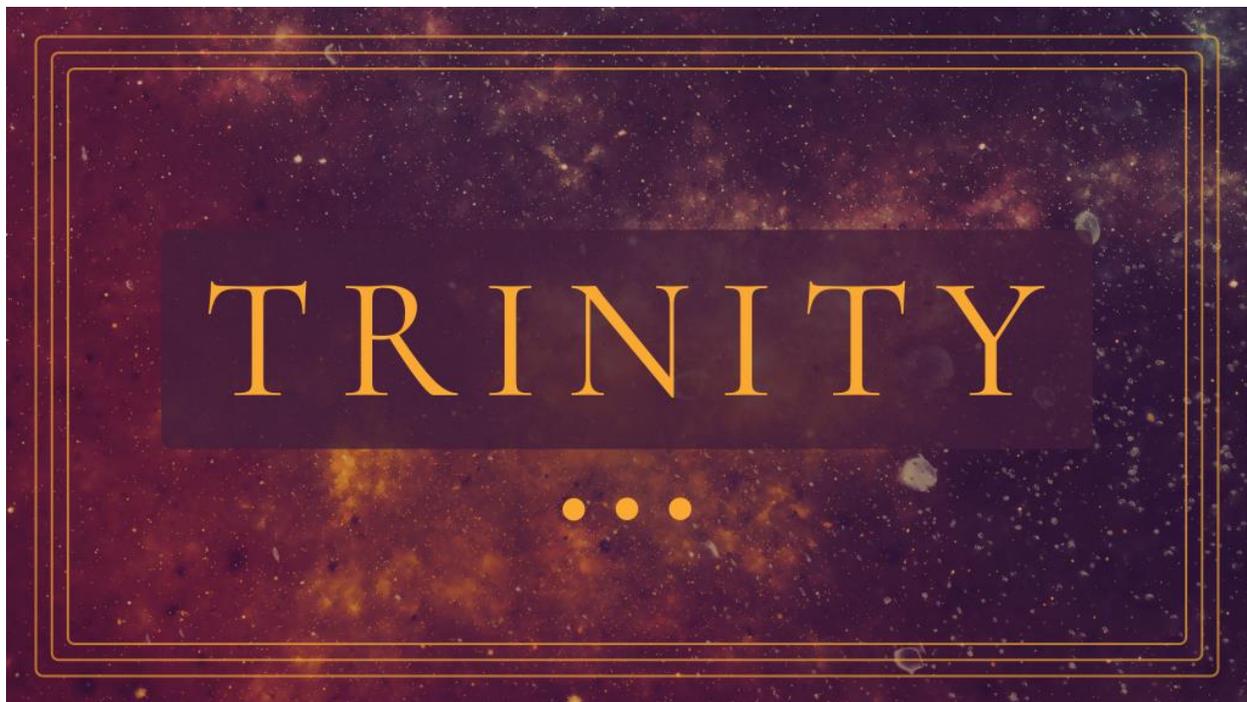


# TRINITY

*God is three eternal Persons in One Essence. This mystery is distinctive and central to Christianity.*

| SCRIPTURE*  | MUSIC†  |
|---|---|
| <b>Matthew 28:16-20</b><br><b>Matthew 3:13-17</b><br><b>John 16:7-15</b><br><b>Romans 8:5-17</b><br>Galatians 4:4-7<br><b>Ephesians 1:3-14</b><br>Ephesians 4:4-7<br><b>2 Thessalonians 2:13-17</b><br><b>2 Peter 1:15-21</b> | <b>A Thousand Joys Are Found... (Achterberg) SATB</b><br>All Creatures of Our God and King<br>Come, Thou Almighty King<br>Crown Him with Many Crowns<br>Doxology<br>Father, I Adore You<br>Holy, Holy, Holy<br>I Will Praise Him<br><b>Immortal, Invisible (Koerts) SATB</b><br>Oh, How Good It Is<br><b>Triune Prayer (IJames) SATB</b><br><b>We Believe (Forrest) SATB</b><br>Worthy of Worship |



**NORTHWEST VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH**

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\* Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

† Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

# PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

## CHRISTIANITY, WORSHIP, AND THE TRINITY

**Ephesians 1** | *No other religion has a Trinity, and sometimes Christians are even accused of being polytheistic because of our belief in the Trinity. But why is the concept of the Trinity essential, and why is it central to Christianity? Simply put, we are who we are because God is Who He is. In other religions, gods are produced in man's image. But in Christianity, man is created in God's image. Through the Trinity, God has fellowship within Himself, and we are relational creatures because He is a relational God. In Trinitarian worship, we participate in the fellowship of the Trinity by means of our union with Jesus Christ. This is an amazing thought! By means of our salvation, we are able to enter into the wonder of the Trinity itself.*

## FELLOWSHIP WITH THE TRINITY

*God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are three distinct persons, yet they are one, and they enjoy fellowship among themselves. One amazing aspect of worship is that as Christians, we are welcomed into the fellowship of the Trinity. Because a Christian is in Christ, he then has intimate fellowship with the eternal Trinity. By the plan of the Father, the work of the Spirit, and by means of the Son, as we worship, we have fellowship with the complete Godhead!*

## INADEQUATE ILLUSTRATIONS

*Use an "interview" style to discuss some different illustrations that have been used to explain the Trinity. Some illustrations are better than others, but ultimately they all fall short of explaining the Trinity, because it is something that we cannot fully understand. However, think of it this way: Do you really want a God that you can completely understand? It should be a comfort to us that God is beyond our limited understanding.*

### ***What do we mean when we use the word Trinity?***

- I prefer to use the term Tri-unity as I work with children and teens.
- One God, three persons
- Each is 100% God in and of themselves and together as a whole they are 100 % God.
- When talking about the trinity in Jr. Church I like to say that  $1+1+1=1$ . The whole is not greater than the sum of its parts. This a very unique and complex relationship.
- Each enter acts with the others and with man in different ways.
- Each has his own personality, function, and responsibilities.

### ***What do we not mean when we use the word Trinity?***

The idea we do not want to convey or teach is that God is a triad, anything where three parts make a whole. Especially where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

### ***What are some of the common illustrations used in an attempt to understand the Trinity?***

- A triangle, a pen or pencil, an egg ....
- Anything where three parts make a whole

### ***How accurate are these illustrations in describing what the Bible reveals about the Trinity?***

While they can show how three can be one, each of these are better at illustrating a triad rather than a tri-unity. Most generally these triad based illustrations can tend to lay a foundation to build incorrect theology.

### ***Do you have an illustration you prefer to use when describing the Trinity?***

I like to use light to illustrate the trinity. The three primary colors of light are red, green and blue. If you have each of those at the same intensity and magnitude you have white light. Each of our primary colors is 100% light. Together they are 100% light. Each has specific characteristics. Each enters acts in specific way.

Three, that when separate are 100% light at all times. Together they are 100% light. They each have a relationship to themselves. Yet, they are distinct unto themselves. They each have their own characteristics and function.

### ***How does even this illustration fall short in helping us understand the Trinity?***

This illustration falls short in helping us to understand the special relationship between Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We understand that some illustrations are better than others, but ultimately they all fall short of explaining the complexity of the triune nature of God. The trinity is something that we cannot fully understand. However, do you really want a God that you can completely understand? It should be a comfort to us that God is beyond our limited understanding.

## **IT'S ABOUT RELATIONSHIP**

*The Trinity is relational in nature. Among the three Persons of the Trinity, there is love, obedience, etc. Because God Himself is relational in nature, we as His creatures are relational as well and can enjoy a relationship with Him. Amazingly, we can participate in the fellowship of the Trinity through means of our relationship with Christ! (Reference book: Worship, Community, and the Triune God).*

## REFLECTED IN THE FAMILY

*God is one God in three Persons. These Persons of the Trinity have fellowship, relationship, and mutual delight in each other. The God-ordained human family reflects this relationship. Husband, wife, and children each have distinct roles but ideally function in joyful unity. This unity and distinction reflected in the nuclear family is one manifestation of the image of the Triune God in man. Indeed, every human's need and desire for relationship stems from the relational nature of God. Through Christ, God invites us into fellowship of the Persons of the Trinity. Just as the three persons of the Godhead glorify each other, we have the opportunity to glorify Him as well in worship.*

**Promotional Post:** One of the great mysteries and distinctive teachings of our faith is the Trinity: God is One God with Three distinct Persons, mutually delighting in one another. Each Sunday, through Jesus Christ, we can enter that joyful fellowship of the Trinity as we worship Him together. Join us Sunday!

These passages of Scripture note the distinct Persons of the Trinity and can help you prepare for worship: [Insert preparatory readings.]