

Lesson 2: Perfections of God and the Trinity

Lesson Introduction



We will now begin to look at the perfections of God. We will see that these “characteristics” are not merely attributes of God, but rather, what He is. We will also look at a topic that can be somewhat difficult to understand, and that is the topic of the Trinity: One God in Three Persons.

Lesson 2: Perfections of God and the Trinity

Introduction and a Warning

When we study doctrine, some people believe that we can make this intellectual pursuit that somehow we can in our finite minds understand the infinite God in all measure and all ways. I guarantee you this topic of the Trinity will prove that we cannot achieve that. It's not possible, and I think if we just, if this is just an intellectual exercise and it doesn't play out in our lives everyday, the study of doctrine is futile. It's a waste of time. It's really silly to do it. We're not trying to accumulate knowledge, we're not just trying to make memory of these things. We're trying to learn something that will help us understand God and understand how He wants us to live, and it's going to come out of how we live, this whole study of doctrine. Someone said it this way, "God will not be mocked by the pretensions of those who believe they might fully and certainly know His mind." God is not mocked by that. And by the way, was that not the sin of the Garden of Eden, with not the sin that Satan tempted Eve with: "Ye shall be like God"? No, we will never achieve that, but I do believe it is beneficial for us as Christians to know as much about Him as we can, and it's revealed in Scripture. Therefore if we study Scripture, we will know more about God. We're going to have a look at eight perfections of God. These have been called attributes, but Dr. Ryrie doesn't like the word attribute because it almost sounds like these are kind of just things that God shows by His actions, when rather these qualities or these perfections are literally His essence, His being. This is what He is. So we can show love, but that doesn't mean we are love. God shows love, but that's because He is love. And any love that we can show other people is because of God being love, and we are indwelt by the Spirit of God, those that believe, and we're to be more and more like Christ. And He is love, therefore we are to be that way as well.

QUESTION 1

Our finite minds _____ understand everything about our infinite God.

QUESTION 2

Our goal in studying God should be to _____ how God wants us to live.

QUESTION 3

As Christians, it is _____ for us to know as much about God as we can and as revealed in Scripture.

Topic 1: The Perfections of God

God is Omnipotent: Power Over Nature

1. He is all-powerful, that's omnipotent. In Revelation 19, and I tell you, when you read Revelation, you come to a crescendo and I love the last several chapters, and it's just shows the power and might of Almighty God. Revelation 19:6 is getting near that crescendo of God's power. "And I heard as it were the

voice of a great multitude, the voice of many waters,” and I tell you, anytime you’re near water that is really ripping, really flowing, a large river, waterfall, body of water, an ocean, the waves coming in is loud. It’s almost deafening how loud that is. This is this noise that John was hearing, “and the voice of many waters, the voice of mighty thunders saying Alleluia for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.” Why would knowing that God is all-powerful help us in our Christian life? You’re serving a God Who can do anything. I think it’s that simple. If you really believe that God is all-powerful, nothing’s going to affect you. Nothing’s going . . . if you’re in His will, if you’re doing what He wants you to do. If He’s for you, who can be against you? The person that’s critical of you because you’re honest, it’s not going to bother you as much. Why? Because you’re pleasing God, the Almighty, all-powerful God, the omnipotent God. He is all-powerful, and He reigneth. Matthew 19:26, “Jesus beheld them and said unto them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Do you understand the all-power of God, that He is power. He is all-powerful, almighty. He has infinite power. How does an all-powerful God, and this is the question that somebody will ask me: Is it possible for the all-powerful God to make a rock so large He cannot pick up? Well I would answer, No. God is limited. God limits His power by His will. Now obviously that would not be in His will to create a rock so big that He cannot pick up, alright. So that’s a good way to answer that if anyone ever asks you that. But God never will do anything contrary to His nature or His will. Okay, so does limit, and that’s self-limiting. That’s limiting His own power. But He has power over nature. All through the Scriptures, especially the miracles of Christ, we see power over nature is evidence, right? When I think of Moses when the sea is calm, the storm’s raging, the wind’s blowing, the lightning is cracking, it’s a bad scene out there in that boat. But Jesus speaks, Peace, be still, and instantly, I don’t even think it took time for all the waves to subside. You know how it would after like a half-hour or so? I think it was just instant calm. That’s power. That’s power, power over nature. The verse I gave you, Psalm 33, talks about creation. Verse 6, that’s another doctrine that we’re getting away from, is God created. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. In Psalm 33:6, “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made.” Is that power to speak and it exists? All the heavens, great wonders of our universe, infinite universe that we see around us. We’ve heard from Dr. John Morris, and he explained all the different clusters and novae and supernovae and nebulae out there in the universe, and how far that goes. But it seems like there’s symmetry, and it seems like it’s all symmetrical around the earth. But that shows the power of God. “By the word of the LORD were the heavens made, and all the hosts of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap. He layeth upon the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the LORD. Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him, for he spake, and it was done. He commanded, and it stood fast.”

Assignment:

- Memorize Matthew 19:26

QUESTION 4

God is omnipotent, which means _____.

QUESTION 5

If you really _____ that God is all-powerful, nothing’s going to affect you.

QUESTION 6

God will never do anything that is _____ to His nature.

God is Omnipotent: Power Over Created Beings and Death

He has power over men. He has power over people. Over, and over, and over we find that. James 4, it talks about, in verse 12, “There is one lawgiver who is able to save and destroy. Who art thou that judgest one another?” Okay, there was a problem. Judging each other isn’t sin, but the way they were doing it was. Okay, they were abusing that power and judging one another. They were critical of each other and this is what the author gives to correct that problem. “Go to now,” verse 13, “ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city and continue there a year, and buy and sell and get gain. Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, for what is your life . . . ?” I tell you, that really puts it in perspective. He has power over every person. Why? What is your life? It’s a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and vanisheth away. Breath is there, and it’s gone. It’s there and it’s gone. God has power over men. He has power over angels. In Daniel, it talks about the army, the hosts of Heaven. There are angels that He has power over. He created all of them. A third of them fell, the followers of Lucifer, Satan, the demons – He has power over all of the angels. He has power over Satan himself, right? Some people think that you have God, and you have Satan, and they’re equals, and they’re in this cosmic battle. Is that true? Is God and Satan equals? They are not. Why? Because God created the devil. God created Lucifer. Lucifer, lifted up with pride, he said I will, I will, I will, I will, I will, I will—and God said, “You won’t.” And he was cast down. The Bible says in Revelation that he will be thrown into the pit. God has power over the devil. The devil thinks he has power. The devil has some power given to him. He’s the prince of the air, okay. He has rulership over this earth in many ways, but that will end. And he is a created being. He does not, by the way, have the attributes of God. Sometimes we think that Satan is all-knowing, all-powerful, all-wise—he’s not. He’s not. He has limits. He is a created being. Just keep that in mind. God has power over Satan, and God has power over death We’re trying to extend life, but we’re not able to. Why? Because death has a grip over the human race and always will. But God has power over that. We’ve seen that in the resurrection of Lazarus. We’ve seen that in the resurrection of Christ, okay. Ephesians 1:19, “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power,” okay, remember that we’re talking about all-power of God, the omnipotence of God, “to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead.” If He can do that with Christ, He can do that with all that believe. We’ll all be raised. If we die, we do face the first death. We won’t face the second death, but we face the first death. Praise be to God that He can rise that old body from the dead. He has power over death. He raised Christ and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in the world, but also in that which is to come.” That’s power, my friends. He has power over death. And by the way, death will be destroyed, Revelation 20:14.

QUESTION 7

God’s _____ extends to all things He has created, including man and angels.

QUESTION 8

Lucifer is a _____ being and is a _____ angel.

QUESTION 9

God demonstrated His power over death in the _____ of Jesus.

God is Omniscient: All Knowing

He is omniscient. Omniscience is all-knowing. He knows all things. Now this is a little harder to grasp. We can understand all-powerful, but this is harder to grasp, omniscient, all-knowing. 1 John 3:20 it says, "For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things." Well, if God is all-powerful, who are we going to fear? If God knows all things, then He knows the future. We think we have a pretty good grasp of the present. We kind of think we have a pretty good grasp of the future, although history seems to change, depending on who's telling the story. But no one has a grasp of the future at all. That's what's hard for us to understand. How? How does He know what's next? Well, He knows all possibilities God knows all possibilities. He knows all the different options that you have, and He knows what path you're going to take, and He knows what's going to be the outcome of that, okay. He knows our needs, He knows our thoughts, He knows the heart. Even more than we know our own heart, He knows us. You might be able to fool folks. You're not going to fool God. Isn't it a stupid thing for us to try to fool God, to try to pull the wool over His eyes? Well, you don't fool God for a second. He knows our heart. He knows our experiences. Does God care? Yes. Look at Exodus. Were the people of Israel going through a terrible time? They were. Did God know about it? Yes, He did. It says, "And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and I have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows." He knew. We're going to talk about His love and how He would care in this example, but He knows. His knowledge covers all time. Someone has explained it this way. He said you go to a parade, okay. The parade starts. You're at the beginning of the parade, you see the middle of the parade, you see the end of the parade. It's linear. When God, though, looks at it, it's kind of like you're up in a helicopter. You're up high; you're looking down, and you can see the whole thing, okay. That's one way to understand His knowledge and how He knows all things. His knowledge isn't limited by time because He is outside of time. He created time, okay. He knows the past, the present, and the future. He knows all the events and how they're going to follow in chronological order. He knows all possibilities. There's examples of that, Isaiah 48. It says in verse 18, "Oh that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! Then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the weight of the sea." In other words, if you had done this, God knows what the outcome would have been. But since we didn't do that, we're going to suffer the outcome, as they were suffering there in Isaiah.

Assignment:

- Memorize 1 John 3:20

QUESTION 10

Omniscient is another word for _____.

QUESTION 11

God knows all _____ and all _____.

QUESTION 12

God's knowledge isn't _____ by time because He is outside of time.

QUESTION 13

God knows what the _____ would be if we obeyed Him and followed His will.

God is Omnisapient: All Wise

So God is all-powerful. God is all-knowing. God is omnisapient, which is simply all-wise. He has all wisdom. He knows exactly what to do every time, in every instance, in every situation. Why is Proverbs so helpful? Proverbs is God's wisdom imparted to us. We can learn by that wisdom, and we can know how to live our lives. I love this Doxology in 1 Timothy 1:17, "Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen." He's the only-wise God, He's all-wise. He's omnisapient. First Corinthians 2, verses 7 and 8, it says, "We speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory, which none of the princes of this world knew, for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." That was the most foolish thing to do, crucify the Lord of Glory. You say, "Well, if He hadn't been crucified, would we have salvation?" Well, one way or the other, we would have still had salvation. But man's wisdom was to crucify the Lord. How opposite and how horrible that was, when we use our wisdom. And we need to have the wisdom of God, and we need to be people that seek after God's wisdom each and every day How was God's wisdom displayed in redemption? First Corinthians 1:22, "For the Jews require a sign; the Greeks seek after wisdom." Okay, that's generalities. The Jews were looking for a sign; the Gentiles were looking for wisdom, okay. Plato, Socrates, and all of that, Greeks were always looking for the new thing, the next thing, the philosophy of the day. But we preach, okay, this is what we do. This is what God wants us to do. We preach Christ crucified. Is that the most popular message in the world? It is not. Why? To the Jews, it is a stumbling block; to the Gentiles, that message is foolishness. When Paul got to the resurrection, when he was talking to those at Athens and Greece on Mars Hill near the Parthenon, when he got to the resurrection of the dead, they stopped; they laughed. Now a couple got saved, praise the Lord. But most people think that is a foolish, foolish thing to say, the resurrection of Christ, okay. Verse 24, this is God's wisdom, though, that we're preaching. It seems foolish to people. It's a stumbling block to people, but God's wisdom is this, "But," verse 24, "unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God." That's the right thing to do. It's the right thing to say. It's the right thing to preach. "But the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men."

Assignment:

- Memorize 1 Timothy 1:17

QUESTION 14

When we say God is "all-wise", we say He is _____.

QUESTION 15

A display of man's wisdom was when they _____ Jesus.

God is Omnipresent: Everywhere

God is also everywhere. He's omnipresent. He's everywhere, okay. Now there's a doctrine, by the way that says God is everything. In other words, this is God; the rock is God; the tree is God. No, that's pantheism. That is not an accurate doctrine. This doctrine is simply this. God is everywhere. His presence, His being is everywhere. Okay, Jeremiah 23:24, "Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him?" God knows all things, but He also is everywhere. He sees all things. "Saith the LORD, Do not I fill the heaven and the earth? saith the LORD." He's everywhere. He's omnipresent. All other beings known

to man are restricted. I'm restricted to this place right here and now, okay. This is where I am. I can't be in two places at one time. you say, "I wish I could. Can we make that happen?" No, but God is able to be in more than one place at one time. He is not restricted like we are. The Holy Spirit, by the way, is in all believers. So we are literally indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. And the Holy Spirit is also working with unbelievers, convicting them of sin, righteousness, and of judgment. So God is omnipresent. He is everywhere. He is also eternal. Now this is, again, a hard concept to understand. We think linearly. We think, okay here's the beginning; here's the end; this is a timeline; this is chronology. But with God, He has no beginning. He has no end. He's eternal, never had a beginning, never had an end. He's the Author of time. It says in Psalm 90:4 that "A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday," okay. To God, a thousand years is nothing. It's nothing. It's just nothing, okay. The eternity of God is one of those things that's hard for us to understand, hard for us to grasp, but it is a truth. It is a truth about God. Number 6, God is unchangeable. This one is really, really important. Why? Because He's promised you and I eternal life. Do we have eternal life right now? We have it in the sense that He's promised it and He's given us eternal life and we possess it, but we're not . . . we don't have Heaven right now. We're here, right? So it's something that we're still waiting for. It's something that's still in the future. If God could change His mind, then maybe in a couple weeks, He's going to say, "Man, you're just a stinker. You know, never doing what I'm saying to do. Forget it. Your eternal life is no longer eternal." That'd be bad. We're counting on God meaning what He says and saying what He means. The God I read about in Scripture, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Elohim, okay, Jehovah, doesn't change His mind. He's immutable; He doesn't change. Praise the Lord for that. "I am the LORD," it says in Malachi 3:6. "I am the LORD. I change not." James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above. It cometh down from the Father of lights," read this now, "with whom is no variableness or even a shadow," not even a hint, "of turning." Okay, the counsel of God is unchangeable when He says it will happen. He's immutable in His being, His attitude, His acts. You say, "Well what about God repenting?" It does say God repented that He made man, and God repented that He was going to destroy Nineveh, you know, things like this. Well, that's always in the sense of a judicial act, and He can change His mind, not change His mind, but change His judicial punishment. Okay, but that never is a change in His attitude toward sin. It doesn't change, okay. God is immutable.

QUESTION 16

When we refer to the fact that God is everywhere, we refer to His _____.

QUESTION 17

The omnipresence of God _____ mean that God is everything.

QUESTION 18

The immutability of God refers to the fact that He is _____.

QUESTION 19

God can change judicial punishment, but He can never change His _____ toward sin.

QUESTION 20

God's immutability is important to the _____ of the Believer.

God is Love and Holy

Number seven, this one is really important to us: God is love. This is to be the hallmark of the Christian. So if we understand this is, in essence, this is a perfection of God, this is not only quality, but this is what He is; He is love. And if we are to be people that are marked by love, then I think this is an important one to understand. We need to have a knowledge of the love of God, and that comes only by revelation. What is the greatest revelation of the love of God, that God is love? That is when Jesus came, when Jesus died. God, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. God demonstrated His love toward us. There couldn't be a greater demonstration of love than that revelation. All through Scripture, we read about the love of God, the love of God, the love of God Only love could really make the sacrifice necessary for us to be saved. The forms of God's love: well, His goodness, His lovingkindness, His longsuffering, His patience—those are all proofs that He really does love. That He is love. His mercy . . . He shows that to those that are disobedient. The pardon of the sinner, doesn't that show the mercy of God? The grace of God. So many people have tried to define the grace of God; it's hard to define. The manifestation of His grace, that He justifies us, that He imputes righteousness to our account, that He imparts a new nature, that He saves us, that He instructs us and He teaches us. I believe the faithfulness of God is also part of His attributes. His characteristic is perfection of love. He is faithful. He keeps His promises. He preserves His people. He chastens His people. That's a demonstration of His forgiveness. He chastens us, and loves us. He forgives His people, and He answers prayer. God is also holy. God is holy. This holiness is how He determines how He's going to exercise His love, okay. This is an important balance, to understand the holiness of God, that helps us understand justice. That helps us understand why sinners go to Hell, okay. Without understanding the holiness of God, we really can't understand the love of God. If we didn't know that God has to punish sin, sinners have to be separated for all eternity, how are we really going to understand His love, and how great grace is? We really can't. A proper understanding of God's holiness is so important in understanding God in His ways, okay. Some of the ways that we feel this attribute of God is, I believe in the separation of believers. God has called us apart. He has set us apart. We should be living different lives. We should be different than the rest of the world. Why? Because in 1 Peter 1, it says in verse 15, "As he which has called you is holy," who has called us? God, the Lord has called us, and He is holy, so it says "so be ye holy in all manner of conversation this is the only attribute that we find repeated three consecutive times. Isaiah chapter 6, look at that with me, verse 2, "Above it stood the seraphims. Each had six wings. With twain he covered his face, with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said "holy, holy, holy." Okay, do you see that? Do you see the importance of the holiness of God? "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of Hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory." We see God's purity, His righteousness, and His justice. God legally demands righteousness for holiness. It is judicial holiness that demands a penalty for those who have not met God's command for justice, and that's how we understand why someone that doesn't accept the gift of eternal life will spend eternity in Hell. That's the only way to understand it, is because God is holy. He's manifested His holiness by His words, His laws, His hatred of sin, His love for righteousness. God hates sin; He loves righteousness. He's manifested His holiness by the very fact that we are justified. The believing sinner is justified. He manifests His holiness, His righteousness when He takes care of us. And it was an extreme demonstration of holiness when He went to the cross.

Assignment:

- Memorize 1 Peter 1:15-16

QUESTION 21

The greatest revelation of God's love is that while we were _____ Christ died for us.

QUESTION 22

God's goodness and longsuffering are forms of His _____.

Topic 2: The Trinity

Now again, this is one of those hard, hard things to get your arms around. God is a triune personality. In other words, three in one. There's been some errors about the Trinity, and these errors will get you in trouble, okay. Here are some of the errors: some people believe that there are three individuals in the Godhead. God is not a triad, okay. That is in error, okay. It is one God, one God, not three individuals. It's one God. Okay, the Trinity—here's another error—the Trinity is one person manifesting Himself in three. In other words, there are three essences in one person. Jesus Christ, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are only manifestations. Okay, that's an error. That is not accurate according to Scripture. And then there's also the denial of the Trinity, okay. There [is] Unitarianism and other people, Unitarianists that believe that there isn't a Trinity. It doesn't exist. They deny it. They say God created the Son and the Holy Spirit, and there can be no eternal Father without an eternal Son, so therefore they deny the Trinity, okay. Here is the three things that you'll need if you want to have an accurate understanding of this really important doctrine. You say, "How is this doctrine important to me?" Well, without this doctrine, you don't have a Savior. If Jesus wasn't God Who died in the flesh, you don't have a perfect sacrifice, so He has to be God; in order for Him to be God, He has to be—you have to understand the Trinity, three in one, okay. That's why it's important. And I'm not telling you I have a firm grasp of this. I certainly don't. But we're going to go over what we can learn in Scripture, and one day maybe in all eternity, as we learn more and more about God, maybe we'll understand it better, okay. But these three major features have to be understood to have a true concept of the Trinity. You have to understand the oneness and onliness of God. There is only one. Oneness and onliness. You also have to understand the three eternal distinctions of being. Jesus didn't start being the Son at conception, when He was conceived in Mary, okay. He was the Son for all eternity. it's an important doctrine to understand, that Jesus was eternally the Son, okay. It is important. It's essential. Three eternal distinctions of being of the one and only God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And then number 3, the proper deity in each of these three: God, the One indivisible absolute Spirit in each of these eternal modes of being.

QUESTION 23

The word _____ means "three in one."

QUESTION 24

A major error concerning the Trinity is that there is one God _____ himself in three ways.

QUESTION 25

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all _____.

QUESTION 26

Without the Trinity, we don't have an eternal _____.

Illustrations of the Trinity

People have tried to give examples of the Trinity, using things that we understand in this world. One is the rays from the sun. The rays of the sun is one thin, but they have three elements: the heat rays, which are felt and not seen, the light rays, which are seen, but not felt, and then you have the chemical waves, which are neither felt nor seen. You can kind of start to get an understanding, a grasp, of how that could picture of the Trinity. But everything that we try to give as examples, they always kind of fall apart eventually, okay. But that might help you understand the Trinity. Dr. Henry Morris would say that a lot of the things that we find in the universe really reflect the Trinity, and it does. Think about this, space, mass (which is energy), and time. Okay? You see, space is measured in terms of one-dimension, scenic two-dimensions and experience in three dimensions: space, mass, energy, and time. Dr. Morris also finds a threesome in time. And time you have past, you have present, and you have future. Again these are all interesting exercises, but none of them fully explain how God can be completely three and completely one at the same time. This is beyond anything in nature and has to be specifically revealed in Scripture, and we do need to have an understanding of this. Let's quickly look at the Trinity in the Old and the New Testament. Now this is really exciting. Look at Genesis chapter 1 We have an interesting word that is used. Elohim here is a plural noun. But you have a verb after God. "In the beginning God," that's Elohim. The verb is created in Hebrew. That is a singular verb, bara. Okay, to create. So you have a plural noun with [a] singular verb. I don't know a whole lot about grammar, but I do know that that is not correct syntax. That's not the proper way to say it. It's erroneous grammar, okay, to have a plural subject with a singular verb. But you know what this shows us? It shows us that God, plural, created, okay. In the beginning God, that even in the Old Testament we see more than one, okay. Genesis 1:26, it says, "God said, Let us . . ." Why would there be a plural pronoun? Why would it say "us" if there wasn't such a thing as the Godhead, the Trinity, the three in One, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in one? God said, "Let us make man after our image," plural pronouns, "after our likeness," okay. We also see that same example in Genesis 3:22, where it uses the plural pronoun, "us." Then in the Creation Story, we see God the Father, in verse 2 we see the Spirit move upon the face of the water, and we also see the Son, where it says, "God said," okay Jesus is the Word, the spoken Word of God, logos. So we see, even in the Creation account in Genesis, we see the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One God manifested, not just manifested, but three distinct persons, okay. Now we have verses that explain this. Psalm 2 talks about "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee;" further down in Psalm 2:12, it says, "Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and he perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him." You see the Son, you see Jesus, the eternal Son of God in the Old Testament. [In] Isaiah 48, it talks about the Spirit, okay. We see in many, many other places—that's just a snippet—we see . . . and Jewish people will say there is no such thing as the Trinity. They deny the deity of Christ. They didn't understand that from the Old Testament. It's kind of veiled, but it's there. It's definitely there.

QUESTION 27

The Trinity is found in _____ the Old and New Testaments.

QUESTION 28

There are _____ perfect examples of the Trinity. *True or False?*

The Trinity in the New Testament

We come to the New Testament and obviously it's all over the place. You have the baptism of Christ, right? The voice from Heaven, that's God the Father; we have Jesus literally there going into the water, the Son, and we have the Holy Spirit descending like as a dove. Okay, what do you have there? You have

the Trinity in Matthew 3. Then we have, when we baptize someone, we are told to baptize that person in the name of the . . . Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Matthew 28 The apostolic benediction, 2 Corinthians 13, again, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They're all three recognized as God. Okay, the Father is recognized as God; the Son is God; the Holy Spirit is God. They're all described as distinct persons. The Father and the Son are distinct from each other. We find in John, okay. You have the Father and the Son there. The Father and Son are distinct from the Holy Spirit. We find that in Scripture but we find all three persons equal. Okay, without one, you don't have God at all. We see a tremendous unity, a tremendous oneness in the Godhead, and that is the unity that we are to have as believers. We have to be unified. Now that's in truth, okay. We have to be unified in truth. We're not going to go, you know, connect with other people that have false doctrines just because we're unified. But when we have truth, and we understand, we have an agreement with truth, there's supposed to be this unity. In Psalm 133, it says, "Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" It's really a picture of God. It's a picture of the Trinity, when we have that unity. Mark 3:25, "If a house be divided against itself, the house cannot stand." Unity is portrayed. And here are the references of why Jesus called Satan. He said it cannot be, but it also does picture unity of believers, unity of the church, and unity of the Trinity. And then in Ephesians 4:2 "With all lowliness and meekness with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love." Is this always easy to do? No, because we always might have a disagreement here or there. But we handle it biblically. We got to stay unified. Look at Matthew 18, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit," okay. Does the Trinity show us true unity? It does. Three in one. Okay, so if believers are to keep the unity of the Spirit, "and the bond of peace, there is one body, one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism. One God and Father of all, who is above all and through all, and in you all.

QUESTION 29

The Trinity is a perfect example of _____ for believers.

QUESTION 30

It is important to have unity, but we must be unified in _____.