

YOU

Bible Study

Sermon Series: Essentials of Christianity

To be used with: The Nature of God

Sermon Title Possibilities: Three Persons, One God

Scripture: John 14:8-26

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the small group study “Essentials of Christianity,” this sermon explores the nature of God. When we compare world religions, there are a wide variety of thoughts about a divine or supreme being. The God of the Bible is unique from all other gods. Scripture clearly explains that God has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Introduction: Today, our automobiles, computers, smartphones, and even our OLED or QLE smart televisions feature technology most of us can’t even begin to understand. We just know they work—and work for us. We may not fully comprehend how all these things work, but that doesn’t stop us from accepting the reality of how they work.

In a similar fashion, Christians have struggled to understand the doctrine of the Trinity for thousands of years. But just as we use today’s technology without fully comprehending it, we can embrace and trust the truth that God is one in essence but exists in three distinct Persons. But, let’s not equate embracing the truth about God with just pushing a button on a television remote.

The nature of God is beyond the human ability to understand, though we can grasp some aspects of who God is and how He reveals Himself to us. There have been attempts to demonstrate the triune nature of God—such as using an egg or three representations of water molecules—but all of these analogies fall short of the glorious reality of God’s nature.

The word *Trinity* is not found in Scripture. However, multiple Scripture passages reference the unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. There is unity in the three Persons of the Trinity. In John 14,

1. To know Jesus, the Son of God, is to know the Father (vv. 8–15)

The disciples knew Jesus, but they wanted to know God the Father. Jesus encouraged them to understand that by knowing Him they also knew the Father since the Son came from the Father. The root of the disciple’s request seems to have come from a desire to please God the Father. That is a noble desire for all of God’s people.

The things we learn about Jesus, and the things we see Him do in the gospels, reflect the very nature of God. By believing in Jesus and by obeying His

teaching, we please the Father. Jesus is the exact reflection and representation of the Father (Col. 1:15).

2. When Jesus, the Son of God, is in your life, the Holy Spirit is in your life (vv. 16–21)

Jesus promised His disciples—and us—that He would not abandon them and leave them as orphans. This conversation took place during the Last Supper and after Jesus had washed the feet of the disciples. There was apprehension about what was going to take place since Jesus had been very clear about His coming death. Certainly, the disciples feared being completely alone in a world that they must have known would be hostile to them.

The Holy Spirit is our Counselor and He will never leave us. While the disciples enjoyed the physical presence of Jesus Christ, God's Holy Spirit with us allows us to share in the same understanding of God's nature and connection with Him. While the world can't understand what it means to have the presence of the Holy Spirit, believers in Christ can.

3. God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to continue the work of Jesus, the Son of God (vv. 22–26)

Verse 26 does identify all three Persons of the Trinity and explains that the Father will send the Holy Spirit to all who express faith in Jesus. The role of the Holy Spirit is to be our counselor, our teacher, our guide, and to continue the work of Jesus. Verse 26 states that the Holy Spirit will remind us of everything that Jesus taught.

The role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers today is the same as it was for the disciples. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the things of God, the things we read in Scripture, and the biblical truths we hear in messages.

Conclusion: While some people try to make an explanation of the triune nature of God into a complicated academic exercise, the truth of this passage is that God desires a personal relationship with us, His creation. Just as the disciples enjoyed a personal relationship with Jesus, God has provided a way for all of us to know Him, the Father, personally through a saving relationship through faith in Jesus and experienced in the promised indwelling Holy Spirit.

Author Bio: Rick Prall is a senior curriculum specialist with Ramsey Solutions and an ordained minister. He has served churches in California, Oklahoma, Texas, and Tennessee and has written Bible study curriculum material for over 30 years. Rick has been married to Helene for 37 years and they have two grown and married children and two wonderful granddaughters. Rick and Helene have a passion for international missions and have served in many countries together; they are members of Gladeville Baptist Church.