

Bible Study Handout: Understanding the Trinity

The Trinity: One God in Three Persons

Definition

The Trinity is the doctrine that there is **one God** who eternally exists in three distinct Persons:

- 1. God the Father**
- 2. God the Son (Jesus Christ)**
- 3. God the Holy Spirit**

Each Person is fully God, yet there is only one God.

Biblical Basis of the Trinity

The Oneness of God

- Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”
- Isaiah 44:6: “I am the first, and I am the last; besides me, there is no god.”

The Three Persons in Unity

- **Matthew 28:19:** “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.”
- **2 Corinthians 13:14:** “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

Roles of Each Person

- 1. Father:** Creator and Sustainer (Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 8:6)
- 2. Son:** Savior and Redeemer (John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-20)
- 3. Spirit:** Comforter and Empowerer (John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8)

The Trinity in Action

Creation:

- **Genesis 1:1-2: The Father speaks, the Spirit hovers.**
- **John 1:1-3: The Son (Word) is the agent of creation.**

Salvation:

- **Ephesians 1:3-14:**
 - The Father plans salvation.
 - The Son accomplishes salvation.
 - The Spirit applies salvation.

Christian Life:

- **Romans 8:14-17:**
 - The Spirit leads believers to call the Father “Abba.”
 - The Son makes us heirs through His work.

Practical Implications

Why the Trinity Matters:

1. **Reveals God's Nature:** God is relational and loving within Himself (John 17:24).
2. **Shapes Our Worship:** Worship the Father, through the Son, in the power of the Spirit (Ephesians 2:18).
3. **Models Unity and Diversity:** The church reflects the Trinity by being diverse yet united in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).
4. **Gives Assurance:** The Father plans salvation, the Son secures it, and the Spirit guarantees it (Ephesians 1:13-14).