

Sermon Outline

WHEN 1 + 1 + 1 = 1 | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 (p. 1422)

1. Some challenges in this series ...

- i. The word for “Trinity” (Tri + Unity) isn’t actually in the bible
- ii. Christians usually end up arguing about the Trinity
- iii. “The Trinity” feels like a liability when it comes to evangelism

2. Why we’re still going to try!

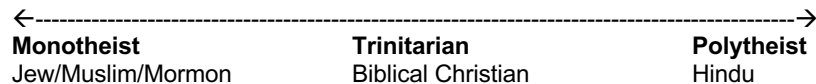
- i. IF God is 3-in-1, it’s a bit rude not to try to make sense of the Trinity
- ii. Jesus is a Trinitarian Theologian

Jn 14:25 “All this I have spoken while still with you. 26 But the Advocate, **the Holy Spirit**, whom **the Father** will send in **my name**, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

- iii. The Trinity is crucial to salvation

Mt 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. 17 When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. 18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

3. What does the bible say?



- i. There is only one God

Dt 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is **one**. 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

- ii. That one God exists in 3 “persons”

Gen 1:26 Then God said, “Let **us** make mankind in **our** image, in **our** likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27 So God created mankind in **his** own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

1 Cor 8:4 So then, about eating food sacrificed to idols: We know that “An idol is nothing at all in the world” and that “There is no God but one.” 5 For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”), 6 yet for us there is but **one God, the Father**, from whom all things came and for whom we live; and there is but **one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom all things came and through whom we live.

Jn 4:21 “Woman,” Jesus replied, “believe me, a time is coming when **you will worship the Father** neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”

Mk 3:28 Truly I tell you, people can be forgiven all their sins and every slander they utter, 29 but **whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** will never be forgiven; they are guilty of an eternal sin.

The Athanasian Creed

That we worship one God in trinity and the trinity in unity, neither blending their persons nor dividing their essence. For the person of the Father is a distinct person, the person of the Son is another, and that of the Holy Spirit still another. But the divinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, **their glory equal, their majesty coeternal**.

4. Today’s Trinitarian Takeaway

“person” ≠ human; “person” = personAL ≠ IMpersonal

- i. Because God IS personal, He can both love and be loved

1 Jn 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love**.

“If God were not personal, he could not be merciful (*things* do not show mercy); but if God were just *one* person, then love of the other could not be central to his being. There would have been nobody in eternity for him to love. Thus the only God inherently inclined to show mercy is the Father who has eternally loved his Son by the Spirit.” (M Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*, p.112)

- ii. Pray that we know the triune God more (not just know more about God)

Eph 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our **Lord Jesus Christ**, the glorious **Father**, may give you the **Spirit** of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

“What matters supremely, therefore, is not, in the last analysis, the fact that I know God, but the larger fact which underlies it - the fact that *He knows me*.” (J I Packer, *Knowing God*, p.41)