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Sunday, May 11, 2026 - Mother's Day

Knowing God: Ways of the Triune God

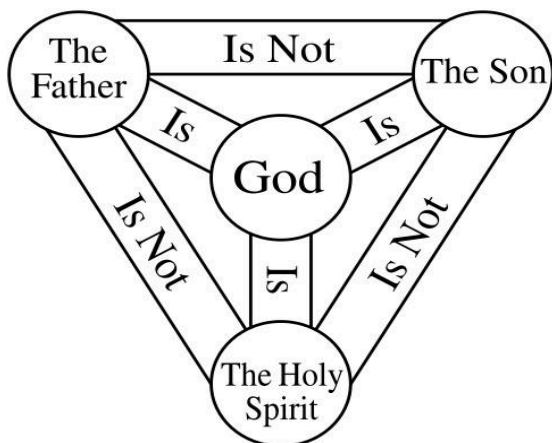
Text: John 16:13-15

Doctrine matters because...

1. We love God.
 2. Belief shapes behavior.
 3. It informs our worldview.
 4. We need to be equipped to explain what we believe and why we believe it.
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1. Defining the Trinity

- “God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.” –Wayne Grudem
- The doctrine of the Trinity shows us that God is one “what” and three “whos”



- There is one God: James 2:19, Deuteronomy 6:4-5
- The Father is God: Colossians 1:3
- The Son is God: Mark 14:62
- The Holy Spirit is God: Acts 5:3-4
- Yet we also see that the Father, Son, and Spirit are inseparable. We see their three-in-oneness.
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2. Defending the Trinity

- Who Denies the trinity?
 - Oneness Pentecostals - Modalism
 - *“Oneness Pentecostals reject the traditional doctrine of the Trinity, arguing that God is a single, undivided person who manifests Himself in different modes—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—rather than three distinct persons. They emphasize the absolute oneness of God and believe that Jesus is the full deity, acting as the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Holy Spirit in regeneration.”*
 - Jehovah’s Witnesses - Arianism
 - *“Jehovah’s Witnesses reject the doctrine of the Trinity, considering it unscriptural and a false teaching. They believe that Jehovah (the Father) is the only true God and supreme creator. They teach that Jesus is God’s first creation (Michael the Archangel), and the holy spirit is God’s active force, not a person.”*
 - Latter Day Saints - Arianism
 - *“Like many Christians, we believe in God the Father, His Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. However, we don’t believe in the traditional concept of the Trinity. We believe that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are three separate beings who are one in purpose.”*
- Ineffective arguments against the Trinity...
 - The word “Trinity” isn’t in the Bible.
 - The Trinity is irrational and violates monotheism.
 - Jesus says “The Father is greater than I” - John 14:28
 - Jesus never claimed to be God.
 - Jesus died, but God is immortal and cannot die.
 - The Trinity was invented centuries later.
- Why defend the Trinity?
 - If Jesus isn’t God, His death did not atone for your sins.
 - If Jesus isn’t God, you cannot be justified by faith in Christ.
 - If Jesus isn’t God, He cannot answer your prayers.
 - If the Holy Spirit isn’t God, you cannot trust His leading.
 - Without the Trinity, there were no personal or intimate relationships before Creation.

3. Delighting in the Trinity

- Isaiah 49:15
- The Trinity displays the root of the reality that “God is love.”
- John 17:18-24 (High Priestly Prayer)
- *“Such are the problems with non-triune gods and creation. Single-person gods, having spent eternity alone, are inevitably self-centered beings, and so it becomes hard to see why they would ever cause anything else to exist. Wouldn’t the existence of a universe be an irritating distraction for the god whose greatest pleasure is looking in a mirror? Creating just looks like a deeply unnatural thing for such a god to do. And if such gods do create, they always seem to do so out of an essential neediness or desire to use what they create*

merely for their own self-gratification. Everything changes when it comes to the Father, Son and Spirit. Here is a God who is not essentially lonely, but who has been loving for all eternity as the Father has loved the Son in the Spirit. Loving others is not a strange or novel thing for this God at all; it is at the root of who he is.” –Michael Reeves

Delight in the ways of a triune God!

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