

Christian Life Church's Personal Meeting Room

Overview

This meeting was a Bible study session focused on understanding the Trinity in Christian theology. Led by Pastor Christian, the group explored various biblical passages that support the concept of the Trinity - God as three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who are one in essence. The discussion emphasized how all three persons of the Trinity work together in salvation, creation, and in believers' lives. The session was part of an ongoing study using a structured textbook, with this meeting concluding the section on the Trinity before moving to study God the Father in the next session.

Key Concepts or Theories:

- Trinity: The Christian doctrine that God exists as three persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) who are one in essence
- Triune God/Godhead: Terms referring to the three-in-one nature of God
- Scriptural evidence for the Trinity: Multiple Bible passages showing all three persons working together
- Sanctification: The ongoing process of becoming more like Christ after salvation
- Modalism: A false teaching that views Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as different modes of God rather than distinct persons

Important Questions Raised:

- How can we defend the doctrine of the Trinity using Scripture?
- If Jesus is part of the Trinity and equal with God, why did He say only the Father knows when He will return?
- How do the three persons of the Trinity work together in our salvation?
- How does understanding the Trinity impact our daily Christian walk?

Key Takeaways and Summary of Learning Objectives

- The Trinity is a foundational Christian doctrine that, while mysterious, is clearly supported throughout Scripture
- All three persons of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are equally God but function in distinct roles
- The Trinity is involved in creation, salvation, and the ongoing sanctification of believers
- Understanding the Trinity is essential for salvation; denying it is considered blasphemy
- Christians should be able to defend the doctrine of the Trinity using specific Scripture passages
- The Holy Spirit's role includes guiding believers, convicting of sin, and confirming their adoption as God's children
- Jesus Christ (the Word) became flesh, revealing God to humanity while remaining fully divine

Topic 1: Biblical Evidence for the Trinity

The group examined numerous Scripture passages that demonstrate the Trinity, beginning with John 1:1-14, which establishes Jesus as "the Word" who "was God" and "became flesh." This passage shows Christ's deity and incarnation. Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:13-17) provides a clear picture of all three persons of the Trinity present simultaneously: Jesus being baptized, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove, and the Father speaking from heaven. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19 instructs believers to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," using the singular "name" to emphasize their unity while distinguishing the three persons. Paul's epistles frequently reference all three persons working together, particularly in passages like Romans 8, Ephesians 4:4-6, and 2 Corinthians 13:14. The group noted that these references are so numerous throughout Scripture that they couldn't cover them all in one session.

Relevant Q&A

Shedrick: Now, a couple days ago, I was reading Matthew 24:42, and it was talking about when Christ's gonna return, nobody knows the time. But it also specifies that God is the only one that knows when the time is gonna come. If they are all one, why wouldn't Jesus know that?

Christian: Christ knows. That's a play in words. He knows.

Gene: What he was doing in this particular case, he is speaking from his humanity. He's not speaking from his deity. And that's part of the great mystery.

Topic 2: Understanding the Trinity in Salvation

The study emphasized how all three persons of the Trinity work together in salvation. The Father's justice demanded punishment for sin, but He sent His Son to satisfy that justice. Jesus Christ became the substitute, taking humanity's punishment on the cross. The Holy Spirit then applies this salvation to believers, dwelling within them and transforming them. Romans 8 was examined extensively to show how the Spirit bears witness with believers' spirits that they are children of God. The group discussed how salvation has three aspects: believers are saved (justification), are being saved (sanctification), and will be saved (glorification). While believers are positionally perfect in Christ through justification, they continue to experience the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit throughout their lives. This understanding gives Christians confidence that they are in a "win-win situation" - whether living or dying, they belong to Christ.

Relevant Q&A

Christian: Justice demanded that we should die. The justice of the Father said they should die. But then God said, I'm gonna send a Son who will satisfy my justice, who will satisfy my anger.

Collean: If you think about the way people died, what if the people that committed sin, the ground just opened up, swallowed them, like Ananias and Sapphira? There's no chance for them. No grace.

Topic 3: Practical Application of Trinitarian Theology

The group discussed how understanding the Trinity should impact believers' daily lives. As Christians yield to the Holy Spirit, their lives are transformed, becoming "living epistles" that others can read. This transformation is evidenced not by words but by changed behavior and character. The Holy Spirit's role is to control believers as they yield to Him, guiding them in obedience to Christ. Pastor Christian emphasized the importance of being intentional in asking for the Spirit's guidance daily. The group also discussed how believers should be able to explain and defend the Trinity to others, using specific Scripture passages. They noted that many people join churches without understanding fundamental doctrines like the Trinity, which is dangerous since denying the Trinity is considered incompatible with salvation. The session concluded with encouragement to continue growing in knowledge and to share that knowledge with others.

Relevant Q&A

Cynthia: So when we are saved with the Holy Spirit in us, we're transformed by the renewing of our spirit and our mind. So, even though we're the same, I'm Cynthia, I'm walking around, you see me, you see Cynthia, but what you don't see is the old way that Cynthia used to act and behave. The things that the old Cynthia used to say and do, she doesn't do anymore because the Holy Spirit that dwells in me has transformed my thinking.

Christian: You are a different person, because now the Spirit of God is living through you. As you yield to the Holy Spirit, your life will be changed.

Collean: God uses people to show you your growth, too. Because there'll be people who remember when you did certain things, and then there's people who will come up to you now and say, "wow, I can see just by talking to you, you're a good person, you care for people." So he uses people to confirm your growth, and not just saints.

Actionable Next Steps / Assignments

- Continue reading and studying the next chapter on God the Father for next week's Bible study
- Write down key Scripture passages about the Trinity for future reference and to be able to explain them to others
- Look into the question about Jesus not knowing the time of His return for further discussion next week

Supplemental Resources and Readings

- The group is using a specific textbook for their study, which appears to be a systematic theology book covering the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- The book was described as "rich" and "laying out" the information clearly without asking many questions
- Pastor Christian mentioned that the recordings of these sessions are available for review for those who want to go back and listen again