

The Triune God

Belgic Confession, Article 8

1. INTRODUCTION: We study the confessions as a rhythm or habit by which we are continuously rooted in the _____ faith of the church of Jesus Christ.

2. POSTURE MATTERS: We must discuss all Christians – and the doctrine of the Trinity in particular – with a posture of _____.
 - a. We are calling upon the _____ of the Lord (Genesis 4:26).
 - b. Our goal is _____.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. (Ephesians 3:20-21)
 - c. We are speaking in response to what we have _____ and received as a gift of God’s grace (Galatians 4:4-7).

3. BEGIN WITH BAPTISM: Our experience of the Trinity is _____ our formulation of the doctrine.

[For more on this approach, see Scott Swain, *The Trinity: An Introduction*.]

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 (Matthew 28:19)

 - a. “In the name...”: The Scriptures always speak of the Trinity in a way that situates it _____ the affirmation (especially in the Old Testament) of the one God of Israel (Exodus 3:14, Deuteronomy 6:4).

 - b. “The name of...”: The Scriptures identify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit with the _____ God of Israel.

 - c. “The name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”: The Scriptures distinguish the persons by way of their _____ to each other (“relations of origin”)

4. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH: The detailed formulations of the doctrine of the Trinity are intended to express and defend this _____ Christian faith. These things all matter:
 - a. the existence of the _____ God,
 - b. the divinity of _____ as Immanuel,
 - c. and the _____ of God with us in the Holy Spirit.