

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, Aug. 21, 2011

Passage: Various

Memory Passage: John 15:26-27

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Gen. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7, Ps. 110:1 & Is. 6:8.** We will be looking this week at various passages concerning the Trinity. Vic Connell from Jacksonville Christian Fellowship will be our guest preacher while I take a week of vacation. In this week's green sheet we will first examine the Trinity from a few passages in the OT, then the NT, then identify & prove 3 statements that summarize the doctrine of the Trinity.

(b) What do you learn about God from the pronouns He uses for Himself in these verses? If you only had these verses, would you think there was more than one God? Why or why not (look closely at Is. 6:8!).

(c) **Read Is. 48:16, 61:1, 63:10-11 and Mal. 3:1-1.** What do these passages teach us about the nature of God? What persons are either explicitly or implicitly mentioned?

(d) Summarize what you have learned from these few verses about the nature of God. What important pieces of information do you *not* have about the doctrine of the Trinity for which you need further revelation?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Matt. 3:16-17 & 28:19.** As we move into the NT we find the Trinity painted in brighter colors. In Matt. 3, what three members of the Trinity are specifically mentioned? What work is each one doing? Is their work the same or different?

(b) **Read 1 Cor. 12:4-6, 2 Cor. 13:14, Eph. 4:4-6.** What do these verses tell us about the three persons of the Godhead? What distinctions can you make from these verses between the three persons of the Trinity?

(c) According to 1 Cor. 12:4-6, what does the triune nature of God have to do with our spiritual gifts and how they are used in the body of Christ? How does what we understand about the Trinity affect our fellowship, relationships & intimacy according to 2 Cor. 13:14 (see also 1 Cor. 11:3, 12:4-6 & Eph. 4:4-7)?

(d) Finally, how should the fact that God eternally exists in three persons promote our unity as believers according to Eph. 4:4-6?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read 1 Pet. 1:1-2.** How does Peter refer to the audience of his letter? When he begins v. 2 with "according to," to what does this phrase refer?

(b) It is God who saves (because the exiles are elected according to God's work . . .), but Peter lets us in on what each person of the Trinity accomplishes in this glorious salvation. What is the work of each person?

(c) Describe "the foreknowledge of God the Father" and why this is important in God's plan of salvation. Does "in the sanctification of the Spirit" refer to salvation, the process of being conformed to the image & likeness of Christ, or something else?

(d) How does a denial of the Trinity affect one's view of salvation (see Heb. 9:14)?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) Wayne Grudem in his *Systematic Theology* (p. 231) writes: "In one sense the doctrine of the Trinity is a mystery that we will never be able to understand fully. However, we can understand something of its truth by summarizing the teaching of Scripture in three statements: (1) God is three persons. (2) Each person is fully God. (3) There is one God." We will now evaluate these three statements from Scripture.

(b) God is three persons: We have already examined a number of passages that show God as three eternally distinct persons, but if you would like to examine more please see, among others, John 1:1-2, 14:26, 16:7, 17:24, Heb. 7:25 & 1 John 2:1.

(c) Each person is fully God: Which of the verses we have studied this week provides proof that the person of the Father is God? What other verses can you find that prove the Father is fully God?

(d) **Read Is. 9:6, John 1:1-4, 14-18, 20:24-30, Rom. 9:5, Heb. 1:3, 8-12, Titus 2:13 & 2 Pet. 1:1.** There are many other passages we could observe, but what point does each one of these passages have in common? Why is it important to understand that Jesus is fully God? What would be the result if it could be proven that Jesus was not fully God? How would our view of justification by faith be affected?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) Continuing our proof that each person is fully God: **Read Ps. 139:7-8, John 3:5-8, Acts 5:3-4, 28:25-26 (cf. Is. 6:9-10), 1 Cor. 2:10-11 & 3:16.** What do these passages contribute to our discussion of each person of the Trinity being fully God?
- (b) There is one God: **Read Deut. 6:4, Is. 45:5-6, John 17:3, Rom. 3:30, 1 Cor. 8:4-6, 1 Tim. 2:5 & James 2:19.** Is there a difference in meaning of the word “one” in these verses? What different connotations might it have?
- (c) How does the truth that there is only one true & living God affect our worship? How does it affect what constitutes idolatry?
- (d) What would you say to someone who asks, “Why is it important for me to believe in the doctrine of the Trinity, especially since the term does not appear in Scripture?”
- (e) Take some time now, and over the next few days, to memorize the address of some of the key passages you have studied this week. This will help you defend your belief that the Father, Jesus & the Holy Spirit are all fully God, that there is only one God who exists eternally in three persons. Once you have the addresses in your mind and can easily find them to support your belief, begin to memorize these key verses over the next few months.

DATE: Aug. 21, 2011

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The Trinity: Our Unique God