

King's Online Bible School
Doctrine 101: Learning about God

Study Guide 3

A. Please read "Triunity" (adapted from R. C. Sproul's book, chapter 11).

R. C. Sproul explains that the doctrine of the Trinity "sets the boundaries outside of which we must not step" as we think about this mystery. One of the best ways to be sure we are thinking correctly is to talk about what we *don't* mean.

1a. How is the word "Tritheism" being used?

1b. Why has this way of thinking about God been given this name?

1c. Why is Tritheism a wrong way of thinking about God?

2a. What is Modalism?

2b. Why is Modalism a wrong way of thinking about God?

3. Look at the paragraph on "subsistence." Why is it not correct to think of "person" in the usual way when we speak of the three Persons of the Trinity?

4. Please write out the first sentence in the second last paragraph.

5a. Why are the two parts of the second summary statement important as we talk about what we believe to those who are not Christians?

5b. Is there any other being or is it conceivable that there would be another being for whom this would not be a contradiction?

6. Please mark statements in Sproul or in the lecture notes that you find most helpful.

7. Mark or make a note of sentences or sections you don't understand.

B. Old Testament revelation

8. What hint of a distinction emerges in Genesis 1:1-3?

9a. Please write out the first statement God makes in Genesis 1:26.

9b. Please write out the first statement in Genesis 1:27.

9c. How do we become aware of plurality here?

9d. How do we know that God is only One?

10. What do you find in this regard in Genesis 11:7 and 8?

11. What does the Lord explicitly declare about Himself in Deuteronomy 6:4?

12. What do David's words in Psalm 110:1 reveal about God?

C. Father, Son, and Spirit in the New Testament

13a. Please read John 1:34. What do John's words here reveal that he is able to distinguish and declare about God?

13b. Please read John 1:32. What do John's words here reveal that he is able to distinguish and declare about God?

13c. Please read John 1:33. What do John's words here reveal that he is able to distinguish and declare about God?

14. Read Matthew 3:16-17. What distinctions does John witness about God here?

15. Read Matthew 28:19. Would the disciples have understood why Jesus is saying they should baptize in this name? Please explain.

16. With what words does the Ethiopian eunuch, who has just heard the gospel for the first time, confess his faith (Acts 8:37)?

17. Please read Romans 1:1-4. What relationship do you see between the gospel proclamation and an understanding of the Trinity?

18a. Please write out the words of 2 Corinthians 13:14.

18b. What are Paul and other apostles recognizing in these benedictions?

19a. Please write down the confession of faith in 1 Corinthians 8:6.

19b. What distinctions do Paul's words make between the Father and the Son here?

20. Philippians 2:6-11 may have been a hymn New Testament Christians sang. Write down each important statement that is made about the relationship and the interaction between Jesus and God.

21. One of the statements about Jesus in Philippians 2:6 is often translated, "He did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped." In the Greek text the words say, "He did not count it robbery to be equal with God." Why is the original wording an even stronger statement?

22a. Please read 1 John 4:1-2. What confession identifies the presence and witness of God's Spirit?

22b. What does John go on to say in 1 John 4:15?

23. Please write down each thing John says about God, the Spirit, the Son, and the Father in 1 John 4:12-14.

24. Why is the statement John makes in 4:15 so assuring in the light of his previous statements?

25. What expectations are implicit in these facts about Christians?