

God. But did Moses create the universe? Are we instructed to worship King David? Or, because the apostles did miraculous works, should we offer sacrifices in their name? *Heaven forbid! While God does do miracles through his people, He has divine attributes that are not shared with his creation. The Bible distinguishes God's mighty power in miracles and acts of deliverance through people, and the work that God alone can do. God alone can create from nothing, has unlimited knowledge and is every-where present, all at once. It's attributes like this that the Bible ascribes to God alone. To all members of the Trinity, the scriptures ascribe these exact attributes: omniscience and omnipresence, as well as the act of creation. Also, consider that all are given as the name into which we are to be baptized! Just as all three members of the Holy Trinity are involved in the wonderful work of salvation, so all three are shown to do that which only God can do. Finally, we see in the Bible that we are instructed to direct our prayers and praise to God alone – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.*

Discussion Questions

- How does trinitarian prayer and praise help us as grow in our devotion to God?
- Can you point to places in the Bible where acts of creation, omniscience, and omnipresence are attributed to the Son or the Holy Spirit? (Hints John 14:26, Heb 9:14, Ps 139:7, John 21:18, 1 Cor 2:10, John 1:3, Job 33:4)

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The Bible shows us that we are not just to marvel and wonder at the majesty of God's trinitarian nature, but that it should also help us to be faithful Christians. Jesus' prayer in John 17 teaches us that understanding the unity of the Trinity should help us better love the saints. Just as there is no division and separation within the Trinity, so too the body of Christ should be united in love. Jesus, as he prays for the church, gives us a beautiful picture of unity--praying that our oneness would reflect the oneness between Father and Son. This instructs us to strive for unity, which then spills out of the church and into the world as grace is multiplied. Jesus prays for all believers, for all time, "that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me." Paul also appeals to the unity of the Godhead as a call for unity in the body of Christ: "There is one body and *one Spirit*—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— *one Lord*, one faith, one baptism, *one God and Father of all*, who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

Discussion Questions

- What are things you can do to contribute to the unity of the saints?
- Is there anyone in the church that you need to be reconciled with?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, November 5th, 2023)

Baptist Catechism Question #9

Q: How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A: *There are three persons in the godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one God, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.*

Suggested Memory Verse

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one." (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

One of the most amazing, awe-inspiring doctrines of the Christian faith is that of the Holy Trinity. The Bible teaches us God is one, and at the same time God exists in three persons. Before we seek to grasp this wonderful truth, we should step back and consider the beauty of this doctrine. If God was not three persons in one, then before angels or humans existed there would be no relationship between persons, and there would be no love! Can you imagine a universe where, at one time love did not exist? God is love, and love exists as an expression of relationship, one with another. The Bible tells us that even before the stars were placed in the heavens, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit agreed to redeem mankind. The Father, in infinite wisdom and love, decided to give a people to his Son. This would be a special people, elected and given to the Son as a reward for his incarnation, suffering, and death. These people would be filled with God's Holy Spirit. Because of the Son's obedience and submission, he was raised from the dead to an indestructible life, and those who now belong to him redound to his praise, glory, and honor forevermore. Jesus concluded his High Priestly prayer in John 17 with these words: "Father, I desire that they also, *whom you have given me*, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you *loved me before the foundation of the world*."

Discussion Question

- One of the most wonderful ideas to consider is the love that exists between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In what ways is love between the members of the Holy Trinity a comfort to us?
- The Bible teaches us that there was love between Father, Son, and Spirit before time began. It also reveals that those who belong to Christ were chosen to be special objects of the Father's love, to share in the Son's glory, and be indwelt with God's very Spirit. How should this direct our prayers and praise?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

The "Gloria Patri" is among the oldest prayers of the Christian faith, praising our Triune God. Its name comes from the first two words of the prayer in Latin "Glory" and "Father." In its very earliest form, it was a simple Greek prayer of praise: *Glory be to the Father THROUGH the Son and IN the Holy Spirit*. As a child, I (Adam) sang an English version of this prayer in church. It went like this: "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen." You can tell that this ancient prayer has undergone changes over the years! In the 4th century, the church wrestled with the question: Is Christ co-eternal, equal with, and of the same substance as God the Father? And what of the Holy Spirit? At this time, a leader in the church named Basil the Great suggested a change to prayer, substituting the word "and" for "through," before Jesus and removal of the word "in," before the Holy Spirit, thus emphasizing equality in the nature between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This change confirmed what the scriptures taught and was proclaimed in the Nicene Creed that Jesus is: "the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial to the father, Jesus was very God of very God."

Discussion Questions

- Why is it important to consider the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as we worship our God?
- Sing the Doxology and as you do, consider the last line- "Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost, Amen."
- To supplement your devotional time with God this week, consider reading a few extended sections of scripture from the book of John and take note of how Jesus speaks of himself in relation to the Father and Holy Spirit. Suggested reading: John 6:22-66, John 7:37-39, John 8:12-59, John 10, John 12:44- 50, John 14-17.

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

One way we know the Bible teaches the doctrine of the Trinity is that the Father, Son, and Spirit are all actively involved in the salvation of mankind. Note, we can't think of an assembly line where each member of the Trinity completes a separate task, and the result is man's salvation. It's helpful to think of it more like a symphony, where instruments are played in concert to create melody and harmony. To help describe how members of the Trinity work together to accomplish salvation, Reformed theologians use the term "Covenant of Redemption." The covenant of redemption is the agreement made between the members of the Trinity to bring us salvation. Under this covenant, the Father plans the work of redemption and sends the Son to save His people. The Son agrees to be sent and to do the work necessary to save the elect. Jesus says in John 10:17-18: "*For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again*. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. *This charge I have received from my Father*." Likewise, the Spirit agrees to apply the work of Christ to us by sealing us unto salvation, as we read in Ephesians 1:13-14: "In him (Christ) you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were *sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it*, to the praise of his glory."

Discussion Questions

- In your own words describe the roles of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the work of salvation.

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

There are many stories in the Bible of God working miraculously through people. Consider how God worked through Moses, the judges like Gideon and Samson, the prophets, and warrior kings to bring about God's redemption to his people. There are some amazing things that men and women are enabled to do because of the power of