

## Hope Community Church

### Week 2 - Statement Of Faith: The Trinity

#### Learning Objectives

- Grow in our understanding that there is one God existing in three persons.
- Explore each member of the trinity and how they are divinely equal yet have distinct roles.

#### Pray for your time together!

*Leader's Note: Consider showing the following video to introduce this study. Then discuss how you are tempted to understand the trinity in some of the ways it describes.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw>

? Based on your current understanding, who are the persons within the trinity and what roles do they individually hold?

#### The Trinity

##### Statement Of Faith: The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons, that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. Gen. 1:1,26; Isa 44:6-8; John 1:1,3; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24; Rom. 1:19,20; Eph. 4:5-6

- One of the great mysteries of our faith – especially to those outside of Christian faith, is trying to grasp and understand.
- Obviously unique and we won't fully understand (every analogy has something wrong with it!) but we can live with faith in that tension of incomplete understanding.
- The statement above is what we know – both OT and NT references.

#### Read Out Loud: Genesis 1:1, 26 (NIV)

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

#### Read Out Loud: John 1:1-4, 14 (NIV)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind ... <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

? What can we learn about God from Genesis 1? Specifically, what can we make of the fact that God says, “Let us make mankind in *our* image, in *our* likeness...”?

*Possible Answers: plural pronoun, didn’t realize it was more than just “God” at creation, Godhead working together to specifically design/plan creation.*

? Who or what is “the Word” referenced in John?

*Answer: Jesus*

? John says that Jesus was present at the beginning of creation and that through him all things were made. How might this change or give broader understanding to our view of Christ’s role?

*Possible Answers: Jesus was present at and involved in creation, existed before creation; existing before he became flesh and dwelt among us; Jesus is himself the words that created the earth, shows Christ’s connection to mankind at creation and as he comes to Earth.*

## **Know Your Role**

### **Read Out Loud: Ephesians 1:3-6, 13-14 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. <sup>4</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

<sup>13</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, <sup>14</sup> who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory.

? How does this passage demonstrate the “distinct but harmonious offices” of each member of the trinity as work in redemption?

*Possible Answers: each person has a part to play- God chose us and adopted and made us blameless through Christ, the Spirit is a promise of our inheritance to come.*

? How can our deeper understanding of the Trinity’s role in creation and redemption lead us to worship God more fully?

*Possible Answers: Better understanding their individual roles and how they operate together and separately, allows us to have a deeper knowledge of God which leads to deeper love and appreciation;*

*understanding the specific care and direction of every moment of creation and redemption shows God's love and care in the details of our lives.*

**?** The trinity is a doctrine that is impossible for us to fully understand in our limited capacity. What does trust in God look like when you know you can never fully understand the trinity?

*Possible Answers: Remember that God's glory is greater than our understanding, Remind ourselves that God has good plans for us and works for our good, Trust that God has given us enough information to put our faith in him knowing he will take care of everything else; Allows us to live relying on the Spirit to enable our faith more deeply, brings a level of awe into our relationship with God remembering how great and mighty he is in comparison to ourselves.*

### **For Discussion and Accountability**

**?** Is there a person within the Trinity you feel more familiar with or connected to than the others? Why might that be? What are ways to grow in this area?