

## Hope Community Church

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

? 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.

#### 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."

#### 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...?"

? Who or what is "the Word" referenced in John?

? 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?

### **Matthew 28:16-20 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

? Why might it be important to baptize in the name of all three persons of the trinity? What would be missing if any of them were not included?

? How does this passage support the statement, "there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons...executing distinct but harmonious offices?"

? How should our daily lives look if we are truly trying to make disciples in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit?

### **Know Your Role**

#### **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?

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

? 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?

### **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?