

The Major Themes of the Bible Applied to Everyday Life:

God and the Holy Trinity

WCF 2.1 There is only one living and true God, who is infinite in being and perfection. He is a most pure spirit, invisible, with neither body, parts, nor passions. He is unchangeable, boundless, eternal, and incomprehensible. He is almighty, most wise, most holy, most free, and most absolute. He works all things according to the counsel of his own unchangeable and most righteous will, for his own glory. He is most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, and he is the rewarder of those who diligently seek him. He is also most just and terrifying in his judgments, hating all sin, and will by no means acquit the guilty.

Q. Any questions from the homework concerning this section?

The Attributes (or Perfections) of God

- God's attributes are ultimately the same thing as his being.
- "God is infinite in being and perfection."

Q. What does infinite mean?

- God is not limited in who he is. Thus He is infinite in love, grace, mercy, long-suffering, goodness, and truth.
- God is not limited by time. Thus he is termed "eternal"
 - ¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." (Exodus 3:13-14)
- God is not limited by space. He is omnipresent.
 - See Psalm 139:1-12, 1 Kings 8:27 and Jeremiah 23:23
 - Is God limited in any way?
 - How is knowing that our God is infinite encouraging?
 - How does this affect the way we look at our lives, things that stress us out, things that worry us?

"He is unchangeable..."

Malachi 3:6 "For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."

James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Q. What about God does not change?

Q. Doesn't the Bible talk about God "changing his mind"? How can he then be unchanging?

- When the Scriptures speak of God changing His mind there are a couple of things going on:

Q. How is this attribute of great comfort to the Christian?

WCF 2.2 *God has all life, glory, goodness, and blessedness in and of himself. He alone is all-sufficient, in and to himself, not standing in need of any creatures which he has made, nor deriving any glory from them, but rather manifesting his own glory in, by, to, and on them. He alone is the fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things. He has absolute sovereignty over them, to do by them, for them, or upon them whatever he pleases.*

- God is independent
 - What does this mean?
- **Psalm 115:3** *Our God is in heaven; he does whatever pleases him.*
- **Romans 11:36** *For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*
- **Acts 17:24** *The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,^{1 25} nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.*

III. In the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. The Father is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

Read John 14:9-20

Q. What are some observations about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that you can make from this passage?

- Circumincession
 - The Father, Son and Holy Spirit inhere in one another and coexist eternally, entirely and perfectly in one another, so that where one is, the others are, and what one is involved in doing, the others are also involved in doing.
 - Father, Son and Holy Spirit are beyond all time, beyond all origin, and beyond all cause. "There is no 'before' or 'after' in God." (Epiphanius 4th century)
 - "The Son and the Spirit do not derive their being from the Father. The diversity and the unity in the Godhead are therefore equally ultimate; they are exhaustively correlative to one another and not correlative to anything else." (Cornelius Van Til)

John 10:30 *I and the Father are one."*

1. Ontological Trinity
 - a. All Three persons of the Trinity are absolutely and eternally equal.
2. Economic Trinity
 - a. There is a certain subordination in the sense of historical order and relationship.
 - i. **John 14:28** *You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.*
 - b. Work of the Trinity
 - i. Election and creation are of the Father
 - ii. Incarnation and redemption are of the Son
 - iii. Regeneration and sanctification are of the Spirit
 - c.

Q. Where in Scripture do you see the Trinity?

Q. Who should you pray to?

The human mind "must not measure the divine nature by the limitations of his own, but must gauge God's assertions concerning Himself by the scale of His own glorious self-revelation....Since we are to discourse of the things of God, let us assume that God has full knowledge of Himself, and bow with humble reverence to His words." (Hilary of Poitiers 4th century)