

Connection Equipping Academy
Biblical Foundation // God's Character, Nature, and Attributes
Topic // *God Exists In Community*

OVERVIEW

Mission Statement

Our goal is to help equip the saints to do God's work in the World.

We will progress in the growth area of knowing God as we discuss another attribute of God. We are learning how each of God's attributes reveals the truth about our misconceptions, and how we grow in the grace of the Gospel when we are renewing our minds ***daily*** in light of Who He is and what He has done!

As we are being equipped by these truths, we are going to spend several weeks talking through *four growth areas*. We'll be looking biblical foundations for each of these:

Four Growth Areas

- Knowing God
- Identity in Christ
- The Body of Christ
- God's Kingdom

In order to equip, we will practice each week looking at the Biblical passages on each topic. We will consider some of the common misconceptions and then ask four *application questions*:

- What does this tell us about God?
- What does this tell us about ourselves?
- What has God done?
- Who have we become?

INTRODUCTION

In Episode 5, we discuss the nature of God and how he exists in 3 distinct persons. The impact that this has on our faith and on every aspect of our lives is significant! We need the Trinity to grow in knowing God! Our hope is that this conversation displays the beautiful-yet-mysterious nature of the Trinity and paints a more vivid picture of His nature. Remember, the goal is for our soul to be captivated by KNOWING God. Our aim is that what might have previously been a distant, stale concept might come into full-color, high definition clarity, and be refreshing to your soul.

GOD EXISTS IN COMMUNITY

Misconception - God is only One expressing Himself in 3 ways.

1. From where do we get this misconception?
 - a. Because of our sinful nature and our world that is marred by sin's consequences, we can have a doubtful resistance to believe the perfect community that God has within Himself. He is 3 distinct people Who are in harmony in their desires, holiness, eternity, and love.
 - b. We are unable to fully comprehend and explain the mystery of the Trinity. But the mystery is part of the good news that we can embrace! **This doctrine is the most practical, rooting doctrine to understand and to value our salvation, our sanctification, and our relationship with Him and others.**
 - c. There are 3 common heresies on Trinity (Modalism, Arianism, and Partialism) that stem from leaning on human logic to make something incomprehensible fit our comfort and sense of control.
2. What strongholds can be built from this one misconception?
3. What gospel truth tells us otherwise?
 - Genesis 1:26 - Each Person of the Godhead has always been in their essence completely God.
4. How does Scripture renew your mind and help you tear down those strongholds?
5. What would change in your life if this stronghold were completely uprooted in your thinking?

Misconception - Only the Father is eternal.

1. From where do we get this misconception?
 - a. Incorrect, incomplete training or misinterpretation of Scripture.
2. What strongholds can be built from this one misconception?
3. What gospel truth tells us otherwise?

- **John 1** - The Word (Jesus) existed and created.
- **Gen 1:2** The Spirit was hovering.
- **Gen 1:3** God spoke.

The Trinity works together to bring life in Creation and in salvation. ***Our life in Christ is owed to the Father revealing the Son through the person and power of the Spirit.***

4. How does Scripture show you how to renew your mind and help you tear down those strongholds?
 - a. Embrace the mystery of how it works. Scripture counsels us that this is the reality, and we can embrace our responsibility to respond with faith in Jesus.
 - b. Personal note -
5. What would change in your life if this stronghold were completely uprooted in your thinking?
 - a. We can be at peace in the tension of identifying inaccurate concepts of the Trinity, while enjoying and trusting God. The mystery of God is a distinction between Him and us that can delight us that we will never find the end or the bottom of our all-satisfying God, and bring us security that each Person is in complete agreement with the Other!
 - b. Personal note -

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Application Question 1

What do we learn of God through His communal nature?

- a. ***The perfect love for each Person in the Godhead results in a perfect relationship.*** He does not depend on us or our worship. Because of the essence of His goodness, He extends to us a clear offer of grace to be invited in!
- b. ***God the Father has never not been a Father.*** He has only ever been in a family atmosphere. When we fail as parents, we have a Heavenly Father to relate to and to seek for comfort, wisdom, and grace. When we fail as His children or towards each other, we have a Son to relate to Who has always existed in a perfect relationship with the Father. We can ask for forgiveness and guidance, and seek to be transformed to be like Him in character and nature.
- c. ***From His community comes our example*** of love, trust, adoration, submission, agreement in unity, serving selflessly, and holding each other up.
- d. ***The Trinity reveals that God in His community is the true source of beauty.*** Everything in the arts displays His vastness and tells us that He is the origin of creative beauty. He is the only source of true delight!

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Application Question 2

What do we learn of ourselves by His communal nature ?

- a. ***We were made for relationship.***
- b. ***Sin breaks and marring relationships and our understanding in seeing ourselves, others, and God clearly.*** When Satan enticed Eve, it was through an appealing offer of relationship. This is our first example that always reminds us that God is not too good to be true. Whenever we consider a temptation, we can fall prey to the lie that it will give us something more pleasurable and life-giving than God.
- c. ***God created us to reflect His image and to fill the Earth with His glory.*** Satan comes against that to destroy and hide it from us, but our responsibility has always been to believe God.
- d. ***Being in community as the Body*** is the only way we will clearly express God to the world.

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Application Question 3

What has God done through His communal nature?

- a. ***Our salvation and sanctification happens because of how He has acted as the Trinity.***
- b. ***He has given us a model of how we express Him to the world*** in His character, nature, attributes by community. We are the Body of Christ on Earth, expressing Him fully only through the power of the Spirit.
- c. ***He has significantly differentiated Himself*** from any other attempt for anything to espouse itself as God.

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Application Question 4

Who have I become through His communal nature?

- a. ***We now have the ability to trust God and others because He lives in us and our spirits belong to Him.*** There is a practical shift in this transformative relationship. We have a restored ability to enter into a relationship with Him, which restores us to wholeness and to relate communally with others.

- b. ***We can have healthy relationships*** by demonstrating His character, loyalty, and integrity over time.
- c. ***He has given us a model of who we should be as the Church*** to express the nature and character of God, with serving sacrificially, and pursuing love and grace with righteousness and justice. None of it could exist or be possible without the Trinity.

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Apply this personally:

- Look at God's demonstration in order to begin trusting Him *now*. Risk it and find Him already faithful for you to believe and trust Him.
- Trust others. Begin to have honest conversations. Speak truth in love into each other's lives with common, agreed-upon goals to strive towards together. Want it for each other as much as for yourself, not distancing yourself for self-preservation. When we grow detached from each other, it reveals the doubt and distrust of God in our relationship to Him and a distrust in His work and faithfulness in others!
- Ask yourself: What fuels my journey with sin instead of fueling my relationship with the Lord Jesus? What am I in relationship with that builds strongholds in my mind and heart (All of those are relational things.)
- The only way to fight sin is by the power of the Holy Spirit to say yes to the *relationship* with Christ who unites us to the Father.