

How Jesus Changed Our Understanding of God

What we believe about the divine nature of Jesus Christ has serious implications for our worship and practice as believers. Join us as we discuss with guest Han-luen Kantzer Komline the biblical texts that inform our belief in the Trinity and our understanding of Jesus as God's Son. We'll dig into the history of how the Church came to hold these beliefs and then look at how these beliefs inform our understanding of God and his Word.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- How would you describe God and Jesus Christ to someone else? What has informed your beliefs about God and Jesus Christ??
- Have you ever questioned the Christian belief of the Trinity? Or has someone ever challenged your belief in the Trinity? What information led to these questions or challenges? Why might someone question the Christian doctrine of the Trinity?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [How Jesus Changed Our Understanding of God](#)

READ [John 14:15-26](#), [John 1:1-5](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Why is it important to think about and discuss the implications of our beliefs? Why is it helpful to understand and think about doctrine, even if we consider it secondary to scripture?
- Consider this quote from systematic theologian, John Bolt: *"It is in the doctrine of the Trinity that we feel the heartbeat of God's entire revelation for the redemption of humanity. We are baptized in the name of the triune God, and in that name we find rest for our soul and peace for our conscience. Our God is above us, before us, and within us."** Do you agree with this reflection on the Trinity? What do you think he means when he says "we feel the heartbeat of God's entire revelation for the redemption of humanity" in the Trinity?
- Have you encountered other views about Jesus regarding his substance, his nature, or how he came to be? What do these views espouse? Is it necessary to talk about the Trinity as we talk about Jesus as the Son of God?
- Have you ever intentionally thought about who you understand God to be when you read the Old Testament? Read an Old Testament story like Moses and the Burning Bush in [Exodus 3-4](#) and every time you read God or Lord, remember the triune nature and the presence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Does this change or inform your understanding of the story? Does your knowledge about God in the story change?

*John Bolt, chapter summary to “The Holy Trinity” in *Reformed Dogmatics Vol 2: God and Creation* by Herman Bavinck, 260. Translated by John Vriend and Edited by John Bolt. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

[Genesis 1:1-2](#), [Philippians 2:1-11](#), [John 8:48-59](#)

CONCLUSION

Spend some time in prayer. As you pray, think about the work and role of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Think about your statements and petitions. Make your prayer reflect your belief in the Trinity by directing each part of your prayer to the appropriate person in the Trinity.

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