Your Questions about the Triune God

It is natural to feel a little confusion about the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity. The whole concept of one God who is comprised of three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—requires some acceptance of mystery. To answer your questions, let's examine the scriptural foundation for this belief and gain a deeper understanding of the nature of our Triune God and the relationships between the persons of the Trinity. Then we'll delve into a particularly challenging Bible passage to see how our belief in the Triune God influences our worship and the sacrament of baptism.

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

- What are some of the ways you've heard people explain the Trinity?
- How are baptisms done in your church or Christian tradition? What are the important elements included every time you witness this sacrament?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: Your Questions about the Triune God

READ Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:16-20, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, Acts 8:14-16, John 17:20-23

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- Think about the weekly worship service at your church. How do the various pieces of the service "recapitulate the whole salvation history story"? Where in these do you observe references to each person of the Trinity?
- In segment 1, host Scott Hoezee affirmed, "We need three persons for the Trinity...we need one God." Later, in segment 2, he said, "The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are always working together and in tandem. But...they have different roles." How would you describe the role of each person of the Triune God?
- If you were to encounter a statement or belief that seems questionable to you, what resources do you have to double-check the truthfulness or accuracy of the idea in question? What could you do, where could you go, or with whom could you talk to resolve your concern?
- How would you explain the difference between John's baptism of repentance and the baptism of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit that enables you to "live your life out of gratitude for what God has called you to do"?

RELATED PASSAGES for further study

<u>Isaiah 45:5, John 17:1, Luke 3:21-22, 1 John 5:7, Philippians 2:5-11, Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 6:9-10, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:14-41, Acts 19:1-7</u>

CONCLUSION

The Christian doctrine of the Triune God is firmly rooted in Scripture. We believe in one God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. To the best of our abilities, our worship should reflect our belief in the Trinity. Our churches follow Jesus' instruction to baptize new believers "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." As they closed, Scott and host Darrell Delaney shared two takeaways from the study of the Triune God: 1) love holds the persons of the Trinity together in unity, and 2) the Triune God is for us; he is on our side. Darrell declared, "The Triune God loves us and inspires us to demonstrate what that love is for everyone else." How did studying the Triune God encourage your faith?

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