



What is God Like?

April 19, 2020

What We Believe

An eight-week series on Valley's Statement of Beliefs

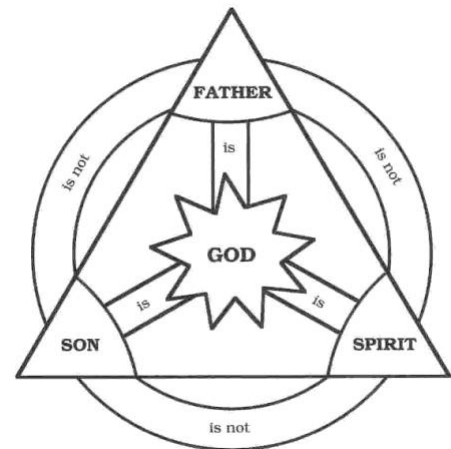
In the first of this series we looked at the authority and trustworthiness of the Bible as the Word of God. Below are the belief statements concerning the nature and work of God. This week we'll focus on one of the most central beliefs of the Christian faith, the Trinity.

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. (Matt 28:19; John 1:1-4; I John 5:7)

GOD THE FATHER — We believe in God, the Father, an infinite personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (I Tim. 2:3-5; I John 5:11-15)

GOD THE SON-JESUS CHRIST — We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth. (Isa. 7:14; John 1:14; Phil 2:5-11; Heb. 1:2, 3; I John 1:7)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT — We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is our abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 14:26; John 16:7-15; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:13,14)



[Q] What are some common opinions about what God is like?

It can be hard for us to understand how God can be one God in essence yet existing eternally in three persons. We don't know anything in creation exactly like God's being, therefore, the Trinity is one of those mysteries we can only describe in part.

There are hints in the Old Testament such as the creation account in Genesis 1:26-27. God's use of "us" and "our" implies that more than one person was involved in creation. We see God and His Spirit at work in the Old Testament and the anticipation of the Messiah. But the Trinity is unfolded more fully in the New Testament.

Trinity Treasure Hunt

[Q] Examine each of the following passages for evidence of the work of the Trinity.

Note how God the Father, God the Son, or God the Holy Spirit relate to one another, or relate to us. Which of these works cause you to be most thankful that He is three-in-one and why?

Matt. 3:16–17; 28:18-19

John 1:1-4

John 17:20-26

Hebrews 1:1-4

1 Peter 1:2

In Trinitarian theology, fellowship is the eternal, loving relationship that the three persons of the Trinity have with one another. From all eternity, each person of the Trinity has loved and has been loved by the other persons. In our redemption, by grace alone, we share in this fellowship. We are adopted by God the Father, receiving the same love He has had eternally for God the Son in the unity of the Holy Spirit (John 17:20–26).

— Michael Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*, tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2019/12/delighting-in-the-trinity/

[Q] How is the fellowship and love among the three persons of the Trinity reflected in the church body? In what ways can you become more like Him this week as you relate to your brothers and sisters in Christ, even as we are separated by distance? Be specific.

[Q] Read Romans 5:1-5. As a follower of Christ, what is yours through each member of the Trinity?

Father

Son

Holy Spirit

[Q] How does growing in understanding the character of God the Father, the work of Christ, the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit, deepen your worship of Him?

[Q] How might considering the three persons of God enhance your enjoyment of Him as you talk to Him in prayer this week?

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2 Corinthians 13:14

This week, ask "What is God like?" as you read:

- Isaiah 40
- Philippians 2
- Romans 8
- John 14
- John 15

Take it Further: Read gotquestions.org/trinitarianism, book: *Delighting in the Trinity* or article: tabletalkmagazine.com/article/2019/12/delighting-in-the-trinity/ both by Michael Reeves