

GOD: ONE

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ST
MELLITUS
COLLEGE

The doctrine of the Trinity is widely regarded as one of the most difficult aspects of Christian theology.'

Alister McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*. Sixth Edition (West Sussex: Wiley Blackwell Publishers Ltd., 2017), 299.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV

SHEMA

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:

The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this Hear, O Israel: YHWH is our God, YHWH is one

So in the end, we must say that a doctrine of God cannot but take the wings of prayer. There is no study, no examination nor understanding, without a heart searched by intercession, by repentance, by worship and praise. The Objectivity of God- this Beauteous Light- brings forth from the creatures who behold it a wonder that lies beyond saying. The Subjectivity of God- this Living One- kindles the fiery love that is the Lord's own gift, set ablaze in the creature's heart. This is the proper dogmatic form of the doctrine of God: the intellect bent down, glorified, in prayer.

Katherine Sonderegger, *Systematic Theology: Volume 1: The Doctrine of God* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2015), xxi.

THE PROBLEM WITH ANALOGY



TRINITARIAN THEOLOGY IS NOT AN ATTEMPT TO KNOW GOD APART FROM THE BIBLICAL WITNESS. RATHER, ITS EFFORTS MUST ALWAYS BE ROOTED, GUIDED, AND DISCIPLINED BY THIS WITNESS.

D.L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Third Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014), 71.

Thus the phrase, 'Father, Son, and Holy Spirit' is simultaneously a very compressed telling of the total narrative by which Scripture identifies God and a personal name for God so specified

Robert Jenson, *Systematic Theology*, Volume 1, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 46.

1. **HOW** DO WE DESCRIBE THE TRINITY?
2. **WHERE** DOES THE LANGUAGE OF THE TRINITY EMERGE?
3. **WHAT** ARE SOME THE KEY TERMINOLOGY
4. **WHEN** DO WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH OUR LANGUAGE?
5. **WHY** IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IMPORTANT?
6. **WHO** IS OUR ONE GOD?

DOCTRINE OF APPROPRIATIONS

PERICHORESIS

REVEALER REVELATION BEING REVEALED

The one who does the saving is the triune God.

Adam Johnson, *Atonement: A Guide for the Perplexed*. (London: Bloomsbury, 2015), 67.

THE MINISTRY OF THE POINTING HAND

Eberhard Busch, *The Great Passion: An Introduction to Karl Barth's Theology*. Translated by G.W. Bromley. (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004), 6-7.

It is the business of the doctrine of the Trinity, to answer the question who God is [and to distinguish] the Christian doctrine of God as Christian... in contrast to all other possible doctrines of God."

Karl Barth, *Church Dogmatics I/1*, 301.

TRINITAS PERSONA SUBSTANTIA

Its basis is the pervasive trinitarian pattern of the scriptural witness to God, foreshadowed in the Old Testament according to the Christian reading of it, and found more explicitly in the witness of the New Testament to the presence of the one and only God in the saving work of Jesus Christ and the renewing activity of the Holy Spirit.

D.L. Migliore, *Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*. Third Edition (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014), 70.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION/DISCUSSION

- Why is it so hard to use an analogy in relation to the Trinity?
- Why might it be important to understand some views that have been deemed heretical?
- Where might you look to see the Trinity within the Old & New Testament?
- After this evening how would you choose to explain the Trinity to someone who asked you?

MARK 12: 29
THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THIS

THE PROBLEM WITH THEOLOGICAL GOD IRRELEVANT? OVERLY COMPLICATED? UNNECESSARY?

ONE God in essence, distinguished in **THREE** persons
mia ousia, treis hypostaseis

GOD: ONE

1) HOW DO WE DESCRIBE THE TRINITY?

- The Problem of the Modern / Theological God
- Does analogy work?
- The crux of the doctrine

2) WHERE DOES THE LANGUAGE OF THE TRINITY EMERGE?

- Scripture
 - Shema
 - The Greatest Commandment
- The Doctrine of Revelation

3) WHAT ARE SOME OF THE KEY TERMS?

- *Trinitas*
- *Persona*
- *Substantia*



4) WHEN DO WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL WITH OUR LANGUAGE?

- Key development
 - Appropriations
 - Perichoresis
- Heresies
 - Modalism
 - Subordinationism
 - Tritheism

5) WHY IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IMPORTANT?

6) WHO IS OUR GOD?

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