



The Three-Person nature of God and Community

One Versus the Many

God is One: God is revealed in three persons

The tension is reflected in us

The Relational Trinity

The relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shows God is love

To know and to be fully known

Diversity in the midst of unity

Gospel Community is rooted in the nature of God

Challenge of forgiveness

Challenge of transparency

Challenge of difference

Small Group/Personal Reflection Questions:

1. God is one in essence also three distinct persons existing in perfect unity and perfect love. In what ways must this Trinitarian understanding of God affect the practical life of the Christian community?
2. The bible says that Holy Spirit lives in every person who believes in Jesus (1Cor 3:16; Rom 8:9; Jn 14:17;). How is this indwelling of the Holy Spirit in every believer an invitation to join God in unity and love through community?
3. Someone has written: "God's activity as Father, Son, and Spirit not only brings the church into existence, the love that characterizes God's eternal existence imparts to the church its essential character." Name some things your church is doing that shows this essential character of love? What are some ways
4. We read in Scripture that God is love (1John 4:8) but many people define love in many different ways. How does John 13:34 specifically and the larger context of John 13 define this love specifically?
5. How is the incarnation (God becoming human in the person of Jesus) a distinctly Trinitarian idea? What does this tell us about God's commitment to us as human beings and the depth of his love toward us?
6. True love is not love of self, but love of other. Only the Christian understanding of God can say "God is love" because within the triune God there has always existed perfect love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How must this shape our understanding of being "a godly person."? How is that expression normally used?
7. God is one, yet the Father is not the Son nor is the Spirit the Father and so on. There is distinction and difference in the midst of perfect and essential unity. How does this shape our understanding of the church? How can we celebrate difference while promoting unity? What must you do personally, to embrace this Trinitarian point of view?

