Relating to All Three Persons of the Trinity

Equipping Time "talking points" for week of **7/8/2019**

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Statement of the Objective

While the Bible affirms there is only one God, it also affirms that three persons share this single divine nature: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit. Each person is separate and distinct, yet have the same essence. While there are three persons who are one God, it is common for most of us to pursue an intimate, more conversational, relationship with one person of the Trinity while missing the privilege and blessings that come when we are connected and relating to all three persons. The purpose of this Equipping Time is to encourage you and your d-group to consider ways you can grow in your understanding of the distinct roles of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and to relate to each person in accordance with their unique roles—even as we acknowledge they are one God.

Motivation

The Trinity is a mystery and a paradox, but it isn't a contradiction. One in essence, three in person. Stated another way, the Trinity is one "what" (God) and three "who's" (Father, Son, and Spirit).

Each person of the Trinity has a unique role and relationship:

- God the Father:
    - *He is responsible for devising the grand purposes and plans that take place through all of creation and redemption.*
    - *He sends the Son to carry out the mission of atoning for the sins of his chosen people.*
    - He existed from eternity past in relationship with the Son and Spirit.
    - He is supreme in authority among the persons of the Trinity.

- God the Son (Jesus):
    - *He lived a sinless life, died as an atonement for the sins of God's chosen people throughout the world, rose from the dead, and ascended to Heaven where he is seated at the Father's right hand.*
    - *He makes intercession to the Father on our behalf.*
    - He existed from eternity past in relationship with the Father and Spirit.
    - He is under the Father's authority and seeks always to do the Father's will

    - He takes his lead from the Father and seeks to glorify the Father in all that he does -He took on a human nature that is separate and distinct from his divine nature (fully God and fully man).

- God the Holy Spirit:
    - *He awakens the dead hearts of God's chosen people and empowers them towards sanctification, worship, prayer, disciple making, and service.*
    - He existed from eternity past in relationship with the Father and Son
    - He is under the authority of both the Father and the Son.
    - As the Son sought to glorify the Father in all he did, the Spirit seeks to glorify the Son, to the ultimate praise of the Father.
    - He awakens the dead hearts of God's chosen people and empowers them towards sanctification, worship, prayer, disciple making, and service.

In a profound summary relating to salvation we can say that God planned it, Jesus accomplished it, and the Holy Spirit applies it to our lives.

Equipping - Questions to ask

1. Which of the three persons of the Trinity would you like to know better and relate to in a more daily and intimate way?
2. What would be the benefits and purpose of growing in your relationship with each of the persons of the Trinity, even as you continually embrace that they are one?
3. How can you do this practically and purposefully?

Conclusion

As people who embrace the truth of the Trinity, we have the privilege of praying and relating to the Father, to the Son, to the Spirit. Each of the members of the Trinity is to be prayed to, to be adored, to be worshiped, for they are all God, and one God, and must be honored. May our life and worship bring glory to each member of the Trinity, recognizing the role each plays in all of life and salvation.

Pray to close