

God Is: Trinity
God Speaks: Revelation
God Creates: Creation
God Loves: Anthropology

This Week's Big Question: Who is God?

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 says:

"Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

When I was growing up, I had a friend called Mitch. Mitch would borrow my Matchbox cars but never give them back. When I beat him at Mario Kart, he would 'accidentally' press the reset button. When I shared something personal, he would always tell other people. What do we call people who live this way? Teenagers call them fake, and adults call them hypocrites. We say things like Mitch can't be trusted because he's double minded, or he's two faced. But have you ever wondered, is God like this? When we see the evil of this world, feel the burden of suffering, or experience the shame of broken relationships. We are tempted to think that God is not good, he is double minded and can't be trusted. So we need to remember who God is. The LORD is one. There is only one God and all other gods don't exist. Christopher Wright says when God says he is one, he's not just saying he's the only God, he's describing his character to us. God's oneness means his character never changes and he can always be trusted. This week we will read that God is Trinity; three persons, Father, Son and Spirit. But he is not three gods with three different plans, with their own motivations, who seek their own glory. There is one God, and his character is one. He has a unity of his will, he has an integrity, it's his oneness.

We see God's oneness is his plan. God remains consistent throughout all eternity. From Genesis to Revelation, his plan is to save humans from sin so they may live with him forever. God's oneness is seen in his unwavering character. His steadfast love, and faithfulness means he will always keep his promises. God's oneness is seen in his purpose, as he works all things for the good of his people, and his own glory. When God's people first heard this, they were entering the promise land. All they could see was hostile people who had powerful armies and worshipped false gods. They were tempted to think God is not good, he has forgotten his people, and his promises. Therefore, this was to be a prayer (the Shema), a daily reminder that God is one. Even when it looks the complete opposite, God's character never changes. He never forgets his people, he never breaks his promises and he can always be trusted. Ultimately, we see this as Jesus goes to the cross, devoted to the plans of the Father and the Father's glory. God is one. For us today, when we see the evil of this world, feel the burden of suffering, or experience the shame of broken relationships. We must remember God is still good, and God can be trust because the LORD our God, the LORD is one. In the death and resurrection of Jesus, we see God never changes and can always be trusted. Also, as God is one, undivided in his character, he calls his people to a *oneness* in devotion to him (verse 5). We are called to love God in a single minded, and undivided way. It's not enough to simply answer the question, who is God? If this is the God we worship, then he deserves every aspect of our being, given to him in love. Therefore, this prayer doesn't just teach us of who God is, it reminds us we need to ask God to change us. To ask God to re-align our desires so we would give up personal ambition and seek to love only the things that God loves. For God to cultivate and grow in us a devotion that goes beyond rites and rituals to living a life of worship. For God to redirect our talents, treasures, and time, so we sacrifice them to his service, and the advancement of his kingdom. So, our fallen and broken world would see God's undivided character in our undivided love and devotion to him. As we start our Winter Devotions we have asked: who is God? The Bible answers it in a most profound way. He is better than my friend Mitch, in fact he is better than any human. The LORD our God, the LORD is one; his character never changes, and he can always be trusted.

THREE QUESTIONS

How does God's unwavering character give you hope?

What is an area of your life that needs to change so you can live an undivided life in service of God?

How to describe the God of the Bible to someone who doesn't go to church?

RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK

Play a game of celebrity heads. Chat about how to describe God to someone who doesn't go to church.

Everything A Child Should Know About God: Part 3

The-ology: Chapters 1-5

PTC Course: Doctrine 1

LIVING AND ACTIVE PRAYER

Gracious Father,

You have saved us with a wonderful and powerful salvation.

Your Word is living and active. Today, we have heard you speak,

So help us to not harden our hearts but to live it out.

Forgive our failures, renew our wills, awaken our joy, and transform our lives.

Make our faith living and active.

In the name of your Son and by your Spirit, Amen

Tuesday: Luke 3:21-22

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does the Trinity work together so we would know Jesus?

Wednesday: John 14:23-26

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does the Trinity work together so we would know God's Word?

Thursday: Ephesians 2:16-18

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

We does the Trinity work together so we could have a relationship with God?

Friday: 1 Peter 1:1-2

Use this space to reflect on this verse, answer the question, and write a prayer.

How does the Trinity work together so we could be saved?