

## What God says about... THE TRINITY

### ***So... you really believe in the Trinity..?***

1. Has anyone ever asked you about the Trinity? How did the conversation go? Do you think the doctrine of the Trinity is important?

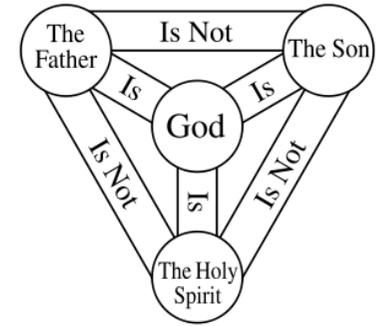
### ***About the Trinity...***

The word *Trinity* is derived from a Latin word (*Trinitas*), and the meaning has to do with “three-ness”. This word is used to identify the one God as also having an existence in three-ness. Usually we say that God is one in *substance, essence* and *nature*, but that He also exists in three *persons*.

2. Consider each the following texts, and note what they teach us about the concept of God as Trinity:
  - a. Exodus 20:1-3
  - b. Isaiah 42:8; 45:18-23
  - c. Matthew 28:19
  - d. 2 Corinthians 13:14
  - e. John 1:1-3
  - f. Philippians 2:5-11
  - g. Romans 10:9-13
  - h. Colossians 1:115-20
  - i. 1 Corinthians 2:7-13
  - j. Acts 5:3-4
  - k. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
  - l. John 15:26
  - m. John 16:5-16

### ***Don't get the wrong idea...***

3. What analogies or illustrations have you heard, in trying to explain the Trinity? Do they have any imperfections or mistakes in what they suggest?



### ***Implications and Applications...***

4. Some people might say “let’s keep it simple!” Why should we bother with the concept of the Trinity?
5. 1 John 4:16 says “God is Love”. Also read John 17:20-26. How does the reality of the Trinity underscore the importance of love and relationships?
6. If God were one only (and not also three), how might that change our perspective on how we relate to God and how he relates to us etc?
7. The doctrine of the Trinity tells us that the three persons of God have distinct roles or operations, and yet this does not take away from the glory or honour of each person as the one God. How might this enhance our concepts of things like service, role-distinctions, or diversity within Christian community or society in general?

*[After the discussion, take some time to pray together, about what you studied, and also sharing any other personal prayer requests.]*