

Basic Beliefs:

The Trinity

- not an appendix
- a word coined by Tertullian (fl. 200 A.D.)

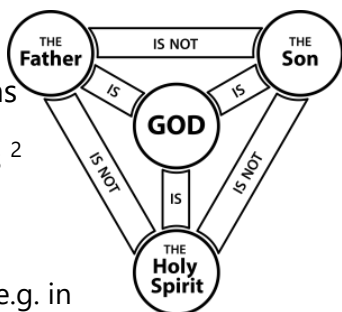
Understanding the Trinity

- there is only one God ¹

Implications: 1) World religions are not worshipping the same God by a different name. 2) The only God who is there deserves obedient devotion.

- God is three persons

- o distinct persons ²
- o divine nature ³
- o different roles (e.g. in creation & salvation (even Christmas) ⁴



Implications: 1) Honour & worship all three. 2) Live with the mystery.

Living the Trinity

- the primacy of relationship ⁵
 - o with God
 - o with each other
- the nature of relationship ⁶
 - o other-person-centered

Key Passages for This Morning

#1. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

¹ Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:5, 18, 22; Mk. 12:29; 1 Tim. 2:5

² Matt. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14

³ Matt. 6:9; Jn. 1:1, 14; Col. 2:9; Jn. 20:28; Acts 5:4; Gen. 4:26; Matt. 28:19

⁴ Gen. 1:1, 2; Jn. 1:3; Jn. 3:16; Matt. 1:18, 20; 1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 2:18

⁵ Jn. 17:3, 21, 23; Gen. 1:27

⁶ Jn. 17:24, 4; 16:14

#2. Isaiah 45:5a, 18, 22 I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God...¹⁸For this is what the Lord says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: “I am the Lord, and there is no other...”²² “Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

#3 Matthew 3:16-17 As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

#4 Matthew 6:9 This, then, is how you should pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

#5 John 1:1, 14a In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

#6 Colossians 2:9 For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.

#7 John 20:28 Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my God!”

#8 Acts 5:3-4 Then Peter said, “Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit...⁴You have not lied just to human beings but to God.”

#9 Matthew 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

#10 John 17:3, 21, 23 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent...²¹that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us.

#11 Genesis 1:27 So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

#12 John 17:24, 4, 16:14 ...the glory you [God the Father] have given me [God the Son] because you loved me before the creation of the world. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ^{16:4} He [God the Holy Spirit] will glorify me [God the Son] because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.