



Pastor Daniel Lee

pt2: Trinity

Icebreaker: Go around and share an interest, hobby or past experience that when you share with others most people are surprised with your answer with replies like, “I never pictured you as a knitting guy” or “You were an Olympic breakdancer?” In other words, something that seems contradictory to how most people see you.

1. Jesus famously replied with the Shema, a Jewish profession of faith, to the question of what was the greatest command saying, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your **mind**,” (Matthew 22:3). The doctrine of the Trinity engages the mind arguably more than anything else in the Christian faith. What concept or concepts of the Trinity engages or interests your mind the most?

2. The Bible very clearly states that there is only one God (Isaiah 46:9). The Bible also states that the Father is fully God (Romans 1:7), Jesus is fully God (John 1:1) and the Holy Spirit is fully God (Acts 5:3-4)? In light of those passages (and many more not listed here), do you have any doubts about the monotheistic nature of God? Do you have any doubts that there are three distinct persons existing as one God? Why or why not?

3. Read and reflect on John 14:6-20. Jesus had this conversation with His disciples during His last night with them before the cross. What trinitarian concepts do you see in this passage? Why do you think Jesus choose to reveal those concepts to His disciples at that time?

4. Gerhard Tersteegen, an 18th century evangelist and hymnist, stated, “A God understood, a God comprehended, is no God,” speaking to the infinite nature and mystery of God. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? What type of feelings does the concept of a mysterious God bring about? Hope, awe, wonder, questioning, frustration, doubt?

5. “Faith seeking understanding” is a classic Christian thought held throughout church history including St. Augustine and Anselm of Canterbury. Do you agree that in order to understand the Triune God more deeply that your faith needs to grow more deeply as well? Why or why not?

6. Consider Anselm of Canterbury’s prayer, “I pray thee, O God, let me know thee and love thee so that I may rejoice in thee.” Anselm’s goal of knowing God is intrinsically linked to loving God and rejoicing in God. Likewise, how can we use his example to shape how we seek a deeper understanding of God that grows us in ways that truly matter beyond just gaining knowledge?

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;*

*And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God
the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*