

Topic 9: God God the Creator

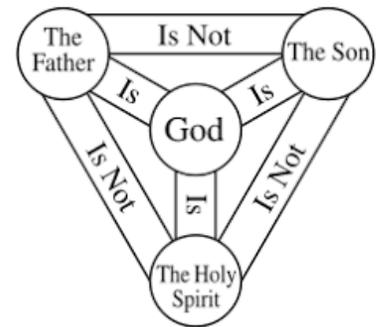
"Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." John 17:3

The Disciple needs to know certain things about the Bible, God (the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost), and the Church

Since the early days of the church, Christians have held to the knowledge that the one true God exists externally as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that each person is fully God.

Why Do Christian Believe in the Trinity?

- The Bible declares that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4).
- The Bible calls three distinct, divine persons God:
 - The Father (1 Corinthians 1:3),
 - The Son (Hebrews 1:6-8), and
 - The Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4).
- More than 60 Bible passages mention these three divine persons together.



The diagram is a visual representation of the essential biblical doctrine of the Trinity. In this lesson we will focus on just the first person of the Trinity, God the Father.

Looking at the Text

For a vivid snapshot of God in just a few verses, it's hard to beat Psalm 103 (written by David). In preparation for next week, take a few moments right now to read the entire Psalm 103 thoughtfully.

1. Now, look at verses 3, 9, 10, 12. What do they say about us and about what God does for his people?

God the Father

Forgiving

Abounding in love

Tender

Holy

Eternal

Ruling the universe



Forgiving: God is forgiving

Consider

Sin (<i>v 10</i>):	miss the mark
Transgression (<i>v 12</i>):	rebellion
Pardon (<i>v 3</i>):	forgiving

2. What makes divine forgiveness difficult for your head to believe and your heart to embrace?

Abounding in Love

3. Now, look again at Psalm 103 verses 4, 8, 11, and 17. What attribute of God is mentioned in each of these verses and how is it described?

4. Look again at verses 4, 8, and 13. There's an idea that pops up in each of those verses (two times in verse 13). What is it and what does it mean?

Psalm 103 shows us that our heavenly father is **T**ender

5. According to Psalm 103, God is tender, and full of compassion. Re-read verses 8–9, 11, 13, and 17. Verses 8–9 mention the reality of God’s *anger*. And verses 11, 13, and 17 speak of “the fear of the Lord.” Why would God be angry? Why should people fear the Lord?

Psalm 103 shows us that our heavenly father is **H**oly

6. How would explain the concept of God’s holiness to a friend with little or no religious background?

A truth we can extract from these verses is that, God, because he *is* holy, gets angry over sin. Because God is absolute purity and there’s no defect in his essential nature, sin is an affront to him.

- ❖ It wrecks the world he has made.
- ❖ It damages caring relationships between people, hurting the creatures he loves.
- ❖ It is a rejection of his kingship over the universe

God is **E**ternal

7. Re-read Psalm 103:14-17. They contrast man and God. How so? What is the psalmist David telling us about God it described?

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- ❖ We are not long for this world, David says. Not only are we temporary, we live in a world where nothing endures for long:
 - People and civilizations fade away.
 - Things and situations constantly change.
 - Good times don't last.
 - ❖ Our Heavenly Father is the One Great Constant:
 - He doesn't age and lose his physical or mental capacities.
 - He has always been and he will always be.
 - God is timeless. He isn't going anywhere.
 - These facts remind us that ...

God is **E**ternal

8. Now, look again at verses 19 - 20. What attribute of God is pictured?
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The last detail we can take away from this brief look at Psalm 103, one scriptural snapshot of God.

God is **R**uling the universe.

9. Verse 19 says he "established his throne." The verb David uses is a Hebrew word that means "be firm." It conveys
- a the idea of stability
 - b unshakable.
 - c Seated on a throne in heaven
 - d served by angel armies who carry out his perfect will.
 - i This implies royal dignity,
 - ii sovereignty over the universe.

In other words, God has dominion. He is in charge.