

New City Catechism

Discussion Questions

Episode 3: How many persons are there in God?

Short Answer (matches song): There are three persons in one God. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Long Answer (doesn't match song): There are three persons in the one true and living God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

7 STATEMENTS OF THE TRINITY:

1. God is 1. (There is only one God)
2. The Father is God.
3. The Son is God.
4. The Holy Spirit is God.
5. The Father is not the Son.
6. The Son is not the Holy Spirit.
7. The Holy Spirit is not the Father.

Verse to learn: 2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

WARNING: Do not attempt to use analogies because they ultimately lead to some kind of heresy. Watch this rather funny video to understand just how that happens and why we should simply stick with the statements listed above:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw>

Discussion Questions:

1. In what ways are you the same as the people in the room?

A: Answers can vary - allow for involvement. There are many obvious answers regarding what it means to be "human." Thinking, feeling, breathing, etc.

Option: Play a quick game where each person has to go around and find one thing they have in common with someone else. Facilitator will need to provide paper for each person.

2. How are you different (unique) from people in the room?

A: Answers can vary. Perhaps preface this by saying that we don't want to say anything that would be bringing someone down (even yourself).

Bad Examples: "I can cook better than she can." or "I can't cook as good as she can."

Perhaps focus on something that makes you *unique* from others.

Easy answers: first/last names, eye color, age, likes, etc.

3. In what ways are the three persons of God the same?

A: Answers should be found in Scripture if possible although almost every aspect of God is the same for all three persons of the Trinity.

Unchanging (Father = Malachi 3:6) (Son = Hebrews 13:8) (H.S. = Haggai 2:5)

Eternal (Father = Psalm 90:2) (Son = John 1:1) (H.S. = Hebrews 9:14)

Other examples: Fully God, Holy, Equal in Power and Substance,

4. In what ways are the three persons of God different (distinct)?

A: KEY POINT: They are in full cooperation with each other. They cannot do anything without the other persons. Each seems to have slightly different roles even though they all partake in the role itself.

Example: Jesus redeems, but Father and Holy Spirit send Him to redeem.

Holy Spirit Sanctifies. Father sends both Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

5. Which of the three persons do you know the least about?

A: Answers may vary. The point of this question is to challenge each person to spend more time (this week) studying that specific person of the Trinity (even though they work together, each has a somewhat distinct role, and reveals the greater work of the Godhead).

Alternate Discussion: How does the Trinity enhance our knowledge that “God is love?”

A: Because God was in perfect unity and love between the three persons of the Godhead, He did not need to create us in order to be or experience love. He is complete in Himself. He is able to love because there are 3 persons to share love. His love is eternal in this way.

Other Resources:

Bible Project Video: Great summary about the Trinity in an 8 minute video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAvYmE2YYIU&feature=emb_logo