

HOW JESUS CHANGED OUR UNDERSTANDING OF GOD

John 14:15-26

John 1:1-5

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- How would you describe God and Jesus Christ to someone else? What has informed your beliefs about God and Jesus Christ??
- Have you ever questioned the Christian belief of the Trinity? Or has someone ever challenged your belief in the Trinity? What information led to these questions or challenges? Why might someone question the Christian doctrine of the Trinity?

Understanding one another is an important foundation for any relationship. God has invited us into relationship with him, so it's natural that we wonder about his character and how he works. When Emmanuel, God with us, came to earth, we received an entirely new way to get to know God. Throughout history the Church has discussed the person and work of Jesus Christ and how he informs our understanding of God. Today, knowing what it means that Jesus is God's Son and why we believe in the Trinity helps us ensure our practices remain consistent with our beliefs.

Listen: [*How Jesus Changed Our Understanding of God*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- Why is it important to think about and discuss the implications of our beliefs? Why is it helpful to understand and think about doctrine, even if we consider it secondary to scripture?
- Consider this quote from systematic theologian, John Bolt: *"It is in the doctrine of the Trinity that we feel the heartbeat of God's entire revelation for the redemption of humanity. We are baptized in the name of the triune God, and in that name we find rest for our soul and peace for our conscience. Our God is above us, before us, and within us."** Do you agree with this reflection on the Trinity? What do you think he means when he says "we feel the heartbeat of God's entire revelation for the redemption of humanity" in the Trinity?
- Have you encountered other views about Jesus regarding his substance, his nature, or how he came to be? What do these views espouse? Is it necessary to talk about the Trinity as we talk about Jesus as the Son of God?
- Have you ever intentionally thought about who you understand God to be when you read the Old Testament? Read an Old Testament story like Moses and the Burning Bush in Genesis 3-4 and every time you read God or Lord, remember the triune nature and the presence of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Does this change or inform your understanding of the story? Does your knowledge about God in the story change?

*John Bolt, chapter summary to “The Holy Trinity” in *Reformed Dogmatics Vol 2: God and Creation* by Herman Bavinck, 260. Translated by John Vriend and Edited by John Bolt. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2004.

Related Passages

- **Genesis 1:1-2**
- **Philippians 2:1-11**
- **John 8:48-59**

Conclusion

Spend some time in prayer. As you pray, think about the work and role of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit. Think about your statements and petitions. Make your prayer reflect your belief in the Trinity by directing each part of your prayer to the appropriate person in the Trinity.

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