



THE TRINITY: BEFORE CREATION – JOHN 17:24

GETTING STARTED

The Trinity is one of the most confusing and difficult to understand doctrines in all of Christianity. Yet it is also one of the most foundational and necessary doctrines for understanding God's purpose in creation, the creation itself, our salvation and how we grow as Christians. Despite the difficulty in wrapping our heads around this doctrine, it is nonetheless essential to the Christian faith and has been professed since the church began. This is because it is an explanation of how God has revealed himself in the Bible. And therefore if we are going to know God more, we must start with who he is and that begins even before God created. While the Bible does not tell us everything we might want to know about what happened before God created, we are given a few key insights into the role of the Trinity and that begins with love. God is love and that love was not conditional on anything outside of God himself. Therefore, even before creation God was perfectly joyful, perfectly happy, perfectly loved and loving without anything else.

READ THE TEXT: JOHN 17:24

²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Extra verses for studying this topic: Psalm 50:10-12, John 3:34-35, Titus 1:1-2, Ephesians 1:4-5, 1 Peter 1:20, 1 John 4:8-10



UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. What is the context of John 17:24? What is the significance of Jesus' revelation of the trinitarian love in this moment?
2. Look back through John's gospel, how is the relationship between the Father and the Son described? How does this give us a glimpse into the workings of the Trinity?

APPLY THE TEXT

3. What difference does it make that before creation the One God in Three Persons was in relational, loving communion as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
4. What difference does it make in your life to think of God not primary as Creator or Ruler or Judge (though He is those things) but as Father?

SHARE & PRAY

1. As we discuss the role of the Trinity in different facets, how does this understanding help us pray more specifically? How can we use this to thank the Father for his work, the Son for his work and the Holy Spirit for his work?
2. The Trinity is one of the most uniquely Christian teaching teachings, how can we explain this to an unbeliever? How does a better understanding of the Trinity help us share the gospel?

