

DISCUSSION GUIDE
Centripetal Faith: Part 1 – The Trinity
One and God and Father

Text: Ephesians 4:1-6

Warming Up

1. How would you articulate the idea of the Trinity?
2. Do you think the idea of the Trinity is central to our common faith?

Digging In

Read Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 1:4-6

1. These are verses that contain mention to the Trinity in some form or fashion. Do these verses help you understand the Trinity? Why or why not?
2. What do these verse tell us about how the Apostles and the ancient church perceived God?
3. Pastor Craig gave a very brief history of the Nicene Creed (VT 924). Did you find the creed helpful in understanding the Trinity? What do you think the bishops were attempting to say in this creed?
4. Pastor Craig talked about the Greek and Latin words that are translated into English as person. The Greek is *prosopon*, and the Latin is *persona*. Was it helpful to know that these words originally were used to describe the masks actors wore to indicate who the characters were and the character's emotion? Did this change the way you imagine the Trinity?
5. Pastor Craig talked about the consequences of denying the Trinity and of over-emphasizing three-ness. He said what we are left with is a mystery. What do you think naming the Trinity as a mystery?
6. Pastor Craig said the strength of the idea of Trinity is that God is in eternal relationship. That means that God is the source of diversity. Do you think he is accurate in his assessment that over-emphasizing oneness leads to idea of uniformity for believers? Is it helpful to think that the diversity we see in creation is a direct reflection of who God is rather than deviation from who God is?
7. Pastor Craig also said that the Triune God is the source of the church and mission. Is it helpful to think about the church believers in relationship with each and God as a direct reflection of God as Trinity?
8. Pastor Craig introduced the term *perichoresis*. That's a compound Greek word. *Peri* means *around*, and *choresis* means *to give way or make room for*. Together the term means *to rotate or going around*. He noted the term is used to describe God in us and we in God. The intersecting circles of relationship that starts with the eternal relationship within the Trinity. Is it helpful to think that the Trinity's *going around* is centripetal or draws us in? Do you think the image of sin and evil being centrifugal or flinging away is helpful to see how the very Being of God is about relationship and drawing all things into God's circle?

Sending Out

How can we better represent who God is in the way we related to each other and those outside of the faith?

Closing

God is drawing us into deeper relationship with God and with each other all because this is who God is!

Close in Prayer