

God's Longing for His Church

Matt VanCleave

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will be still before the Lord and listen.
- All week long, my prayer is going to be, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."
- I will listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit when I'm speaking to people.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

This week we continue in our series, "The God I Never Knew" with a message on the role of the Holy Spirit within the Trinity. The Trinity can be a difficult thing to fully grasp, and yet when we begin to discover more deeply what the Trinity is and what it means for us, we begin to understand the Spirit.

We'll start in the classroom, thinking and studying. And then we'll move to real life, and consider what the implications are about the Trinity and the unity of the Spirit for real life. Join us this week as we continue to explore, and be challenged by, the Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Matt starts the sermon with a few doctrine questions, including questions about how to define sin, what the gospel is, and how you would define salvation. One of these major areas of doctrine is the Trinity. How would you describe the Trinity?

2. Why is the Trinity hard to define? What does the difficulty of fully grasping the Trinity teach you about the incredibility of God?

3. Read together Ephesians 4: 1-6. What do you think the word 'one' means in this passage?

4. Matt explains that at the core of the doctrine of the Trinity is this idea that **'they are three persons, and yet one. They exist in perfect unity.'** This is where the 'one' understanding comes in. Matt continues to explain that, **'The Son exalts the Father, submits to the Father, and the Father's delight is to glorify the Son. And the Spirit comes to point not to himself, but to the Son. And the Son submits to the ministry of the Spirit. And the Father sends the Spirit and is delighted in the Spirit. And the Spirit intercedes on our behalf with the Father. The whole Trinity is this circle of unbroken, mutual submission and mutual servanthood and mutual love and mutual delight — the whole blessed Trinity is shy — Father, Son, and Spirit — experiencing perfect oneness throughout all of eternity.'** It is a long quote and explanation, but it helps us understand the unity and equality in the Trinity. How do these ideas help you understand the importance and purpose of the Spirit?

5. The Spirit is described as a guider, an interceder, a shy but powerful experience of God. In some ways these descriptions help us understand the role of the Spirit. How have you experienced the Spirit in one of these roles?

6. Matt also describes characteristics of the Spirit; humility, graciousness, and patience. Why do you think humility is often aligned with the Spirit? What does it mean to you to engage with the Spirit in humility?

7. How would you define graciousness? Why do you think Matt aligned the Spirit with the characteristics of graciousness?

8. Patience is a beautiful characteristic of the Spirit. How does having a patient God help you walk in your relationship?

9. The Trinity can be confusing, but understanding the Spirit more helps us to understand our own faith. How can you engage with the Spirit this week?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will make every effort to grow in humility.
- I will make every effort to grow in graciousness.
- I will make every effort to grow in patience.
- I will make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit at Blue Oaks.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Ephesians 4:1-6
- John 14:26
- John 15:26
- John 16:13
- John 8:54
- John 17:20-21
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Prayer Request(s)
