

Who is Jesus?

20) What is the Holy Trinity?

- A. Trinity is Latin for "three in one". The word "trinity" is not found in the Bible. It is used because it helps to explain how God has revealed Himself to man throughout the Bible.
- B. There is only one God who reveals Himself to man in three distinct persons (or personalities): the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.
- C. Christianity is monotheistic: We worship but one God.

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."
DEU 6:4 NIV

- D. These three persons of the Godhead share the same essence, or nature ...
 - 1. They are equal in power, glory, eternity, and worship. They have one will and share all the divine attributes. They share knowledge and agree in action.
 - 2. They act in unity in such things as creation, salvation, and indwelling Christians.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. [2] Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

GEN 1:1-2 NIV

"For by him (Jesus) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. [17] He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

COL 1:16-17 NIV

"Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To God's elect, strangers in the world, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia, [2] who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be

Building Firm Foundations

yours in abundance."

1PETER 1:1-2 NIV

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - [17] the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ... Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

JOHN 14:16-17, 23 NIV

- a. Note: Here we have the promise the Holy Spirit as well as the Father and the Son will "make our home" within a Christian.

E. ...yet they are distinct from one another.

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

GEN 1:26 NIV

"The LORD said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. [7] Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

GEN 11:6-7 NIV

"As soon as Jesus (the Son) was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) descending like a dove and lighting on him. [17] And a voice from heaven (the Father) said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

MATT 3:16-17 NIV

F. The Godhead is three yet one.

1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three separate gods that work together.
2. Nor is God one divine person that just happens to wear three different hats depending on what He is doing (such as one man being a son to his mother, a husband to his wife, a father to his children).
3. The best analogy: Water
 - a. Water can exist as a solid (ice), as a liquid, and as a gas (water vapor). They all have very different "personalities," but they all have the same "essence" or chemical formula, H₂O .
 - b. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are equally God, yet they are three distinct persons.

G. The Holy Trinity is one of the mysteries of the Christian faith. It is one place where finite man must surrender his lack of understanding and have faith in what our infinite God reveals about Himself.

21) What is the dual nature of Jesus Christ?

- A. Jesus is at the same time God and man. He is 100% God and 100% man. His divine and human natures operate together.

Who is Jesus?

"regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, [4] and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

ROM 1:3-4 NIV

"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, [10] and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority."

COL 2:9-10 NIV

"This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, [3] but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world."

1JOHN 4:2-3 NIV

22) What is the scriptural proof of Jesus' divinity?

A. Christ, as the Word, existed before the birth of the Jesus.

1. When God the Word became a man, Joseph, at the direction of an angel, gave Him the name Jesus. That event is called the "incarnation," when God took on human form.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was with God in the beginning. [3] Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. [4] In him was life, and that life was the light of men. ... [14] The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [15] John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he (Jesus) was before me (John).'"

JOHN 1:1-4, 14-15 NIV

- a. Note: John the Baptist was 6 months older than Jesus yet he says that Jesus existed before him. This is a reference to Christ as the Word before the incarnation.

"Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." [57] "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" [58] "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" [59] At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds."

JOH 8:56-59 NIV

- b. Note: Jesus declared that he predated Abraham who had been dead over 1900 years when Jesus walked the earth.

"And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began. ... Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world."

JOHN 17:5, 24 NIV

Building Firm Foundations

- c. Note: Jesus talked to Father God about the glory He had with God before the creation.

B. Jesus identified Himself as the Son of God. The Hebrews believed that a son was identical to his father. When Jesus called Himself the Son of God He was claiming divinity. His enemies understood His claim which led to their plot to kill Him.

"Jesus said to them, 'My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.' [18] For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."

JOHN 5:17-18 NIV

"I and the Father are one." [31] Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, [32] but Jesus said to them, 'I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?' [33] 'We are not stoning you for any of these,' replied the Jews, 'but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.'"

JOHN 10:30-33 NIV

"If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." [8] Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.' [9] Jesus answered: 'Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? [10] Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.'"

JOHN 14:7-10 NIV

"but in these last days he (God) has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. [3] The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

HEB 1:2-3 NIV

C. Jesus identified Himself as the Messiah (or "Christ" in the Greek). The Messiah was understood to be a divine king. To claim to be the Messiah was to claim to be God.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

ISA 9:6 NIV

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" [16] Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." [17] Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

MATT 16:15-17 NIV

Who is Jesus?

- D. He accepted the worship of man. The First and Second Commandments forbid the worship of anyone except God. For Jesus to accept worship would be blasphemous, unless He were truly God.

"But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. [16] "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise?"

MATT 21:15-16 NIV

"When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: [38] "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" [39] Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!" [40] "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

LUKE 19:37-40 NIV

23) What is the scriptural proof of Jesus' humanity?

- A. Although fully God, Jesus relinquished His heavenly privileges and became a man. He hungered, needed sleep, felt pain and sorrow, and depended on God like any other man.
- B. Life was not "easier" for Him because He was God. He suffered all the temptations that any man might suffer. Those life experiences prepared Him to become our High Priest.

"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, [7] but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. [8] And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death - even death on a cross!"

PHIL 2:6-8 NIV

"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."

2COR 8:9 NIV

"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil - [15] and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. [16] For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. [17] For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. [18] Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."

HEB 2:14-18 NIV

24) What is the virgin birth?

- A. Mary was a virgin when she conceived Jesus "by the Holy Spirit." In other words, the conception of Jesus was a miracle.

Building Firm Foundations

- B. Mary was Jesus' mother and God was Jesus' father. Joseph was Mary's husband, but he was not Jesus' father. Joseph did not have sexual contact with Mary until after the birth of Jesus.
 - 1. Joseph and Mary went on to have other children after the birth of Jesus.
- C. This virgin conception explains how Jesus obtained His dual nature.

"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. [19] Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. [20] But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. [21] She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." [22] All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: [23] "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" -which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. [25] But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

MATT 1:18-25 NIV

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" [35] The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

LUKE 1:34-35 NIV

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

ISA 7:14 NIV

"Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary, and aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? [56] Aren't all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?"

MATT 13:55-56 NIV

25) What does it mean that Jesus was sinless?

- A. Although Jesus was a man, He did not share our sinful nature. He was not tainted by the sinful nature we inherited from Adam. Furthermore, throughout His life, He resisted every sinful temptation and remained righteous.
- B. Jesus remained sinless in the face of temptations, because He lived His life totally dependent on the Holy Spirit. He never tried to live His life in His own strength.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

2COR 5:21 NIV

"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but

Who is Jesus?

we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are -yet was without sin."

HEB 4:15 NIV

"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

1PETER 2:22 NIV

"But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin."

1JOHN 3:5 NIV

26) Why did God send Jesus to earth?

- A. Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Joshua," which means "Jehovah is salvation."
- B. Man's sinful ways separated him from God. God sent His Son to save man from his sins.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. [17] For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. [18] Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

JOHN 3:16-18 NIV

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

MATT 1:21 NIV

Name: _____ Group Leaders: _____

Date: _____

Homework for Chapter 2

Please answer the following questions from the textbook in full sentences and return to your Group Leaders next week.

- 1) What does the term "Triune God" mean?

- 2) What is the dual nature of Jesus Christ?

- 3) Who is "the Word" mentioned in the book of John, chapter one? Explain.

- 4) Explain the virgin birth.

- 5) How could Jesus have a sinless nature?
