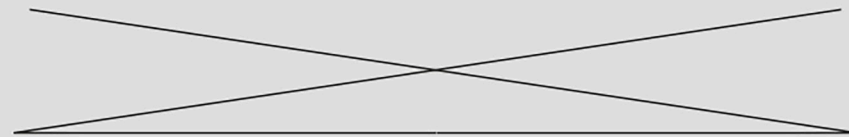




# GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

AUTHOR OF *NOTE TO SELF*

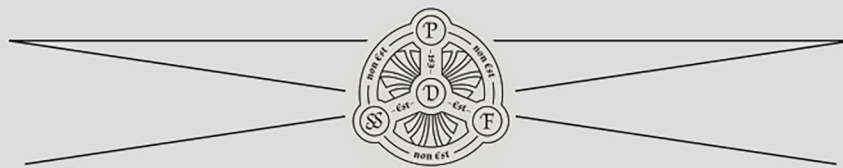
**JOE THORN**



# EXPERIENCING

THE

# TRINITY



**THE GRACE OF GOD  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

**VERNAL WILKINSON, D. MIN.**  
WITH **BRUCE BUCHANAN, M. D.**



*Group Discussion Guide  
for the book by Joe Thorn*

---

# **EXPERIENCING THE TRINITY**

## **THE GRACE OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

---

***Experiencing the Trinity: The Grace of God for the People of God***

*Copyright ©2015 by Joe Thorn*

*Published by Crossway*

*1300 Crescent Street, Wheaton, Illinois 60187*

***Experiencing the Trinity: Group Discussion Guide***

*Copyright ©2018 by Vernal Wilkinson & Bruce Buchannan*

*Published by Anderson Island Christian Fellowship*

*9020 Eckenstam-Johnson, Anderson Island, WA 98303*

*Discussion Guide designed & produced by Mark Dinsmore*

*emdeecreative@gmail.com*

# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

**THE OBJECT OF THIS GUIDE** is to equip an individual to lead a group discussion centered on the attributes of the persons of the Trinity as presented in the chapters of the book. The lesson format includes the following elements:

**Approach** is a suggested way to begin the group's engagement with the subject of each individual chapter and break the ice for personal sharing.

**Focus** is the title of each chapter to be discussed.

**Information** needed for discussion is the material presented in the chapter of the book being studied which is to be read for the group.

**Analysis** of the lesson comes from the leader and the members of the group who share their thoughts and reactions to the material presented. With this will be offered suggested

**Questions** for further discussion which will include additional biblical reference(s).

**Personal** invites group members to respond to the lesson in prayer and then add other intercessions before closing the discussion.

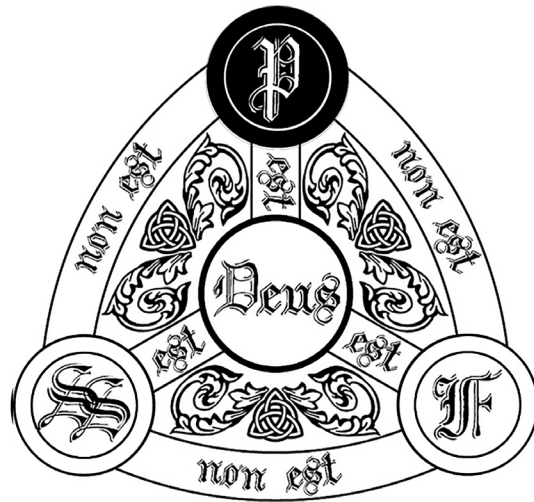
You are the guide for the group. Please familiarize yourself with the materials in the chapter you have volunteered to guide the group through. You are not required to use the lesson plan; these lesson sheets are simply an aid to help you guide the group in a discussion of the attributes of the persons of the Trinity as presented in the chapters of the book.

Each section of the lesson plan (Approach, Focus, Information, Analysis, Personal) contains recommendations for you to use as you guide the group. In the **Approach** section read the material and/or ask the questions given. Read the chapter title aloud after **Focus**. For the **Information** section simply read the entire chapter. Follow the directions under **Analysis** and supplement the discussion by following the directions and asking the questions after suggested **Questions**.

May you and your discussion group be guided and blessed in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as you enjoy "Experiencing the Trinity."

*Vernal Wilkinson  
Bruce Buchannan*

PART ONE:  
GOD THE FATHER



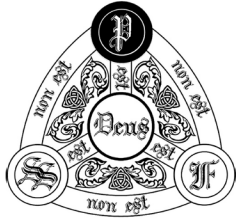
*P = PATER (Latin: "Father")*

"The Father is God"

"The Father is not the Son"

"The Father is not the Holy Spirit"

"God is the Father"



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

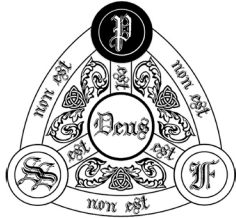
# HE IS HOLY p.23

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Who have you ever stood in awe of? Why did that person impress you? Was that person your father? Why or why not?
- ▲ **Focus** He is holy.
- ▲ **Information** Read the first chapter on pages 23 – 25.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Jesus addressed the Father as “holy” (see Matthew 6:9 and John 17:11). What does it mean to attach holiness to the name of the Father? Why is that important to our prayer relationship with God?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask people to offer prayer sentences that honor the holiness of God the Father and then pray for their needs or the needs of others



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS CREATOR p.26

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** What do all fathers have in common whether good, bad, loving, or indifferent? They are "procreators." What is the difference between creator and procreator? What experiences with your human father or as a father yourself has helped you understand that difference?
- ▲ **Focus** He is a creator
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter on pages 26 – 28.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** After looking up and reading Malachi 1:6 and 2:10 how does knowing our heavenly Father as creator affect your worship and your relationship with other people?
- ▲ **Personal** Read Psalm 139. Then ask group members to pray prayers of thanksgiving for being made by God as they are. Encourage them to add prayers for their needs or the needs of others.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS POWERFUL p.29

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Can you tell a story of a powerful person of your acquaintance? Explain how you were impressed with that person's power and what were the limitations of that power.
- ▲ **Focus** He is powerful
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 29 – 30.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Look up 2 Corinthians 6:18. How does the Father's title, "almighty" impact your understanding of his promise to be a father to you? If you are a son or daughter of the Father, how will you respond to an almighty Father?
- ▲ **Personal** Have members express their response in prayer and pray for the needs of themselves and others.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS PRESENT p.31

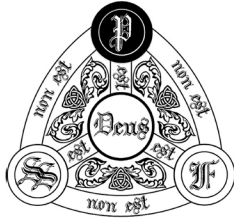
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Tell of a time you were caught in the act. Who was it that knew where you were and what you were doing when you didn't expect it? If in the discussion these are parents or teachers or spouses have them comment on how some people know us better than we do ourselves.
- ▲ **Focus** He is present.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text of the chapter pages 31 - 32
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read John 16:27. What difference does it make that the omnipresent Father loves us? What can we expect from him when He catches us in the act of doing good or bad?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask the group to begin their prayer time with prayers of confession or contrition before praying for their needs or the needs of others.





part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE PROVIDES p.33

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Take some money from your wallet (or purse) and put it in your lap or on the table. How does this represent the providence of God to you? Why do some have more and some less and some none?
- ▲ **Focus** He provides.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 33 – 34.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Look up Deuteronomy 8:3. What life lesson was God's providence to Israel while in the wilderness supposed to teach them? How does Jesus apply this lesson in His own circumstances in Matthew 4:4? According to Matthew 6:26 how should we apply the lesson of our Father's providence in our own experience?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask them to share their particular need for God's providence in their own lives and then open the prayer time up to pray for one another.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

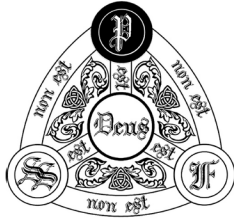
# HE IS GOOD p.35

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Tell of a gift that you received as a child that was either the "best ever!" Or perhaps the most inconsiderate ever. Perhaps you can tell of a gift you have given to your child that was the "best ever!" What makes a gift appeal to the one who receives it?
- ▲ **Focus** He is Good
- ▲ **Information** Read the text of the chapter, pages 35 – 36.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Matthew 7:11. How do we know that what our Father gives us is good? Read James 1:17. What kind of Father gives what is good to His children? How does the character of our heavenly Father change the way we receive His good gifts? Read Psalm 103:13. How does our good heavenly Father view his suffering, weak and wretched children? How does His attitude toward you affect the quality of the gifts He gives to you?
- ▲ **Personal** In prayer ask the members of the group to include a sentence prayer that begins, "I trust You, Lord for \_\_\_\_\_." Then have them pray for specific needs.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE KNOWS p.37

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** As a parent or baby sitter when a baby cries what is the first thing to do? What causes for the crying would you check?
- ▲ **Focus** He knows.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text on pages 37 – 39.
- Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Look up Luke 12:30. Does our Father's knowledge of us precede us? How does that work do you think? Read Romans 8:15 and 27 (it may be helpful to read the entire text verses 15 – 28). In our adoption as sons of God how does the Spirit work? What does this mean for the intimacy of our Father's knowledge of your life and circumstances?
- ▲ **Personal** Intercession (Romans 8:27) means to stand in prayer between our heavenly Father and someone in need. Have them each turn to another member of the group and learn of that person's need and then intercede for that person in prayer.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

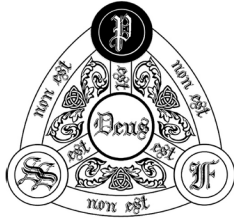
# HE IS PATIENT p.40

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Describe an experience that you have had waiting in one of the following circumstances: on hold on the phone; in traffic; in line at the grocery store; in a crowd at an event; in the emergency room at a hospital. What was your reaction to waiting? How did you see others reacting?
- ▲ **Focus** He is patient.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text on pages 40 - 41
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Look up Hebrews 12:7. What does our patient heavenly Father's discipline mean for us? How does His patience work your endurance?
- ▲ **Personal** Begin the prayer time with the group members thanking God for His patience with them. Then go on to pray for the needs of others as well as themselves.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS LOVE p.42

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** It is commonly believed that people are like their dog. Have you ever observed this? How was it obvious? How has being around those you love changed your life?
- ▲ **Focus** He is Love.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text of chapter 9, pages 42 – 43.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Look up John 16:25 – 28 and 1 John 3:1. What assurances do you find in your relationship with a loving heavenly Father? How has being a loved child of God changed you and the course of your life?
- ▲ **Personal** As the group members pray ask them to pray for someone they know who needs the assurance that they are a loved child of God.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE FORGIVES

p.44

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Imagine a court room scene and the trial is in the sentencing phase. The accused has been found guilty. With a smirking face and in a flat tone of voice the accused admits the crime and says, "So I guess I'm sorry." Then he asks the court for leniency in the sentencing. Would you believe that the accused is sorry? Why or why not? What is the difference between objective guilt and subjective guilt?
- ▲ **Focus** He forgives.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text of chapter 10, pages 44 – 46.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Do you agree or disagree with the author's statement on page 46, "Despite what many are saying these days, you do not need to forgive yourself."? Why or why not? Read 1 John 1: 5 – 10. What is the Father's stance relative to your sin? What does He do in addition to forgiving your sin? Do you need to forgive yourself? Why or why not?
- ▲ **Personal** Jesus directed His disciples to pray for forgiveness Like this, (Matthew 6:12 NASB77) "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." As the group begins prayer ask them to say this prayer in their own words.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS UNCHANGING p.47

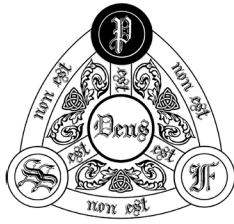
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** How often and in what ways has your job changed in the course of your career? How do you react to the prospect of change?
- ▲ **Focus** He is unchanging.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text of the chapter pages 47 – 49.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read James 1:17 – 18. In James poetic expression of the unchanging nature of God the Father, how much room for change does He allow? Does the Father seem rigid to you at times? When your circumstances change, does He seem inflexible? Now let's consider it from a different point of view. If when circumstances changed He flexed with them would He be able to carry out His good will which He has destined for you? How does knowing that His will is never effected by change in our circumstances bring you comfort when you must adjust to change?
- ▲ **Personal** Find out if there are any members going through changes that are difficult and pray for them.





part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS JEALOUS p.50

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** We've all heard of the snake oil salesman of the old west. He sold a remedy that was "good for what ails you." Can you think of snake oil salesmen in these times that are pitching products that you cannot live without and that will make your whole life good? Have you ever become obsessed with acquiring one particular thing or seen others caught up in that obsession? In what way are these things idols? What are some other idols of the age and culture in which we live?
- ▲ **Focus** He is jealous.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text pages 50 – 51.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read 1 John 5:21. While it made sense for Moses to warn the Israelites against idols as they fled the idol worshiping nation of Egypt, it is no less important the children (sons or daughters) of our heavenly Father to avoid idols. If you could warn believers today against an idol what warning would you would you give?
- ▲ **Personal** Thank God for His jealous love for us and pray for the needs of others.





part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

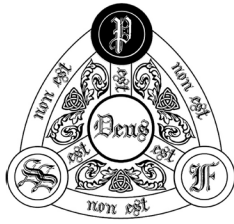
# HE IS LISTENING p.52

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Do you ever get distracted during the sermon on Sunday? How, will you confess?
- ▲ **Focus** He is listening.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text pages 52 – 53.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read John 15:16. How attentive is God the Father to your prayers? Why is He so attentive? What can you expect as an answer to your prayer?
- ▲ **Personal** Let each member take a turn praying for themselves or a need of which they know?



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE DISCIPLINES

p.54

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Tell us about a sport you were involved in that required discipline? Or perhaps you can tell us about a trade or other skill that required of you disciplined training?
- ▲ **Focus** He disciplines.
- ▲ **Information** Read the text pages 54 – 56.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read 1 Timothy 4:8. What bodily disciplines have positively impacted your life? Do those disciplines involve some level of pain? Please describe. Read again the sentence at the top of page 55, "Either God is teaching you to rely on his grace and sufficiency through your pain, or he is teaching you to return to his grace and sufficiency through your pain." Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why or why not?
- ▲ **Personal** For prayer ask the members to pray about a point of pain in their lives or in the life of someone close to them. Ask them to pray that they would see our heavenly Father's good purpose in that point of pain.



part 1  
GOD THE FATHER

# HE IS FATHER p.57

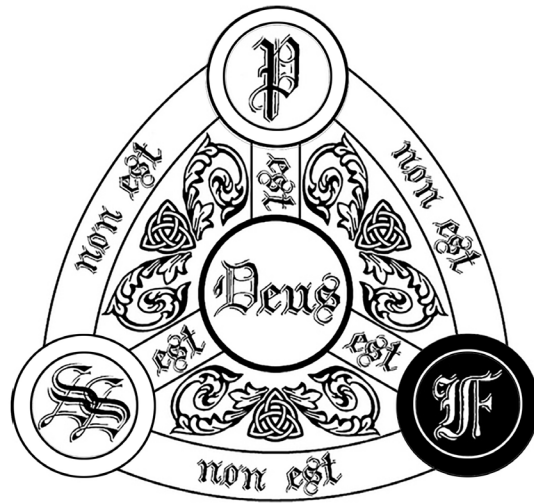
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Has anyone here grown up with a step-father or perhaps been a step father? What are the challenges to fulfilling the role of a father in those circumstances? How do they compare with those of a natural father?
- ▲ **Focus** He is a Father.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 57 – 58.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Romans 8:14 – 17. How do we become sons (or daughters) of God? How does this compare with our understanding of the role of a step-father or an adoptive father? In Romans 8:14 – 17 what gives you the impression that in Christ you are just as much a son of God as you could be by any other means?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray and thank the Father for making you His child. Ask him to meet your needs or those of anyone else.

PART TWO:  
GOD THE SON



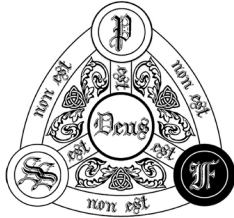
*F = FILIUS (Latin: "Son")*

"The Son is God"

"The Son is not the Father"

"The Son is not the Holy Spirit"

"God is the Son"



part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS HUMANITY

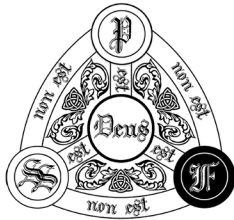
p.61

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Do you know any of these people: Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, Ben Affleck, LeBron James, Franklin Graham? What is the difference between knowing and knowing about someone? What is the difference between a friend and an acquaintance?
- ▲ **Focus** His Humanity.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 61 – 62.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Hebrews 2:14 – 18. How does Jesus know us? What is He uniquely equipped to do for us? What is the difference between knowing Jesus and understanding His theological personage?
- ▲ **Personal** As prayer begins have the members thank Son of God for joining us in our human condition and then pray for needs.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

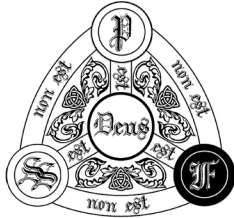
# HIS DEITY p.63

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** In this chapter the author says, "Jesus has saved you and is saving you." What do you think he might mean by this? Do you agree or disagree with this idea? Why?
- ▲ **Focus** His deity.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 63 – 65.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Ephesians 2:8 – 10. Why can we say that Jesus has saved you and is saving you? How has Jesus saving you made you the person you are today? How will his saving grace carry you through whatever lies ahead of you?
- ▲ **Personal** As the members begin prayer ask them if there is any immediate need they have for the grace of Jesus in their life. Then pray for them and for the needs of others.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

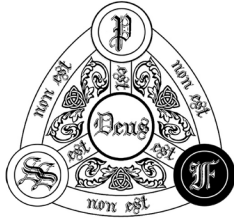
# HIS POVERTY p.66

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Have you ever seen poverty first hand? Tell us about it.
- ▲ **Focus** His Poverty.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 66 – 67.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Ephesians 1:3 – 14. How many spiritual riches can you find in this passage? Name some of them. To you which are the most valuable?
- ▲ **Personal** As the members begin to pray ask them to thank God for the spiritual blessings we have because of the poverty of Christ as well as pray for their needs and other's.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS LOVE p.68

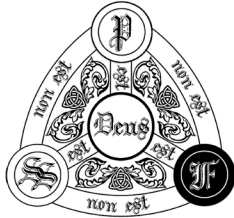
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Have you ever been driven, by what? Have you ever felt compelled, by what? Have you ever been strongly motivated, by what?
- ▲ **Focus** His Love.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 68 – 69.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read John 15:13 – 14. How is Jesus love demonstrated in His death? What does Jesus expect from His disciples as a result of His love? How can you manifest the love of Christ in your relationships?
- ▲ **Personal** As prayer begins ask the members of the group to thank the Son of God for His love and then pray for their needs and those of others.





part 2  
GOD THE SON

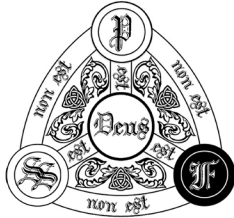
# HIS TEMPTATION p.70

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Rank your temptations from strongest to weakest: sex, money, self-exaltation or pride, avoidance. Perhaps you have others. Why did you choose that as the strongest temptation?
- ▲ **Focus** His Temptation.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 70 – 72.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Matthew 4:1 – 11. What four areas was Jesus tempted in? How did he resist? What is your best weapon against the devil? In conclusion re-read the last sentence of the lesson.
- ▲ **Personal** Jesus taught us to pray, “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” As the group prays for their needs and those of others ask them to also pray for the temptations of those for whom they pray.

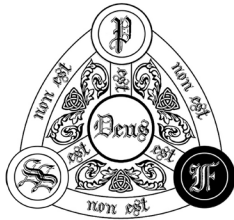


part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS OBEDIENCE p.73

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification. In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Ken Griffey Sr. played 19 seasons. His lifetime average was 296. He had more than six seasons over 300. 152 home-runs and 859 RBIs marked his career. He received three World Series rings. He played two seasons with the Mariners in '90 – 1 along with his son Jr. They hit back to back home-runs against the Angels. His younger son Craig also played professional baseball. But his father, Joseph "Buddy" Griffey was a high school star who played with Stan Musial. In some sense there was a baseball gene passed down. Ken Griffey, Jr.'s all star, hall of fame play was in his grandfather Joseph "Buddy" Griffey. Let's see how this fits with our understanding of being in Christ.
- ▲ **Focus** His Obedience.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 73 – 74.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Romans 1:5. How do faith and obedience connect? As a Christian you seek not only to passively resist temptation but actively respond in obedience to God. If by nature in Adam we fail to obey, how does faith in Christ change us? How does it change God's view of us?
- ▲ **Personal** As the members go to prayer ask them to pray for greater obedience as they pray for their own needs and those of others.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS SUFFERING

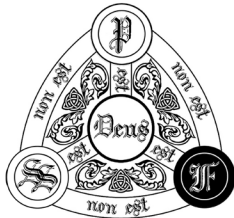
p.75

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Who has been an example to you? What did they exemplify that you appreciated? What is the value of an example over a list of instructions?
- ▲ **Focus** His Suffering.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 75 – 77.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** How much of the suffering that people experience in this life is more than is deserved? How was Jesus an example of response to suffering? How was he an example of a response to unjust suffering? Read Matthew 11:29. If we come to Him in our suffering what does He offer?
- ▲ **Personal** Today as members pray for their needs and those of others pray also for the rest of their souls in the midst of suffering.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

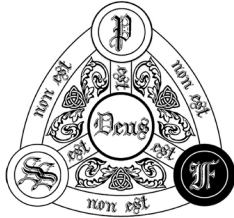
# HIS DEATH p.78

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Ask Hank to tell about Grief Share. Also ask him to tell how his faith in the death of Jesus gives him hope in the face of grief. If Hank is not available then ask another mature Christian how their faith has allowed them to cope with grief.
- ▲ **Focus** His Death
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 78 – 80.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read John 11:35 and Matthew 26:39. How would you describe Jesus' feelings toward the death of His friend Lazarus and His own death? Read 2 Corinthians 5:8 and Philippians 1:23. According to these verses what should our attitude be toward our death? How does the death and resurrection of Jesus allow us to both grieve and have hope at death?
- ▲ **Personal** If members of the group know someone who grieves begin praying for their needs and then also for the needs of others.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

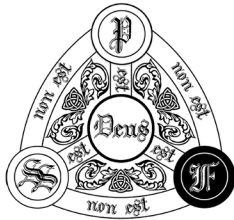
# HIS RESURRECTION p.81

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach**     What is an important mark of maturity? When in your life do you recall taking a significant step toward maturity?
- ▲ **Focus**         His Resurrection.
- ▲ **Information**    Read the chapter pages 81 – 82.
- ▲ **Analysis**        Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions**      Read Romans 6:1 – 7. What is the spiritual reality of a believer before he or she is baptized? Dead to sin. What does baptism portray about your spiritual reality since you've died to sin? What are some ways your life has changed since you died to sin and experienced new life?
- ▲ **Personal.**        Thank the Lord for your new life and pray for others needs.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

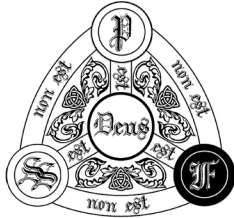
# HIS REIGN p.83

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** What does "state's right" mean to you? Why do you think this remains an ongoing conflict in American politics? On a larger scale where have you observed a conflict between the God of all creation and human authorities?
- ▲ **Focus** His Reign.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 83 – 84.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Colossians 1:13 – 18. You civil head is Jesus. According to these verses what are some of the hallmarks of Jesus' reign? How do you think His reign is effective in the present?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask the members to describe when they have experienced the conflict between the reign of this Jesus and the power of this world. Then pray for one another.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS HOLD p.85

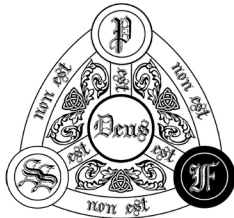
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** A sheriff friend of mine always carried a hand grip exerciser with him in his patrol car. He said that he worked it all the time because when he apprehended someone he wanted his first grasp to be secure and let the person know that he was in control. Where has a strong grip been important in your life?
- ▲ **Focus** His Hold.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 85 – 86.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read John 10: 27 – 30. Jesus is teaching in this passage that He is the (Shepherd) and we are the (sheep). In what sense does the shepherd hold on to the sheep? Why does our Shepherd hold on to us? How do sheep depend on their shepherd? How do you see yourself in the hold of your Good Shepherd? Do you feel secure in His grip?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask members to share where they are uncertain about the Lord's hold on their lives. Then pray for their needs and those of others.





part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS HELP p.87

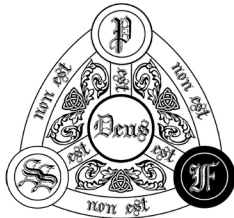
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Share a time when you received unexpected help that you needed very much.
- ▲ **Focus** His Help.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 87 – 88.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read James 1:5 and 2 Thessalonians 3:3 and 1 Peter 5:10. What is our Lord ready to supply to those who have need of His help? Now read James 4:2. What is the reason that we don't have the help we need?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask members to share a need that they have for help from the Lord. Pray for those needs and the needs of others.





part 2  
GOD THE SON

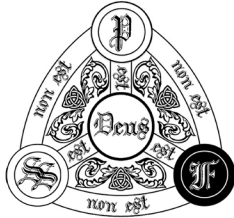
# HIS PRESENCE p.89

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach**     What are some of your earliest memories of church experience?
- ▲ **Focus**         His Presence.
- ▲ **Information**   Read the chapter pages 89 – 90.
- ▲ **Analysis**      Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions**     Read Matthew 18:15 – 20. The promise to be in the midst of His people is the promise at the end of His instruction to carry out discipline within His church. Why do you think discipline and Jesus presence with His church are connected in this way? What do you think His presence means for the worship of His people and the conduct of his people?
- ▲ **Personal**      Pray for your church and ask the Lord to be present with your church. Pray for the needs of others.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

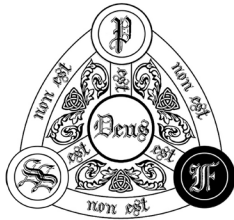
# HIS CHURCH p.91

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** In our text the author declares, "You hear people say, 'I love Jesus but not the church.'" What do people mean by this? Why do you agree or disagree with them? What reasons have you heard people give for leaving one church and joining another church (apart from moving)? Do you think those reasons are valid? Why or why not?
- ▲ **Focus** His church.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 91 – 93.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Matthew 25:31 – 46. How does Jesus want us to interact with others in His church? How does your care of others affect Jesus? Read 1 John 4:7 – 12. What kind of hypocrisy is John pointing out to us? What would you suggest as an antidote to this hypocrisy?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for the pastor(s) and leaders of your church to set an example of love for one another. Pray for the men of your church to follow that example.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

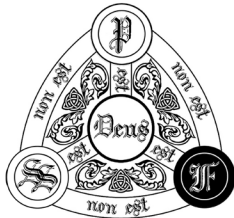
# HIS MISSION p.94

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Read Matthew 22:36 – 40 and Matthew 28:19. These are the “Great Commandments” and the “Great Commission.” How would you order them in importance and why?
- ▲ **Focus** His Mission.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 94 – 95.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** After reading this lesson how do you think the “Great Commandments” and the “Great Commission” fit together in our Lord's plan for His church? To understand disciple making read Colossians 1:28. What does St. Paul do to make disciples? When a disciple is complete in Christ? What do you think he is like?
- ▲ **Personal** When considering discipleship, the first concern of a believer is his or her own discipleship. Ask the members to pray for themselves and their struggles to become complete in Christ. Ask them also to pray for their church's efforts to make disciples and then pray for others needs as well.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

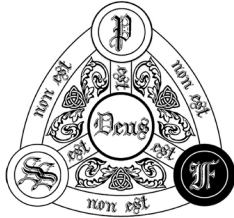
# HIS PRIESTHOOD p.96

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach**     What do a lawyer, a mediator, an arbitrator, a congressman and a union representative all have in common? They all represent our interests. Why do we sometimes need others to represent our needs and interests?
- ▲ **Focus**         His Priesthood.
- ▲ **Information**   Read the chapter pages 96 – 97.
- ▲ **Analysis**      Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions**     Read Hebrews 4:14 – 16. Theologians say that Our Lord Jesus Christ is always in session in the court of heaven on our behalf. Why can He do this? How is his human experience the basis of both His appeal to God and His sympathy with us? What is your response to this intercession of Jesus on our behalf?
- ▲ **Personal**      Ask them to pray with confidence for their needs and the needs of others.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

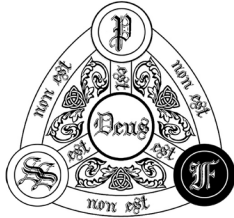
# HIS KINGDOM p.98

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Does anyone here have dual citizenship? What does that mean for national loyalty? In the lesson Joe Thorn is talking about the dual citizenship of the Christian as a follower of the King, Jesus. How do you think Christians should live as citizens of two realms?
- ▲ **Focus** His Kingdom
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 98 – 99.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** When Jesus was asked by the Pharisees, "...when the kingdom of God would come," (Luke 17:20), do you think they didn't believe in the kingdom? If they did believe, why is Jesus answer so radical to them? According to Matthew 18:36 – 37 what is the character of a person who lives now in the Kingdom of heaven? How do we become child like?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask the members of the group if there are any circumstances in their lives where humbling themselves would be right but difficult. Pray for one another.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

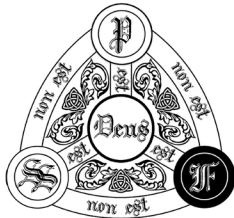
# HIS PRAYER p.100

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Please share a story of your experience with the effectiveness of prayer?
- ▲ **Focus** His Prayer.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 100 – 101.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Why would the prayers of Jesus be more effective than anyone else's prayers? Read James 5:16. If this is true why would the prayers of Jesus be so much more valuable? How does this help explain why Christians pray in the name of Jesus?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for one another's needs.



part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS GLORY p.102

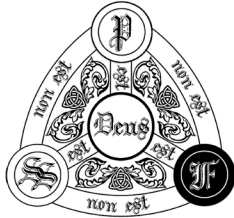
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Someone defined an expert as a "drip under pressure." Humor aside who are some experts that you rely upon? Why should Christians be experts on Jesus?
- ▲ **Focus** His Glory.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 102 – 103.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Re-read the last half of the first paragraph on page 103 beginning, "You must give yourself..." Also read Philippians 3:7 – 11. In what ways did St. Paul not only know about Jesus but know Him? How can you and I know our glorious Lord Jesus intimately in this life?
- ▲ **Personal** As prayer begins with this lesson re-read Philippians 3:10, then encourage the group to pray for themselves and for others.





part 2  
GOD THE SON

# HIS RETURN p.104

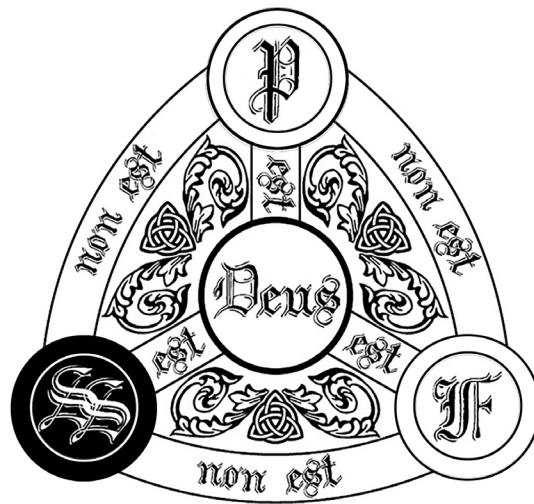
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** After leaving Corregidor in the Philippines in May 1942, Gen. Douglas MacArthur promised to return and He did defeating the Japanese and retaking the Philippines in 1945. Jesus also promised to return. Facing his executioners just before His crucifixion he declared, "I am and you shall see the Son of Man ... coming with the clouds of heaven." It is this dearly held hope of His return that the church has cherished for two millennia.
- ▲ **Focus** His Return.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 104 – 105.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Re-read the last sentence of the first paragraph. How can we keep a balance between being too other-worldly and of no value in this life and being too this-worldly and forgetting our Lord's return?
- ▲ **Personal** As you pray for yourself and others pray that you will be ready to present yourself and your life on earth when the Lord returns.

PART THREE:  
GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT



*SS = SPIRITUS SANCTUS (Latin: "Holy Spirit")*

"The Holy Spirit is God"

"The Holy Spirit is not the Father"

"The Holy Spirit is not the Son"

"God is the Holy Spirit"

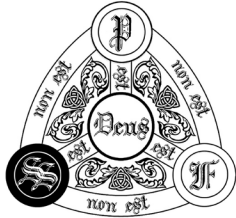


part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

# HE REGENERATES p.109

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety. Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification. In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Describe a time when you thought you were going to die. How did that make you feel? In what sense did you experience new life?
- ▲ **Focus** He Regenerates.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 109 – 110.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read John 3:6 – 8, Titus 3:5 and 1 Peter 1:3. What do these verses have in common when they talk about regeneration? (Note that they all have God as the effective cause of regeneration and we are the recipients. Note too that regeneration is based on the death and resurrection of Jesus. Finally note that the Holy Spirit is the active agent in the application of regeneration to our lives.) So this new, regenerated life comes from \_\_\_\_\_ (God, Jesus) to \_\_\_\_\_ (you, me) by the \_\_\_\_\_ (Holy Spirit). How do you think that you as a Christian reflect the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- ▲ **Personal** The group should be told that prayer has new meaning when the one who prays is regenerated by the Holy Spirit. They may want to discuss why this is the case. Then pray for people's needs and for the regeneration of those who need the Lord.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

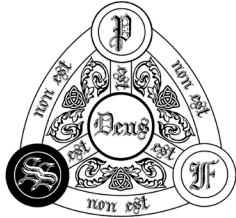
# HE INDWELLS p.111

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Describe a time when you felt small. What made you feel that way?
- ▲ **Focus** He indwells.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 111 – 113.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Romans 8:9. Why do you think that it is important that the Holy Spirit indwells believers? Why does it make a difference? How does it make you feel to know that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
- ▲ **Personal** Have the group members pray for themselves and others.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

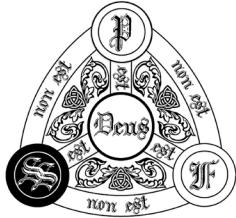
# HE INTERCEDES p.114

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Do you find it difficult to pray in public? Why?
- ▲ **Focus** He Intercedes.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 114 – 115.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** How does the Holy Spirit's intercession encourage your prayer life? Is the form of your words important to God (see Matthew 6:7)? Why not? If the Holy Spirit is interceding and lifting your prayers to God should you pray more or less? Why?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for people's needs.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

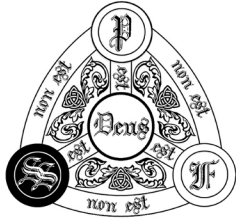
# HE FILLS p.116

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Describe a moving experience that you have had. What was it that so over-powered you?
- ▲ **Focus** He Fills.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 116 – 117.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Read Ephesians 5:18 – 21. What does the author mean when he says (p. 117) that the Holy Spirit's, "work in your life will move you in two directions: horizontally and vertically."? How have you seen that to be true?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for the worship and fellowship of your church.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

# HE COMFORTS p.118

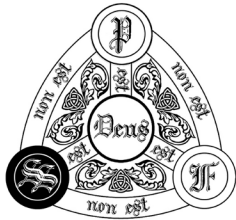
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach**     What kinds of pain do people experience? What pain do people fear most? How can one suffer pain and still experience comfort?
- ▲ **Focus**         He Comforts.
- ▲ **Information**   Read the chapter pages 118 – 119.
- ▲ **Analysis**      Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions**     After listening to the chapter and the discussion how would you recommend one seek comfort while suffering pain or loss?
- ▲ **Personal**      The author writes about the, "calming of the heart and the guarding of the mind" as part of the Spirit's comfort. Have the group pray for those they know who need these benefits of the Spirit in their suffering.





part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

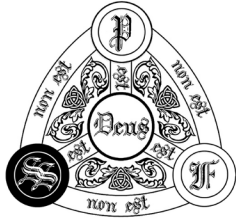
# HE TEACHES p.120

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Who was your favorite or best teacher in school? What makes a good teacher?
- ▲ **Focus** He Teaches.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 120 – 121.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Re-read John 14:26. Can you identify the Trinity in this verse? What are three things that the Holy Spirit does for our enrichment and enlightenment? How are these important for your learning?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for your growth in the knowledge of the scriptures and for the needs of others.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

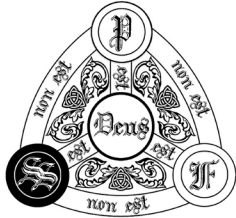
# HE LEADS p.122

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Much has been written and said about leadership. Tell about a leader whom you admired. What makes a good leader?
- ▲ **Focus** He leads.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 122 – 123.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** Leading without a clear sense of direction is foolishness. According to the author on page 122, paragraph two, "...where does the Spirit lead his people?" What does the Spirit use to lead us in the way of Jesus? Where have you found the Bible most valuable to you in following Jesus?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for the Spirit's leading as you pray for people's needs.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

# HE CONVICTS p.124

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Bruce says, "When I've been under conviction it has led me to seek Christian counsel. What role does conviction play in your Christian life?"
- ▲ **Focus** He Convicts.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 124 – 125.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** How can one be more sensitive to conviction?
- ▲ **Personal** Ask if anyone is experiencing the pain of conviction who would like prayer. Gather the group around that person ( or persons) to pray.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

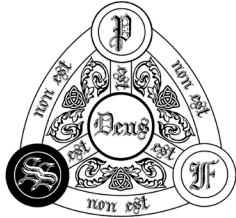
# HE POINTS TO JESUS p.126

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach**     What is the difference between true north and magnetic north? How does this effect the accuracy of a compass?
- ▲ **Focus**         He Points to Jesus.
- ▲ **Information**   Read the chapter pages 126 – 127.
- ▲ **Analysis**     Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions**    The author says in the third paragraph, "...if your love for God the Spirit does not heighten your dependence on Jesus, then it is not the Spirit at work in you. It is something else." Have you ever seen a Christian get pointed in the wrong direction? What are some things that point Christians in the wrong direction? Read 1 Peter 1:2. Pick out the Trinity. What is the work of the Holy Spirit relative to Jesus? Would you say that you are growing in obedience to Jesus?
- ▲ **Personal**     Pray for people's needs and pray that they will learn to obey Jesus through their difficulties.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

# HE REVIVES p.128

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** When have you experienced spiritual coldness? How or what changed for you?
- ▲ **Focus** He Revives.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 128 – 129.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** What does revival mean to you personally and for the church? Re-read the last paragraph. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for revival.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

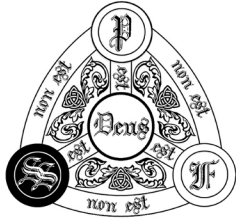
# HE GIVES WISDOM p.130

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Can you recall when wisdom changed the direction of your life? Tell the group about that experience.
- ▲ **Focus** He Gives Wisdom.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 130 – 131.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** How do you distinguish between knowledge and wisdom? Why do you think we need to ask for wisdom?
- ▲ **Personal** Where do you need wisdom today or do you know someone for whom we could pray for wisdom? Have the members pray for wisdom for themselves, the church or others.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

# HE SANCTIFIES

p.132

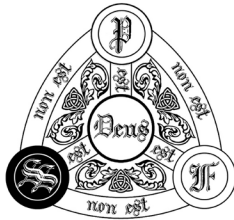
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Tell about someone you have known whom you would call a saint. What were their outstanding qualities?
- ▲ **Focus** He Sanctifies.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 132 – 134.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** The author talks about sanctification and transformation. How do you distinguish the two? What can we do to cooperate with the process of transformation?
- ▲ **Personal** Have the group pray for one another.





part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

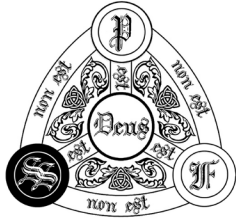
# HE GRIEVES p.135

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach**     What has been an outstanding grief for you? Is it possible to grieve over someone's failure toward you? How is this kind of grief distinct?
- ▲ **Focus**         He Grieves.
- ▲ **Information**   Read the chapter pages 135 – 136.
- ▲ **Analysis**      Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions**     Read Galatians 5:16 – 24. Of the two lists which are of the Spirit and which are opposed to the Spirit? In the next to the last paragraph the author says, "Your ground level garden work is to uproot the weeds of unrighteousness through confession and consecration." What do you think he means by this and how would you recommend someone go about doing this?
- ▲ **Personal**      Pray for the fruit of the Spirit in your life and in the lives of others.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

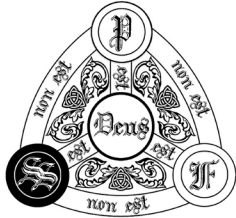
# HE GIVES GIFTS p.137

**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Best gift ever or worst gift ever, what would be yours? When a person receives a gift what responses could they have, good or bad?
- ▲ **Focus** He Gives Gifts.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 137 – 138.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** At the end of the second paragraph on page 138 the author says, "The Father gave you Jesus, Jesus gave you eternal life, and together they have given you the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit has given you spiritual gifts." What does this tell you about the roles and relationships within the Trinity? If this is all ordered in this way so that you might receive these gifts, then what should you and I expect to do with the gifts we have received?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for yourself and others to use their gifts in service to the church and in the community.



part 3  
GOD THE SPIRIT

# HE RESURRECTS

p.139

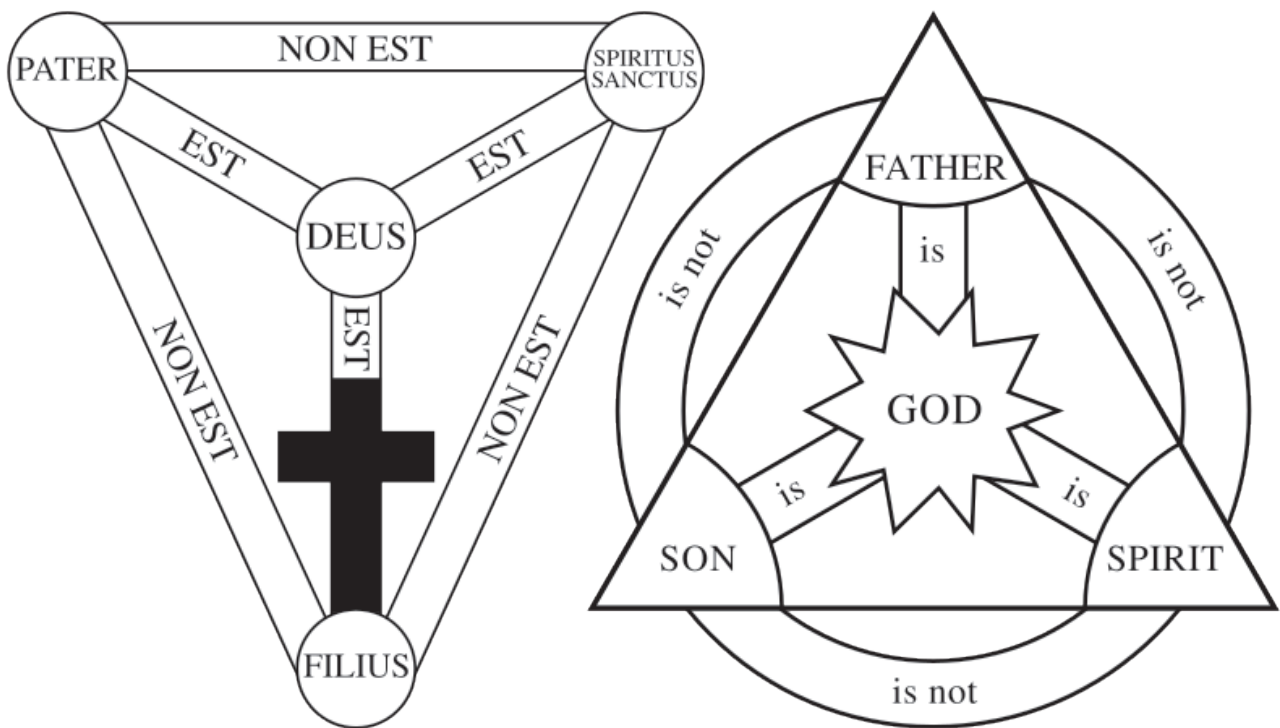
**AS THE LEADER** for the discussion of this chapter you are asked to read and re-read the chapter for your own familiarity. When you lead the discussion you may use the suggested approach questions or activities or you may devise your own approach to the lesson. You are expected to read the chapter out loud in its entirety.

Please be prepared to share your thoughts and insights from your own reading and ask others to share theirs as well. The questions for further discussion are suggested for your use but you may have questions of your own or you may find that the discussion proceeds well without further questions. You will lead the discussion as you think best. If you should have questions in preparing for the discussion, please call the pastor or one of the elders for clarification.

In a personal conclusion ask the group to pray in response to the attribute of the person of the trinity which has been discussed and to include any prayers for others needs of which they know.

- ▲ **Approach** Complete this sentence, "When I finish this job I'm going to \_\_\_\_\_." Why in the midst of your work do you look forward to this activity or place or recreation as your reward?
- ▲ **Focus** He Resurrects.
- ▲ **Information** Read the chapter pages 139 – 140.
- ▲ **Analysis** Tell your thoughts and reactions. Ask others to share their thoughts and reactions. For further clarification ask them why they thought or reacted as they did.
- ▲ **Questions** In this life of suffering how does the power of the resurrection show itself? Why is it so difficult for us to understand a life where suffering is completely eliminated and the power of the resurrection is supreme?
- ▲ **Personal** Pray for the power of the resurrection to be demonstrated through our own sufferings and those of others.

# SHIELD OF THE TRINITY



*The Shield of the Trinity, a visual representation of the doctrine of the Trinity, derived from the Athanasian Creed.*

The diagram above shows the earliest and most recent major variants of the “Shield of the Trinity” diagram: On the left, the form attested in various manuscripts c. 1208–1260 AD, and on the right the form popularized among some English-speaking Protestants in recent years by Paul P. Enns' 1989 book *The Moody Handbook of Theology* and H. Wayne House's 1992 book *Charts of Christian Theology and Doctrine*.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shield\\_of\\_the\\_Trinity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shield_of_the_Trinity)

# ATHANASIAN CREED

**The Athanasian Creed** was designed to distinguish Nicene Christianity from the heresy of Arianism (a nontrinitarian Christological doctrine based on the belief that the Son of God did not always exist but was begotten by God the Father). While ascribing the divine attributes and divinity to each person of the Trinity, thus avoiding subordinationism, the first half of the Athanasian Creed also stresses the unity of the three persons in the one Godhead, thus avoiding a theology of tritheism. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasian\\_Creed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasian_Creed)

Writing for The Gospel Coalition, John Starke notes that “[Christians] have long debated the role of creeds and councils without reaching full consensus. Evangelicals care about sound doctrine, and we would be wrong to think it didn’t exist until the Reformation. So what’s an appropriate emphasis on creeds and councils for evangelicals in particular? What authority should they have in our life and doctrine?”

“Bruce Demarest . . . makes the same point rather well:

[T]he creed is not only a rule; it is also a rule that is ruled. As human formulations the creeds are subordinate to Scripture, the supreme rule of faith and practice. However majestic its language, however moving its assertions, however closely it purports to approximate apostolic doctrine, the creed is a human and therefore potentially fallible document. Ultimately the creeds must be checked and ruled by the Word of God. Christendom’s creeds are worthy of honour to the degree that they accord with the teaching of the Word of God.”

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-to-do-with-creeds-and-councils/>

The following “evangelical version” of the Athanasian Creed includes relevant Scriptures and clarifies language found in the original used by Catholic and Orthodox churches.

# ATHANASIAN CREED

## *Evangelical Version*

- Whosoever will be saved must believe in the One True God as He has revealed Himself to us in the Bible (Psalm 103:11&17), and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ according to the Gospel (Acts 6:31). That is the Universal Christian faith apart from which there is no salvation (Mark 16:16).
- And God has revealed Himself in Scripture as one God in three Persons and three Persons in one God without combining the Persons or dividing the Deity.
- For the Father is one Person (Luke 23:34), the Son is another Person (Matthew 3:17), and the Holy Ghost is yet another Person (John 14:16, 17 & 26).
- But the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are One God (James 2:19, 1 John 5:7): Therefore, Their glory is equal and Their majesty is coeternal.
- Those things pertaining to the Deity of the Father are true also of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.
- As the Father was never created (Psalm 90:2), the Son was never created (Micah 5:2), and the Holy Ghost was never created (Hebrews 9:14).
- As the Father is incomprehensible (Romans 11:33), the Son is incomprehensible (John 1:1), and the Holy Ghost is incomprehensible (1 Corinthians 2:11).
- As the Father is eternal (Isaiah 63:16), the Son is eternal (Micah 5:2, John 8:58), and the Holy Ghost is eternal (Hebrews 9:14).
- And yet they are not three Eternal Beings, but one Eternal Being (Mark 12:29).
- Likewise there are not three Uncreated Beings or three Incomprehensible Beings, but one Uncreated Being and one Incomprehensible Being (Deuteronomy 6:4, Job 9:10 and 37:5, Psalm 90:2, Isaiah 43:10, 1 Timothy 6:16).
- So likewise the Father is almighty (Jeremiah 32:18, 2 Corinthians 6:8), the Son almighty (Revelation 1:8,18, Isaiah 9:6), and the Holy Ghost almighty (Ezekiel 10:5, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17).
- And yet they are not three Almighty Beings, but one Almighty Being (Mark 12:32).

- So the Father is God (1 Peter 1:2), the Son is God (1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:8) and the Holy Ghost is God (Acts 5:3-4).
- And yet they are not three Gods, but one God (Mark 12:32).
- So likewise the Father is Lord (Matthew 11:25), the Son is Lord (2 Timothy 1:2), and the Holy Ghost is Lord (Isaiah 40:13, Job 33:4).
- And yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord (1 John 5:7).
- For as we are compelled by Scripture to recognize each person by Himself to be God and Lord, So we are forbidden by Scripture to say that there are three Gods or three Lords.
- The Father was not made by anyone, nor was He created or begotten (Psalm 90:2).
- The Son is of the Father alone, not made or created, but begotten (John 3:18).
- The Holy Ghost is of the Father and of the Son, neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeding (John 15:26, Romans 8:9).
- So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Ghost, not three Holy Ghosts.
- And in this Unity-Of-Three none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another;
- But the three Persons are together coeternal and coequal (John 5:18, Philippians 2:5-7), so as being in all things one God in three Persons they are to be worshiped together in Unity as Three in One (1 John 5:7).
- For this is the God of the Bible outside of Whom there is no salvation.
- Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting salvation for one to believe in Jesus Christ as the incarnate Son of God and in His death as the atonement for our sin.
- For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man (Romans 1:3-4); God of the substance as His Father (John 10:30), always existing as the only begotten Son of God (Micah 5:2, John 17:5); and Man of the substance of His mother (Romans 1:3), born in the world (Matthew 1:18); Truly and completely God (Titus 2:13) and truly and completely Man (1 Timothy 2:5), consisting of both body and soul (Mark 15:37-39).



- As God He is equal to the Father (Philippians 2:6) yet as man inferior to the Father (1 Corinthians 15:28); Who while being both God and Man is not two individuals or two Christs, but one individual, one Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6, 1 Timothy 2:5).
- One, not by conversion of Deity into flesh (Malachi 3:6), but by taking manhood into God (Hebrews 2:14, Philippians 2:5-7); One altogether; not by mixing divinity with humanity (Malachi 3:6), but by uniting the two in one person (Jeremiah 23:5-6, Colossians 2:9, John 14:9).
- For as man consists of both body and soul, so Christ consists of both Deity and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5, 1 John 5:20); And Christ suffered for our salvation (1 Peter 2:21), died for our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3), descended into prison (Hebrew *sheol* or Greek *hades*)—(1 Peter 3:18-19), rose again the third day from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:4), ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9-11), and there sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty (Mark 16:19); from whence He shall come to judge both the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1).
- At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies and shall give account of their own works (John 5:29 and 6:39-40), and at that judgement only those who have in this life (2 Corinthians 6:2) looked to Christ for mercy, trusting in His sacrifice for forgiveness (Titus 3:5, Romans 3:25), shall be without sin and counted as doers of good in the sight of God (Romans 3:28, Romans 4:5, Romans 10:4&11).
- And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting; and they that have done evil, into everlasting fire (John 5:29, Matthew 25:31- 46).
- This is the Universal Christian Faith apart from which there is no salvation.

<http://www.branscome.org/athcreed.htm>



**THE GRACE OF GOD  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD**