

Catechetical Sermon, June 2nd, 2024

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 8, "The Trinity"

Scripture Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:4-6

Lesson Aim	To understand three things: that God is one, second, that God is three and third, that God is both one and three.
Steps to Learning	Read the Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 8 and 1 Corinthians 8:4-6 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>What do we mean when we say that God is one? That there is only one God, not many gods as some people believe.</p> <p>What are some Scriptures that state that there is only one God? Deuteronomy 6:4 and 1 Corinthians 8:4-6.</p> <p>Is it correct to say that God exists as one indivisible essence? Yes, this refers to the biblical fact that this is what God is most basically; it is the "whatness" of God. He is divine and perfect in all of his attributes.</p> <p>The Old Testament is clear that there is only one God. Does the Old Testament also reveal that God is three? Yes, however, it is not clearly revealed as it is in the New Testament. That God is also three is revealed by the use of the Old Testament word for God in the plural, "Elohim." Also, God speaks in the plural as in Genesis 1:26 where he says, "Let us make man in our image." Another helpful text is found in Genesis 16:7-10 where the Angel of the LORD speaks as the LORD.</p> <p>What biblical texts speak to each person in the Trinity being God? That the Father is God: Psalm 68:5, Malachi 2:10, 1 Corinthians 8:6. That Jesus is God: John 1:1, John 20:28, Romans 9:4,5. That the Holy Spirit is God: Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13 (the Spirit creates, only God can create), Acts 5:1-4.</p> <p>Each person is the Trinity if fully God, does that mean that there are three Gods? No, there is only one God but he exists eternally in three distinct persons who are equally God.</p> <p>What do we mean by the ontological and economical Trinity? The ontological trinity refers to the eternal relationship each person in the Trinity has to one another. The economical trinity refers to the actions of each person in time and space. We determine the eternal relationship each person has to one another by their economical actions. For instance, the Scriptures teach that the Holy Spirit is sent from the Father and the Son to the earth. This action tells us that there is an analogous relation, in eternity, between the Spirit, Son and Father.</p>
Bible Reading	Acts 19-21 [The story of the early church] (covering the great Bible stories)