

Belgic Confession, Article 8, “The Trinity”

Scripture Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Lesson Aim	To understand two things: First, that God is One. Second, God exists eternally in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Steps to Learning	Read Belgic Confession, Article 8 and Ephesians 1:3-14 . Discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may work best to work through the material over several days or sessions.
Discuss	<p>Why is it so important to understand the Trinity? The Athanasian Creed states that in order for a person to be saved, he must believe the doctrine (the biblical teaching) of the Trinity.</p> <p>What does it mean that God is One? It means that there is only one God who exists and that he exists as one indivisible essence. That is, God is numerically one and one in essence.</p> <p>What are some Scriptures that teach that God is one numerically and one in essence? Deuteronomy 6:4, Romans 3:29-30, 1 Corinthians 8:4-6, 1 Timothy 2:5.</p> <p>What do we mean when we confess that God exists eternally in three distinct persons? The Belgic says that there is one only God, who is the one single essence, in which are three persons, really, truly, and eternally distinct according to their incommunicable properties: namely, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>What are some Old Testament Scriptures that speak to the distinctions within the Trinity? Genesis 1:2; 16:7-10, Isaiah 48:16.</p> <p>What are some New Testament Scriptures that speak of the divinity of Jesus Christ, the Son of God? John 1:1; 3:16.</p> <p>What are some Scriptures that speak of the divinity of the Holy Spirit? John 15:26, Acts 5:3-4.</p> <p>What is a Scripture that speaks of all three persons working at one time? Matthew 3:16-17.</p>
Bible Reading	Genesis chapters 37-50 [The Joseph stories] (covering the great Bible stories)