



UNITY: THE FORGOTTEN TREASURE

ETC Course Handout - Lesson 18

Trinity: The Nature of God

Course Section	Section 3 - A Unifying Analysis of Our Doctrines
Book Connection	Chapter 16 - Trinity: The Nature of God
Lesson Aim	Study the scriptural components behind the doctrine of the Trinity while maintaining humility about theological formulations.

Key Scriptures

Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; John 1:1-3.

1. The Biblical Starting Point

- Christian teaching about God begins with Scripture's affirmations about the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- The doctrine of the Trinity seeks to summarize these biblical realities faithfully.

Notes:

2. The Triunity's Scriptural Components

- Scripture affirms one God while speaking personally and divinely of Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Theological language attempts to hold these truths together without denying either unity or distinction.

Notes:

THINK ABOUT IT

Where should confidence be strongest: in Scripture's statements about God or in our ability to explain exactly how those truths fit together?

3. Doctrine and Mystery

- A doctrine can be necessary without exhausting the reality it describes.
- Human terminology is a servant used to protect biblical truth, not a complete explanation of God's being.

Notes:

4. Seeking the Peace of Christ

- Christians should distinguish between the scriptural truths that must be confessed and philosophical explanations that may go beyond them.
- Humility about mystery can reduce unnecessary hostility while preserving core faith.

Notes:

5. A Model for Other Doctrines

- The Trinity shows why Christians need both doctrinal clarity and disciplined limits on speculation.

Notes:

Study & Application

Use these after the lesson and related book reading. The complete chapter study-question set remains in the textbook.

1. What scriptural truths must any faithful doctrine of the Trinity preserve?

2. Why are theological terms useful when the exact terms may not appear in Scripture?

3. How can mystery encourage humility without weakening conviction?

4. What lesson from Trinitarian doctrine can be applied to other difficult theological issues?

KEY TAKEAWAY: Faithful doctrine confesses all that Scripture reveals about God while refusing to make human explanation greater than revelation.

Next: Complete the 7-question Lesson 18 online quiz.