

One of our core beliefs relates to the truth that Jesus Christ is a part of the Trinity or God-head. While this is a very deep subject and one quite honestly we can't fully explain, the Bible clearly teaches this truth. Our inability to get our minds around it does not disprove the reality of the truth. How God can be three yet one is a mystery for the ages but it is still true. There are certain things from scripture we must apply faith to regardless of our being able to explain it. This core belief is one of those things.

Therefore, this week's **CORE** is going to be a little different than previous ones. We are going to look at many verses together and try to bring some clarity and understanding to this deep truth of who Jesus was and is. During the sections, please apply yourself to the Word of God. Let God himself speak to you through the Word. There will no doubt be questions that come up as you read and study the scriptures. Don't be afraid of them - write them down and think through them during the day and week. Ask God to reveal His truth to your heart.

In Deuteronomy 4:29 we find God speaking to the Israelites saying, "...you will search for the Lord Your God, and you will find him when you seek Him with all your heart and all your soul." In Matthew 7:7-8 Jesus tells us, 7 "Keep asking, and it will be given to you. Keep searching, and you will find. Keep knocking, and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who searches finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. (HCSB)

My prayer for you this week is that you will seek God with all your heart and keep knocking until by the guidance of the Holy Spirit you will gain understanding of who Jesus really is and that that knowledge would change your life.

SECTION 1

Read John 1:1-5

*The "Word" John is speaking about here is identified as Jesus Christ in vs. 14-18.

1. What are three things we can learn about the Word from verse 1?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
2. What do you think "in the beginning" means? Does it mean that the Word had a beginning? Use some of the websites listed on our website -- www.fbcnowata.com for help in answering this question. Or consult some commentaries for more information.
3. How does verse 2 help in understanding the meaning of "in the beginning?"
4. What does verse 3 teach us about Jesus? What are the implications of this teaching?
5. Verse 4 says that "Life was in Him". What does that mean to you? Can you find other verses that deal with this truth?
6. Why is verse 5 important? Does it encourage you? Why?

SECTION 2

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and 2:9

1. What does verse 15 and 2:9 teach us about Jesus?
2. Does the phrase "the firstborn over all creation" suggest that Jesus was created? Why or why not?
3. Verse 16 connects with John 3 you read in section 1, how does it make you feel knowing that by Jesus everything was created?

4. By him, through Him and for Him are all in vs16. What is the difference between these phrases?
5. Vs. 17 says Jesus holds all things together. Meditate on that. How can knowing this affect your life? What areas does this truth need to affect your life?

SECTION 3

Reread Colossians 1:15-20 focusing on 18-20.

Spend time meditating on these last three verses. Ask God for understanding and how these verses apply to you personally as a person whom Jesus has reconciled to God by His own blood.

Closing Thought: Jesus has provided you with the opportunity for peace. This peace came at a great price and was decided on by God before the foundation of the world. You are that important to God! Find your glory in knowing you are a child of the King Eternal.