

THE TRINITY: One God, Three Persons

Prof. Paulson

Course Description: We will examine the Christian doctrine of the Trinity: One God, three persons, in according to the evangelical (Reformation) witness.

Objectives: To examine our confession that the heavens and the earth are the creation of the Triune God, and so is the new creation by which we are crucified to the cosmos and the cosmos to us (Galatians 6) thus—the triune God creates us anew.

Course Book: Steven Paulson, Lutheran Theology (T & T Clark, 2011)

Session One January 30: The Sublime (“Lofty”) Articles of Divine Majesty: One God, three persons and the Two natures of Christ

1. The Creeds: Apostles’, Nicene and Athanasian
2. Paul’s Letter to the Romans
 - a. Romans 1:1-15: The Preacher (Read Lutheran Theology, Chap. 1)
 - b. Romans 1:16-17 The Sermon (Read Lutheran Theology Chap. 2)
3. Ontological Difficulties with the Trinity start with the Father (Monism, Dualism, Substance Theology and the rejection of law and Gospel for the legal scheme).
 - a. Persons
 - b. Name

Session Two February 6: The Preached, Verbal Trinity: The Son

1. Life Without a Preacher Romans 1:18-3:20 (Lutheran Theology chapter 3)
2. God preached Romans 3:21-31: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son (Lutheran Theology Chapter 4)
3. The Baptism (and Temptation) of Jesus Christ: Matthew 3:13-4:11

Session Three: February 13: How did you receive the Holy Spirit?

1. Romans 4, 5 Faith (Lutheran Theology chapters 5 and 6)
2. Romans 6 Baptism (Lutheran Theology chapter 7)

Session four: February 20: What the Triune God does with sinners: Freedom from the Law and Death

1. Romans 7 (Read Lutheran Theology chapter 8)
2. Romans 8 (Read Lutheran Theology chapter 9)
3. How to Teach the evangelical doctrine of the Trinity

Session five: February 27: Faith’s Certainty and the Fruit of the Spirit

1. Luther’s Hymn: “We All Believe in One True God”
2. Romans 9-11 (Lutheran Theology chapter 10)
3. Romans 12 (Lutheran Theology chapter 11)