



# Study 1: Appreciating our Triune God

(for online sermons, visit:  
[www.hopechurch.org.nz](http://www.hopechurch.org.nz))

## Scanning

Main Texts: Ephesians 1:3-14; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:8:13

Wayne Grudem offers this helpful orthodox definition of what the Bible teaches about the Trinity:

**“God exists eternally as three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
and each person is fully God,  
and there is one God.”** (*Systematic Theology*)

Honestly, when you think about the concept of Trinity, do you find yourself excited or bored? Why? What are your previous “encounters” with this doctrine?

## Going Deeper

1. Consider how the above definition describes God. What are the foundational biblical truths about God that make up our understanding of the Trinity?
  - Old Testament:
  - New Testament:
  - In what sense is God “one”? In what sense is God “three”?
2. Looking again at the definition, in what ways might people misunderstand the Trinity and so misrepresent God?
3. Why is it important for us to think of God “truly”?
4. It is often said: “If you try to understand the Trinity, you will lose your mind. If you try to deny the Trinity, you will lose your faith.” What would you say to a Christian who questions the importance of knowing God as Trinity?
5. Do you tend to emphasise the *oneness* of God or the *threeness* of God? Why? What are the possible dangers of both if you exclude the other?

## Applying

6. In Our Triune God, Peter Toon says:  
“The whole of the New Testament stands as a witness to the basic Trinitarian consciousness in the hearts of the writers and of the early Christian Church. They knew the reality of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in their Christian experience, worship and contemplation.”
  - Do you know this same reality? If someone were to shadow you for a week (overhear your prayers, see your thoughts, and observe your relationship with God), would they see that you love and serve a Triune God?
  - If someone were to attend Hope Community Church, would they be able to tell that we love and believe in the Trinity?
7. God is a loving community. How does the Trinitarian view of God help us to understand ourselves as individuals created in the image of God?