

**Getting God Right
The Trinity
Sermon Outline**

*Deuteronomy 5:6-7; 6:4-6
2 Corinthians 1:1-2, 3:1-8, 5-18; 13:14*

Introduction: Is it important to get God right? Many voices in our time say no.

I) Three reasons for not trying to get God right

A) The social reason:

We just end up fighting with each other

B) The therapeutic reason:

If “God” helps you face life and find peace, why bother about the details?

C) The epistemological reason:

It’s impossible to get God right (the existence of so many different versions of God proves this).

Paul wrestled with this argument

2 Cor. 3.1: Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need a letter of recommendation...?

2 Cor. 1.1: Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God

2 Cor. 3.2-3: You yourselves are our letter of recommendation...written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God

II) One good reason for trying to get God right

Because he is real

Deut. 5.6: I am the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt...You shall have no other gods before me.

Deut. 6.4: Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart/...And these words...shall be on your heart...

Paul: Not on a power trip, but bursting with wonder at the God of grace and love

III) God the Trinity

A) The Trinity defined:

WCF 2.3:

Deut 6.4: ...the LORD our God, the LORD is one

2 Cor. 1.2: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

2 Cor. 3.17-18: ..the Lord is the Spirit

2 Cor. 13.14: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

B) Not to believe in the Trinity is to be rude to God

No other gods before me

C) Not to believe in the Trinity is to deprive ourselves of great wonder and comfort

1) The Father and our salvation

- *2 Cor., 13.14: ...the love of God*

2) The Son and our salvation

- *2 Cor., 13.14: ...the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ*

3) The Spirit and our salvation

- *2 Cor., 13.14: ...the fellowship of the Holy Spirit*

Summary: Every member of the Trinity united in love for us

Take away: Let the real God, the holy Trinity, have his way with us and our imaginations

Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Is it important to you to get God “right”? Why? Why not?
- 2) Read over the first three of the ten commandments in Deuteronomy 5, thinking of them as expressions of getting God “right.” Why does this matter so much to him?
- 3) People these days often argue that it is not all that important to get God right and they give at least three reasons: (i) people that try too hard to get God right only end up fighting with each other; (ii) there is no good reason for doing so—since the important thing about faith is not its content but its ability to help us figure life out; (iii) it isn’t really possible to get God “right”—made obvious by the fact that there are so many different versions of him out there. Evaluate these reasons. Are they strong or weak? If you find them weak, why do you?
- 4) Some argue that since the word “Trinity” never occurs in the Bible (which is true), then it is a version of God that people made up. How do you respond to this argument?
- 5) Do you believe it is important to believe in the Trinity? If so, why? If not, why not?
- 6) Theologians distinguish between the “ontological Trinity” (what the Trinity is like in himself) and the “economic Trinity” (how the three persons of the Trinity express themselves in the dramas of creation and redemption). How does this distinction help us answer the charge raised by some that Jesus’ submission to his Father proved that he thought of himself as inferior in some sense to the Father?
- 7) Write a prayer to the Trinity, thanking the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit for their different roles in your salvation.