

### WARM-UP

- What are some characteristics you look for in a friend? Why are these important to you?
- What does an ideal relationship look like for you in your family or with your friends?
- What are the non-negotiables in your life? Why do they matter to you?

**WORD** *<sup>11</sup>Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup>Greet one another with a holy kiss. <sup>13</sup>All the saints greet you. <sup>14</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.* **2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-14**

Our Statement of Faith summarizes the twelve essential doctrines that we believe and teach in our church, which are based on the word of God. It is the basis of why we do the things we do and the non-negotiables when it comes to our faith. The Statement of Faith also helps us understand the overarching story of the gospel in the Bible.

In the next few weeks, we will be going through six of the twelve articles, starting with the most important—God. God is the anchor of our faith and He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person has a distinct role, but all are God and co-exist in a harmonious, perfect relationship with each other. Today, let's look at a blessing from the apostle Paul that shows the different roles fulfilled by each person of the Trinity.

## 1 | The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ brings salvation.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14*

(Read also **JOHN 1:14–17**.)

The grace of God—undeserved merit and favor—is fully expressed in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. He is full of God’s grace and also the way by whom we receive grace through faith. Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection bring us salvation as a free gift. By walking on earth as a human, Jesus is a reminder that God is not far from us. He is heavily concerned and involved in our lives, providing grace for us to live the kind of life God wants for us. How have you experienced the grace of God through Jesus Christ in your life?

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## 2 | The love of God our Father is His motivation for giving us His Son.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and **the love of God** and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14*

*“**For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**”*

**JOHN 3:16**

As sinners, we all justly deserve to experience eternal destruction. However, because God loves us, He doesn’t want us to perish, but instead have an eternal relationship with Him. His love for us is the reason He sent Jesus Christ to live and die in our place, thus accomplishing both His love and justice. Jesus is the ultimate expression of God’s love for us—He is the means by which we can receive forgiveness and

eternal life, and have a relationship with God. What are the other ways by which God shows His love to you each day?

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### 3 | **The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is possible because He lives in us.**

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all. 2 CORINTHIANS 13:14*

(Read also **1 CORINTHIANS 6:19-20** and **2 CORINTHIANS 6:16.**)

Because of God's love and grace through Jesus, those who put their faith in His Son are cleansed. Now, we can be His vessels, we become part of the body of Christ, and our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the presence of God within and among His people. His presence enables us to have a deep fellowship with God because He is not someone who is far off, but near and always with us. His presence is a continuous experience and reminder of God's grace, love, and power in our lives. His presence encourages us and binds us together as the body of Christ. What does the fellowship of the Holy Spirit mean for the fellowship within the church, the body of Christ?

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While knowing more about the Trinitarian nature of God is important, our human capacity to know Him is still limited. This only shows how vast and great our God is. We are to worship Him because of who He is. Even though we can't fully know the mysteries of God, we can walk with Him, trusting that in Him, we are fully known and fully loved.

## APPLICATION

- What about the Trinity do you struggle understanding the most? Pray that God would give you wisdom to know Him more each day.
- What is something you can start doing to spend more time with God and His word?
- The Trinity is a perfect example of relationship in God Himself. Pray for the grace to nurture godly relationships in your life, and that you would choose unity in the church amidst challenges.

## PRAYER

- Pray that as you know more about God, He would reveal Himself to you distinctly as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Thank God that He fulfills our every need in His Triune nature—through His love, grace, and fellowship.
- Pray that the Trinity would be the foundation in which relationships in church would be built upon.



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