

# A TRINITARIAN GOSPEL

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Confidence  
in the Gospel

As part of the Evangelical Alliance's *Confidence in the Gospel* initiative we are hosting a series of five national consultations to wrestle with significant and timely issues relating to the gospel.

To ensure that as many people as possible can engage with this programme, the talks are being filmed and made available online.

Why not watch some of the videos, and use the questions provided, to explore these vital subjects with your small group or leadership team?

For more information, videos and resources visit [eauk.org/confidence](http://eauk.org/confidence)

## Mike Reeves

is part of the leadership team of UCCF and is responsible for overseeing the Theology Network ([theologynetwork.org](http://theologynetwork.org)). He has a doctorate in systematic theology and is author of *The Good God: Enjoying Father, Son and Spirit*.

## Synopsis

In recent times, there has been a surge of interest in the Trinity in academics circles; however, this interest hasn't really trickled down into everyday church life. It is essential that we do not neglect the doctrine of the Trinity.

Firstly, if the Christian life is about knowing God, it is vitally important to be clear on who our God is. While many people are interested in spirituality there is often hostility to the idea of a personal god. Perhaps that's because the world is reacting to a certain sort of God – a loveless dictator in the sky for example, rather than a triune God – the ever-loving Father, eternally pouring out the Spirit of His life and blessing on His Son.

Secondly, the fact that God is Trinity radically affects the shape of the gospel. We need to ask, if the Trinity were to be removed from our set of beliefs, would it make a difference to the beliefs we proclaim? It should make all the difference. It is because God is Father, Son and Spirit that we can be more than just forgiven sinners, we can be beloved children of the Father.

At a time when there is a widespread lack of knowledge of God it's important that we don't speak of God vaguely. We need to express God as Father, Son and Spirit, so people meet the God of love.

## Questions

### for small groups

- 1) How does the way that atheists describe God compare with how the Trinity is described in this talk and in the Bible?
- 2) How do you think your relationship with God, and understanding of the gospel, would change if you had a better grasp of God as Father, Son and Spirit?
- 3) When trying to explain the gospel message in a simple way, it's difficult to include everything. How might you go about explaining the gospel in a way that highlight God as Trinity?

### for leadership teams

- 1) In recent months, when we have presented the gospel message, what 'sort of God' have we been introducing people to? How does this compare to the ideas of 'god' that are promoted by popular culture and academia?
- 2) How can we present the gospel in a way that is about becoming beloved children of the Father, as well as being forgiven sinners?
- 3) How can we move beyond an academic understanding of the Trinity and help people grasp what it means to worship and serve a God that is Father, Son and Spirit?

## Also

Take a look Glen Scrivener's animated presentation of the gospel '3-2-1' that begins by introducing God as Father, Son and Spirit ([321.revivalmedia.org](http://321.revivalmedia.org)).