The Doctrine of God

Intro: I. Can God ________________?
The ________________ is expressed in Job 11:7 and Isaiah 40:18.
Karl Barth spoke of God as “________________________”, meaning that God was not like anything else. He is unique; there is nothing in the entire universe like Him. This is hard for us to appreciate or understand: God is not like anything else. There is a sense in which we cannot even talk about God.
But the ________________, even the ____________ is expressed in: John 17:3, I John 5:20 & Jeremiah 31:34
Reformed conclusion is that God ________________________, but that God cannot be known __________________________. Luther liked to talk about the Deus absconditus and Deus revelatus: the ________________ God and the ________________ God.

II. What is God __________?
A. The ________________ of God: Can we speak of God in a basic or simple way?
   1. John 4:24. God is __________________
   2. The name Jehovah or Yahweh. History and Verb.
      YHWH, Elohim, Adonay. Ex. 3:13-14
   3. The simple description of God is: ____________________________
B. The ________________ of God: How does God describe Himself to us?
   1. He describes ________________ as having ____________________________
   2. The ________________ with the concept of attributes:
      a) They are not ________________ of God
      b) They are not ________________ from God
C. How can we _____________ or _____________ the attributes?
   1. Many possibilities: natural and moral; absolute and relative;
   2. Most common is __________________________ and ____________________________
      a) ____________________________: those qualities not like us
      b) ____________________________: those qualities like us
D. Incommunicable attributes: God as the ________________
   1. ____________________________
   2. ____________________________
   3. ____________________________
      a) His absolute perfection: no lack of anything: omniscient
      b) His eternity: not bound by time.
      c) His immensity or omnipresence
4. ____________________________
      a) ____________________________ oneness: He is unique. There is only _______.
      b) He is _____________ or _____________: He does not have ________________________ or being made up of ____________________________.
E. The Communicable Attributes: God as a Personal Spirit
   1. The ________________ of God. John 4:24; 1 Timothy 6:15-16
   2. __________________________ Attributes
      a) The ________________ of God
         1) Nature: __________________________
         2) Extent: Omniscience
      b) __________________________ Attributes
      c). Veracity or __________________________ Attributes
   3 __________________________ Attributes
      a) The __________________________ Attributes
         1) ________________
         2) ________________
III. Trinity

A Intro: Egg object and other illustrations of the trinity are ____________. (Math, H20, tri-part man, etc.)

1. Most ____________ and ____________ doctrine presented in Scripture. Boettner, “As well might we expect to confine the ocean within a tea-cup as to place a full explanation of the nature of God within the limits of our feeble human minds” (Studies in Theology, p.79).

2. ____________ revelation: God has revealed more about Himself and His salvation through ____________ from Natural Revelation to OT to NT.

B. The doctrine stated: ____________ important parts in the understanding of the ____________.

1. There is but ____________ living and true ____________. Deuteronomy 6:4, James 2:19, 1 Corinthians 8:4

2. While God in His innermost Nature is One, He nevertheless exists as three ____________.

Westminster Shorter Cat.: There are three ____________ within the ____________; the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; and these three are ____________ God, the same in ____________, ____________ in power and glory.”

3. The terms “Father,” “Son” and “Holy Spirit” designate ____________ persons who are ____________ to each other. Not just relationships that God assumes in his dealing with his creatures. These are actually ____________ entities.

a) The use of ____________: I, you, he and him when speaking ____ and ________ each other. Matthew 17:5

b) The Father ________ the Son and the Son ________ the Father. The Spirit ________ the Son. John 3:35; 16:14

c) The Son ________ to the Father and the Father ____________. John14:16

d) The Father ________ the Son and the Father and Son ________ the Spirit. John 17:3, 14:26, 16:7

Summary: The doctrine of the Trinity is a ____________ of these facts. This is the doctrine in its biblical teaching and in its fullness.

C. Classic Passages which display the Trinity in action

1. Words Trinity and Persons are ____________ in the Bible. But many ____________ words and terms are not in the Bible. The ____________ is what is important.

2. The ____________ of Christ: Matthew 3:16-17

3. ____________ of Jesus: Luke 1:35

4. The upper room ____________: John 14-16
5. The Apostolic __________________________: 2 Corinthians 13:14
6. The Great _____________________: Matthew 28:19

D. The real issue in the Trinity is the __________ of Christ and the Holy Spirit.
   1. The bible’s clear witness to Christ being __________ and ____________ God: both in his _______ and _______. John 10:33
   2. The Holy Spirit is also revealed as fully and completely __________ in his person and work: John 14-16

E. The Trinity in the __________ Testament
   1. The names of God:
      a) plural ______________ and ______________ (El and Adon): Deuteronomy 6:4
      b) ______________ pronouns: Genesis 1:26-27, 3:22, 11:7; Isaiah 6:8
   2. Relating to Christ:
      a) The ______________ of the Lord/ Jehovah/ Yaweh: Genesis 16:7-13, 18:1-19:29,
      b) Other ________________ prophecies: Psalm 110:1, Isaiah 9:6
   3. Relating to the Holy Spirit: Many passages can be seen from the ___________________________ perspective: Genesis 1:2

F. One __________________________, Three _______________________
   The two main __________________:
   1. Tri-theism: three ______________________ gods
   2. Unitarianism: __________________________ god

G. History of the doctrine
   1. The doctrine of the Trinity was closely linked to the formulation of the doctrine of the deity of Christ. These debates consumed the early church until Augustine wrote On the Trinity.
   2. Two main councils that helped define the trinity against errors:
      a) The ________________ Creed (325 AD):
         1) “We believe in one God – And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, light of light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father – And in the Holy Ghost.”
         2) Defended the deity of Christ against ______________, who held that Jesus was a lesser created god. (Forerunners of modern day Jehovah’s Witnesses).
      b) The ________________ Creed
         1) (381 AD) Changes the Holy Ghost to,” And in the Holy Ghost, who is the Lord and giver of life, who proceedeth from the Father, who, with the father and son, is worshipped and glorified, who spake by the prophets.
         2) Defended the trinity against the teaching of ________________, who taught that there was only one person in God. This one person reveals himself in different capacities or __________: As Creator he is Father, as redeemer, he is the Son and as working in men, he is the Spirit.

H. Practical Importance of the trinity
   1. A full understanding of Creation, Redemption and Glorification demands an understanding of Trinity. All three persons are ________________ in these activities and have ________________ roles.
   2. The doctrine of the Trinity places the ___________ of salvation on God and His work, not man and the benefits. God has more grandiose designs that just the salvation of man. He is concerned with His own ________________ and ________________.
   3. The trinity makes God’s ________________ a reality. He doesn’t need anything else or anyone else to have community and fellowship. God is fully content and satisfied by Himself. He is not ________________. He doesn’t ____________ to create the world.
4. The love of God is displayed ________________ the Godhead itself, thus being an intrinsic or ________________ part of God – not just an action or emotion.
5. Trinity combines and _______________________ all the “truths” of pantheism, deism and polytheism. Philosophic issues of unity and diversity. Francis Schaeffer.

**Homework:**

Read Chapter 3 in Biblical Beliefs, pp. 39-48

See how many attributes of God are in Isaiah 40. You can make a chart with three columns: reference number, actual words from the bible and then the attribute or description of God. Some of them can be seen by contrast, i.e. an idol cannot do certain things, which implies God can.