

TRUMPET CALL

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more information.

PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24*

INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of invocation, adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 67:1-2, 105:4

LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father,

Who is in heaven,

Holy is Your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done,



LORD'S PRAYER

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

And forgive us our sins,

As we forgive those who sin against us.



LORD'S PRAYER

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil:
For Yours is the kingdom,
The power and the glory,
Forever and ever — *amen!*



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

1 Timothy 2:1-6

JOHN 6:35-40

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.



JOHN 6:35-40

And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”



1 JOHN 1:5-10

This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.



1 JOHN 1:5-10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.



DISMISSAL

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

CALL THE ELDERS

Prayer in the Isles — altar call, confession of sin, anointing of the sick, pastoral intercession, along with prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5

JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

DECLARATION: MARK 12:29-30

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.'

This is the first and great commandment.



DECLARATION: MATTHEW 22:39-40

And the second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.



DECLARATION: ROMANS 13:9-10

For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word:




DECLARATION: ROMANS 13:9-10

“You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

*Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8*





THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE!

Understanding the Greatest Commandment, Part 2



GREATEST COMMANDMENT: EXPOSITION

Continue to break down its meaning line-by-line, word-by-word:

1. Hear, O Israel [of God]
2. The Lord our God, the Lord is one.





GREATEST COMMANDMENT: THE LAW OF LOVE & LIBERTY

Distinct Laws in the Old Testament

- Shema — **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
- Priestly Law — **Leviticus 19:18**

Christ Harmonizes these Laws in the NT

- Greatest Commandment (Royal Law) — **Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35; Rom.13:9-10; Gal.5:14; James 2:8; 1 John 4:7-8,21**



HEAR, O ISRAEL OF GOD

- “Hear, O Israel” is a national call to the whole kingdom of God.
- We are declaring our citizenship is in heaven to each other.
- We are children of our heavenly Father, a divine family.
- The law of our land: *Love God, love neighbour.*
You cannot be Israel without following this commandment.



HEAR, O ISRAEL OF GOD

- In other words, “Hear, O Israel” means, “**Listen! All those who wrestle with the Word of God, the Son of God made flesh!**”
- Those who continue in belief, obey His voice, and persevere!
- First, God commands all people everywhere who believe in Him to open their hearts to hear Him!

“For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.” (**Romans 11:21**)



HEAR, O ISRAEL OF GOD

- But before God commands that we love God and love neighbour, He states, “**The Lord our God, the Lord is one.**” — Why?
- This is a statement — it is not law about what we should do, it is law about what is.
- What does it mean?



THE LORD OUR GOD THE LORD IS ONE

- Affirms that Yahweh Elohim is the sole, unique, and supreme God.
 - There is no other God besides Him.
 - He is the sole object of worship.
- 1st commandment of the 10 Commandments:
Exodus 20:3 — “You shall have no other gods before me.”



THE LORD OUR GOD THE LORD IS ONE

- “Yahweh Elohim Yahweh” or “Kyrios Theos Kyrios”
- “I Am That I Am” or “I Am Who I Am” (Exodus 3:14)
- Notice the pattern: **3 = 1**
- Chiastic repetition implies the Triune God
- Triune God alone is the sole, unique, and supreme God



THE LORD OUR GOD THE LORD IS ONE

The One True God — Holy Trinity

- God the Father
- God the Son
- God the Holy Spirit

One God in three Persons, coequal in divine nature, power, and perfection, all three uncreated in coeternal majesty.



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: FATHER

- **Genesis 1:1** — In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
- **Genesis 2:15** — Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: SON

- **Romans 9:5** — “To them [Israel] belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the **Christ, who is God over all**, blessed forever. Amen.”
- **John 20:27-29** — Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing.” Thomas answered him, “**My Lord and my God!**” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.”



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: SON

- **John 8:56-58** — Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I AM.**”
- Jesus is declaring and attributing God’s name to Himself.
- **Exodus 3:14** — God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And he said, “Say this to the people of Israel: ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’”



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: SON

- **John 14:6** — Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- **John 11:25** — “I am the resurrection and the life.”
- Consider the alternative... uh oh.



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: SPIRIT

- **John 15:26** — “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”
- **Ephesians 1:13–14** — “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: SPIRIT

- **2 Corinthians 3:17-18** — “Now **the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from **the Lord who is the Spirit.**”



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: 3-IN-1

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, is also referred to as:

- “Spirit of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:19, Acts 16:7, 1 Peter 1:11)
- “Spirit of His Son” (Galatians 4:6)
- “Spirit of God” (Genesis 1:2, Romans 8:9,
- “Spirit is the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: 3-IN-1

- **Revelation 22:3** — “No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him.”
- **1 Corinthians 8:5-6** — “For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords” — yet for us there is **one God, the Father**, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and **one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”



EVIDENCE OF THE TRINITY: 3-IN-1

- **Ephesians 4:4-6** — There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- **Matthew 28:19** — “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”



THE LORD OUR GOD THE LORD IS ONE

The mystery of the Triune God is completely incomprehensible.
God is one in essence, and three in person.

- Analogy — spatial dimension (axes of measurement):
 - **Width (x)**: The distance from front to back.
 - **Height (y)**: The distance from side to side.
 - **Depth (z)**: The distance from top to bottom.
- 1 space, 3 axes —*is like*— **1 God, 3 Persons**



WHY IS ALL THIS IMPORTANT?

Critical Thinking.

THE AMAZING TRUTH OF THE TRIUNE GOD

- In Islam, Mormonism, Jehovah Witnesses, Oneness Pentecostals, Unitarians, etc., God needs to make creatures in order to love (i.e., love requires a reciprocal subject)
- If the Trinity is not true, then God is found wanting.
- Brothers, this cannot be so—**God is perfect. He does not need anyone or anything other than Himself to complete Himself—He lacks nothing.**



THE AMAZING TRUTH OF THE TRIUNE GOD

- God is triune—His divine nature and eternal power is in perfect harmony and loving communion with Himself.
- God did not create us to gain new experiences and feelings.
- He did not need somebody to love when He created us.
- So—this divine mystery, that we cannot explain, ends up elevating our understanding of God to a higher level and, at the same time, also tells us something amazing about why He made us.



THE AMAZING TRUTH OF THE TRIUNE GOD


- **1 John 4:8** — “God is love” in His essence.
- Since God exists forever in eternal love, and does not need us to experience or know love, it means that God had no other reason to make us besides to love us.
- **God did not make you because He needed too — He made you because He loves you.**



THE AMAZING TRUTH OF THE TRIUNE GOD

- It means that you were created by love, from love, for love.
- **Your whole purpose in life is to love others like God loves Himself. That is your image! That is your calling. That is your renewed nature in Christ because that's His eternal nature.**





THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS LOVE!

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.”

1 John 4:7-8

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO THE LAW?

Critical Application

THE LAW OF TRUE LOVE

1 John 4:19 — “We love because he first loved us.”

That is why the statement “The Lord our God, the Lord is one” is necessary to affirm before the application of the law.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord Our God, the Lord is one!
You shall love the Lord your God...”



THE LAW OF TRUE LOVE

- You cannot apply the law without the basis of the Law.
- You cannot have ought without is.
God is. Therefore, you shall.
- God is love. Therefore, go and do likewise.
- **Matthew 5:48** — “You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”



THE LAW OF TRUE LOVE: JOHN 17:20-23

vv.20-23 — “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, **that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us**, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that **they may be one even as we are one**, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that **the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.**”



SHEMA THIS!

Personal Reflection.

PERSONAL REFLECTION: ARE YOU ONE?

Is the bond of unity and love of God evident in/with:

- Your household?
- Your marriage?
- Your children?
- Your parents?
- Your church, the household of God?



PERSONAL REFLECTION: ARE YOU ONE?

Is the bond of unity and love of God evident in/with:

- Your friends, neighbours? — *Do they know you love God?*
- Your enemies...

- Or is it the love of God? What is your priority?



SHEMA THIS!

Personal Exhortation.

PERSONAL EXHORTATION: DIVIDING ONE?

What are some signs that the bond of unity and the love of God is being disrupted in your life?

1. Soul — Lacking encouragement and edification toward others.
Are you too cynical? Do you mock or tease others at their expense?



PERSONAL EXHORTATION: DIVIDING ONE?

What are some signs that the bond of unity and the love of God is being disrupted in your life?

2. Mind — Presume too much. *Do you jump to conclusions and won't let your spouse finish their sentence? Are you hearing your spouse's heart or predicting their next word before they even say it?*



PERSONAL EXHORTATION: DIVIDING ONE?

What are some signs that the bond of unity and the love of God is being disrupted in your life?

3. Heart — People pleasing. *Too soft! All fluff, no bone. Too uncomfortable or afraid to tell the truth, so you lie to make someone feel better about themselves emotionally at the expense of the truth.*



SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper of thanksgiving.

*Matthew 26:26–29, Mark 14:22–25, Luke 22:14–20; Acts 2:42
1 Corinthians 10:14–21, 11:23–32; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Timothy 4:4–5*

1 CORINTHIANS 10:16-17

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-32

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."



1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-32

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.



1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-32

For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.



2 CORINTHIANS 13:5

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you fail to meet the test!



HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of thanksgiving and participation in the body and blood of Christ.

*Matthew 26:26–29, Mark 14:22–25, Luke 22:14–20; Acts 2:42
1 Corinthians 10:14–21, 11:23–32; 2 Corinthians 13:5; 1 Timothy 4:4–5*

PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

Now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God the Father,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all this week.
Go in the peace that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14







TAKEAWAY #1

Personal Exhortation and Admonition

TAKEAWAY #2

Corporate Admonition and Exhortation

TAKEAWAY #3

Corporate/Personal Exhortation

SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF TRINITY: SON

- **John 5:18** — “This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.**”
- Notice that no one in Israel believed they were ‘all sons of God’. That was considered blasphemy.



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF TRINITY: SON

- To be the “Son of God” was not a mere quip in ancient Israel. Jesus is claiming to be the sole heir of the Father, which means:
 - He owns everything the Father owns
 - He is of the same substance of God
 - He is equal to God
- Since “The Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deut. 6:4) Jesus is saying: I am God, “I and the Father are one” (John 10:30)
To be the “Son of the living God” is a deific status. (Mt.16:16-17)



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF TRINITY: SON

- **1 John 4:15** — “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

BECAUSE

- **Hebrews 13:8** — “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF TRINITY: SON

- **John 1:1-3,14** — In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- **John 17:5** — “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF TRINITY: SON

- **John 14:7-9** — “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...”
- **John 10:27-30** — “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me; and I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. **I and the Father are one.**”



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE OF TRINITY: SON

- **John 10:31-33** — “The Jews took up stones again to stone him.” Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, **because you, being a man, make yourself God.**”



THE LORD OUR GOD THE LORD IS ONE

Fulfilling distinct yet harmonious roles (economy):

- God the Father is the principal source of all being
- God the Son is the sole mediator of redemption
- God the Holy Spirit is the unifier with us to God



SUMMATIVE POINT

Critical Application.