

Student Notes for Unit 2

Key Understandings and Questions

These are the key concepts you need to understand by the end of the unit:

- God is love.
- Catholics are monotheistic and believe in only one God.
- Catholics are Trinitarian and believe there are three Persons in one God.
- The Trinity is a model of love for human communities.

God's Love for Us

1. Pope Benedict XVI wrote an encyclical called *Deus Caritas Est*, which in English means "_____."
2. What is an encyclical?
3. What is the overall theme of *Deus Caritas Est*?
4. The encyclical *Deus Caritas Est* deals with love as expressed in the _____ and _____.
5. Pope Benedict XVI points out that there is a relationship between love and God. Why does he say that love is more than a response to instinct?
6. What is Christian love called when it is descending, giving, and shaped by faith?
7. List some of the words Pope Benedict XVI uses to describe God's love.
8. According to the encyclical, which act of Jesus expresses love in its most radical form?
9. What does Pope Benedict XVI mean when he writes, "I cannot possess Christ just for myself"?
10. How does the encyclical help us to understand that love of God and love of neighbor cannot be separated?

God Is One: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Article 1: God Is One: Catholics Are Monotheistic

1. Define *monotheism*.
2. What is a covenant?



3. In God's Covenant with Abraham, what essential truth was God revealing?
4. Christians share their belief in and commitment to monotheism with _____ and _____.
5. The formal statement, or profession of faith, commonly recited by Catholics during the Eucharist is the _____.
6. The central mystery of our faith as Catholics, which only God can reveal to us, is the mystery of the _____.

Article 2: God Is Three-in-One: Catholics Are Trinitarian

1. Name the three Divine Persons of the Trinity.
2. What does it mean to say that the three Divine Persons are inseparable in what they are?
3. What does it mean to say that the three Divine Persons are inseparable in what they do?
4. In what distinct way does each Divine Person carry out the work of the Trinity?
5. Even though the three Divine Persons are eternal, existing without beginning or end, we speak of God the Father as the _____, God the Son as _____ of the Father, and that God the Holy Spirit _____ from the Father and the Son.
6. The presence of the Trinity is especially clear in the _____ Testament.

Article 3: The First Person of the Trinity: God the Father

1. In the Gospels, Jesus calls God *Abba*, which in Aramaic means "_____."
2. What two things does this tell us about Jesus' relationship with God?
3. When did we become God's adopted sons and daughters?
4. As children of God, we are assured entry into eternal _____, which is the state of _____ with God in _____.
5. How would you explain to someone that God is neither male nor female?

Article 4: The Second Person of the Trinity: God the Son

1. Why did the Second Person of the Trinity assume a human nature?
2. Jesus Christ is both truly and fully _____ and truly and fully _____.
3. What is unique about Jesus' relationship with God the Father?
4. In Hebrew the name Jesus means "_____."



5. List the four reasons, stated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, why God became incarnate.
6. Christ is a title given to Jesus, based on the Greek word that means “Anointed One.” The Hebrew word is _____.

Article 5: The Third Person of the Trinity: God the Holy Spirit

1. Write the line from the Nicene Creed that describes the Holy Spirit.
2. In what way was the Holy Spirit active in the Old Testament?
3. In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit _____ Jesus for his special mission to save and redeem us.
4. The Holy Spirit was not fully revealed until after the _____ and _____ of Jesus.
5. The early followers of Jesus received the Holy Spirit at _____.
6. List the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Development of Trinitarian Doctrine

Article 6: The Early Church Faces Challenges to Apostolic Faith

1. In the early Church, who had the role of teaching and defending the doctrine of the Trinity?
2. What do we call the official gathering where the language for explaining the sacred revealed truths was developed?
3. Give an example from the New Testament that shows the early Church had a firm belief in the Trinity.
4. Name the second-century French bishop who helped clarify the Church’s teaching of a Trinitarian faith.

Article 7: Early Christological Heresies

1. What is Christology?
2. What is meant by the term Christological heresy?
3. Name and define two Christological heresies during the first several centuries of the Church.

Article 8: The Ecumenical Councils of the Early Church

1. What did the Council of Chalcedon declare about Jesus?
2. Which council declared that Jesus is truly God?



Article 9: The Nicene Creed

1. What is a creed?
2. The Nicene Creed is the product of two ecumenical councils: the Council of _____ and the Council of _____.
3. Why is the Nicene Creed considered so crucial for Catholics?
4. List three other reasons why the Nicene Creed is important.

Article 10: The Trinity: Model for Human Relationships

1. How did God prove that he is not a distant God, unconcerned with the joys and struggles of humanity?
2. Name two ways the Trinity, as a dynamic communion of Divine Persons, is a role model for human relationships.

