

The Trinity

Part 2: The Trinity for Us

Recapping Last Week

- **The Christian Doctrine of God is that there is one God who is eternally three persons.**
- **These three persons are the one God.**
- **The persons are distinct, yet not separate.**
- **God is one, but never alone.**

The Trinity and Creation: The Facts

- **God was never alone, but was overflowing with love.**
- **God did not need to create, but freely chose to do so.**
- **All three persons active in creation**
- **All creation is “in, through, and for” the Son (Col 1:16)**

The Trinity and Creation: The Image

- **God (F, S, HS) created human beings in his image.**
- **Substantial (we are like God in some respects – intellect, will, emotion)**
- **Functional (we do some of the things God does – Gen 1:27)**
- **Relational (we are persons in communion)**

The Trinity and Creation: The Plan

- **God (F, S, HS) created humans for communion with himself.**
- **This is Plan A. There is no Plan B.**
- **Bringing humans into his triune circle by grace has always been the plan. Even the fall could not change it.**
- **You and I are created to intimately know, and to be intimately known by, God (F, S, HS)**

Obstacles to the Plan

- **There is a gap between the Creator and creation**
- **The fall introduced a second obstacle – sin.**
- **Sin distorts everything, relationships, perceptions, actions.**
- **“What then was God, being good, to do?”
(Athanasius, On the Incarnation, 6)**

Jesus!

- **The Word of God, who is both with God and is God, the only-begotten God (John 1:1, 18), became flesh, and dwelt among us (1:14).**
- **The one in whom, through whom, and for whom all things were created stepped into his own creation as one of his own creation!**
- **He came in like everyone else.**

Jesus!

- **As God, Jesus revealed the Father and what he is truly like.**
- **As man, Jesus lived a life of perfect obedience to the law.**
- **As prophet, he spoke the words of life.**
- **As priest, he interceded on behalf of his own**
- **As king, he is Israel's true king, as God and as "David"**

Jesus!

- **Jesus lived a life of unbroken communion with his Father.**
- **Also, he lived a life of unbroken communion with the Spirit.**
- **He did this as a man, and as God.**
- **He is the true Immanuel!**

Sending and Revealing

S		Father	^	R
E		Son		E
N		Spirit		V
D	V	Us		E
				A
				L

In the Upper Room (John 14)

- **Jesus reveals his mission**
- **He plainly states his unity with the Father**
- **He is going to prepare a place for us**
- **He is sending his “other self” to comfort**
- **He will come again to receive us**

At the Cross

- **Jesus never lost his communion with the Father!**
- **“My God, My God” meets Psalm 22!**
- **Can sin, which is temporal, be stronger than the eternal love between Father and Son? NO!**
- **The death of Jesus, who is the Creator, assured the death of sin, and even the death of death itself!**
- **He (God!) who knew no sin became a curse for us**

In the Garden

- **Jesus is resurrected by the power of God (F, S, HS)**
- **His resurrection vindicates everything**
- **His resurrection, as Creator, guarantees resurrection to all and the hope of salvation to all**

On the Mount of Olives

- **Jesus has defeated obstacle #2 (sin)**
- **Jesus has bridged obstacle #1 (the gap)**
- **Jesus is ascending to the Father**
- **Jesus is going to multiply himself with the gift of the very same Spirit he has to us**

In the Upper Room (Acts 2)

- **The Spirit is poured out.**
- **The Spirit indwells us.**
- **He is the Spirit of adoption (Abba!)**
- **He is the “creator of *koinonia* (community)”**
- **He is the life of the church**

Personal Benefits

Adoption into the Family

- **You are now a child of God because you have the Spirit of adoption.**
- **We are designed to know “the” Father as “our” Father.**
- **We are sons and daughters by grace as Christ is the Son by nature.**
- **God the Son became the Son of Man, in order to make the sons of men the sons of God.**

Family Privileges, part 1

- **We may boldly come to our Father.**
- **God (F, S, HS) loves us, knows us, and directs us.**
- **Jesus, our captain, brother, and Lord, intercedes for us.**
- **The Spirit does as well, praying for us as we should but can't.**

Family Privileges, part 2

- **We hear and are heard**
- **We know and are known**
- **We love and are loved**
- **All of these (and all others) are both individual and communal. God (F, S, HS) loves/hears/knows “me” and he loves/hears/knows “us.”**

Family Privileges, part 3

- **As we participate in the life of God, we possess life that is both eternal (quality) and everlasting (duration).**
- **Sin and death may be present, but they have no claim on us now.**
- **The Trinity is not just a part of some doctrinal statement. The Trinity matters!**
- **Let him matter for you!**