



18 – 24 Nov, 2018

The Trinity, part 2

**‘Every divine action begins from the Father,
proceeds through the Son,
and is completed in the Holy Spirit’ Saint Basil the Great**

God is Love (1 Joh 4:7-21)

- † ***‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life’ Joh 3:16***
- † ***‘But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us’ Rom 5:8***

God, the Trinity, is Love (1 Joh 4:7-21)

- † ***‘God is love’ have no real meaning unless God contains at least two Persons. Love is something that one person has for another person’ C S Lewis***
- † **When we Christians worship the Trinity, we are worshiping Love. When we meditate on the Trinity, we learn the ways of Love. And insofar as we love, we become like God. Because *‘the love of God has been poured into our hearts, through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us’ (Rom 5:5)***

‘God is both personal and relational’ Saint Augustine (Joh 14: 19- 26)

- † **The relationship between the three persons of the Trinity is love**
- † **Let our relationships reflect the Father, Son, and Spirit**
- † **Through the whole of Scripture, we see the Father, Son, and Spirit work together to reveal God’s will for us and bring about our salvation**

Being made in the image of God means that we are made to be in relationship

- † **God is Love and Love requires relationship**
- † **You and I must look outside of ourselves for this; but God, perfect in every way, has this within His very being. This is why instead of saying ‘God is loving,’ we say ‘God is Love’**
- † **We are made in the image of God, which means there is something Trinitarian about us, as well
 - **we are made to be in relationship**
 - **This is why Christ commands us to love God and our neighbors (Mar 12:31), and why He teaches that we will be judged according to how we treat our neighbors (Mat 25:31-46)****

- **We are made for community. We are made for communion**

The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are united (Joh 14: 20)

- † **The Father and Son are of one mind and one heart acting together**
- † **We are called to be united in Christ as well (Act 4:32; Rut 1:16-17)**
- † **They are three different persons and yet they have the same goal. That is why the prophets and saints, no matter how different they are, no matter to which generations they belonged, they revealed the Lord, and they all witnessed to the Lord's living and everlasting word**

The Father and Son speak the same words (Joh 14:24)

- † **You cannot separate the words of Jesus from the words of the Father; likewise, may our words be not separated from Christ's words**
- † **Choose words that promote the building up of the Body of Christ. *'Therefore encourage each other and build one another up, just as you also are doing'* 1The 5:11**

Christ was fully obedient to the Father on earth (Joh 14:21)

- † **Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, sought obedience to the Father, not obedience of a slave to his master, but rather obedience by free will**
- † **How much more should we seek freely and willingly to obey Christ. Our obedience to Christ has an aim, to be crowned by him forever (1Cor 9:19-27)**

Jesus promised us the Father would send the Spirit (Joh 14:26)

- † **Just as God has given Himself to us, we should use the gifts God has given us to serve each other. Serve in ways that thoughtfully meet the needs of others**
- † **Let the Spirit work in and through us to minister God's presence to those around us**

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are humble

- † **They do not boast about their own work, although all good comes from the Lord (Jam 1:17)**
- † **The three Persons of the Trinity always give glory to each other, with reverence**
- † **Let us do all for the Glory of God (1Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 4: 7)**

How to relate the binding love of the Trinity to our own lives?

- † **François Varillon (a French Jesuit theologian) puts it very concisely: 'living is loving'**
- † **We need to ground our relationships with each other in what the Trinity teaches us about love**

The highest level of existence

† It is to love as God loves and to live as God lives

Bibliography

1. David F. Wells. *What's the Trinity? Basics of the Faith* (New Jersey: P & R Publishing, 2001)
2. Elmer Towns: <https://www.churchgrowth.org/the-holy-trinity-god-the-father-son-and-holy-spirit/>
3. François Varillon. *Joie de Croire, Joie de Vivre* (Montrouge: Bayard Éditions, 2000)

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear' 1 John 4:18a

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Greek Catholic Church in prayer

قانون الايمان
أؤمن بآله واحد
أب ضابط الكل
خالق السماء والأرض
كل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح
ابن الله الوحيد
المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق
مساو للأب في الجوهر
الذي به كان كل شيء
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا
نزل من السماء
وتجسد من الروح القدس ومن مريم العذراء
وتأنس
وصلب عنا على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقبر
وقام في اليوم الثالث كما في الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء
وجلس عن يمين الأب
وأيضاً يأتي بمجد عظيم
ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي لا فناء لملكه
وبالروح القدس
الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب
الذي هو مع الأب والابن
مسجود له وممجّد
الناطق بالأنبياء
وبكنيسة واحدة، جامعة، مقدسة، رسولية
وأعترف بعمودية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وأترجى قيامة الموتى والحياة في الدهر الآتي
أمين

الصلاة الربانية
أبنا الذي في السماوات
ليتقدس اسمك
ليأت ملكوتك
لتكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
أعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا
وأغفر لنا خطايانا
كما تغفر نحن
لمن أساء إلينا
ولا تدخلنا في التجارب
لكن نجنا من الشرير
أمين