

60-01-05 --The Holy Trinity

Trinity Sunday, election, holiness, Christ's Lordship, community

1 Pet 1:2

A Triune God made us and can re-make us for Divine fellowship.

INTRODUCTION:

–Trinity Sunday! Because the Trinitarian concept of God is a central doctrine of orthodox Christianity. [Athanasius, the early champion of the Trinitarian faith, in fighting the politically powerful Arians, was exiled x6, but his efforts finally resulted in the Nicene Creed.]

–Peter, writing to encourage Christians under persecution for their faith, first reminds them of their incredible context in 1 Peter 1:2, (You) *have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.* This text shows the whole Trinity's activity in our salvation, just as in the original creation of humanity– Gen 1:26a,27, Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

HOM.idea. Before we talk about the Triune activity in saving us, let's look at the nature of this Trinitarian view of God...

I. Why Should We Be Orthodox Trinitarians?

A. Reasons against: not named in Scripture, against human reason, and some verses seem to support unitarianism

B. Answers to those reasonings:

1. Trinity: a theological term, like incarnation, virgin birth, or regeneration (describes a doctrinal concept in Scripture, which isn't a textbook of doctrines or creeds)
2. Created humanity should expect to be different from its Creator, and is limited in ability to understand Him.
3. Unity in the Godhead is part of the concept of the Trinity (His image in us as "male and female" reflects the likelihood of a multiplicity of Persons in the Godhead, especially when God ordains the two to become one.)

C. The universe is full of triads; like footprints in creation these do not prove but testify to their Creator, a Holy Trinity:

1. Three primary colors (Color printers: red, yellow, blue)
2. Three dimensions of space: length, breadth, depth

3. Three divisions of time: past, present, future
4. Three kingdoms of our world: plant, animal, mineral
5. Three relationships: I, thou, they
6. Three states of matter: solid, liquid, gas
7. Three parts of man: body, soul, spirit

D. My personal journey (when Arianism challenged my faith in the Trinity [JWs teach that Jesus is a created being, not God])

1. My 1st confirmation: Using Strong's Concordance, I found that both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are given the name LORD, which in the context of certain passages can mean nothing but "Jehovah"– (The baptismal formula Jesus gave us in Mat 28:19 is "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" – singular, not "in the names"....)
2. My 2nd confirmation (from an "is" definition of God –1 Jn 4:8 (ESV), Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.) [If "God is love," then for all eternity, there must have been at least two Beings in the Godhead, or love could not have existed eternally. But when God tells us, "love your neighbor," He is commanding social love. Human love is not greater than the love within Deity. God's own love sets the standard for ours. So, the Godhead must have eternally practiced social love. To do that, God cannot be just a Couple of Beings. God must be a Society, and that is exactly how the Bible reveals God: a Society of Three.]

TRANS: Trinitarian faith is not just a point of affirming a creed. It has personal significance for us because all 3 Persons of the Holy Trinity have made it possible for us to join them for eternity.

II. Why Should We Join the Holy Trinity?

- A. This is not being blasphemous!– John 14:23 (ESV), Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. (One of the Trinity, God's Son, became one of us, and now the loving Trinitarian community invites us to share in their fellowship.)
- B. "BUT we are a fallen race of sinners!" (A Triune God made us and can re-make us for Divine fellowship.)– 1 Pet 1:2 shows the Trinity's full participation in this salvation process:
 1. "chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father"--
 - a. "chosen" (elected) on the basis of foreknowledge: God honors our free will choices in time, though He knows them from

eternity [a loving relationship always involves two choices, not just the choice of the One who initiates the relationship].

- b. God the Father has "*chosen*" us as a *Bride* for His Son (Greatest honor in the universe! Can humans hope for a closer intimacy with the Godhead than being an *in-law*?)
2. "through the sanctifying work of the Spirit"— we are "*chosen*" by a setting-apart process, so we can participate in the divine nature of "*perfect love*"— Rom 5:5b, ...the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.)
3. "for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood"— we are "*chosen*," not just to be "sprinkled by His blood from a guilty conscience," or "washed from our sins in the blood of the Lamb," but to enthrone Him as our King and demonstrate our submission to His Lordship by the *obedience* of our lives.

CONCLUSION:

--Peter says, "*Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*" All the world is looking for what God has to offer: abundant grace and peace. We, the *Church*, as the *Bride of Christ*, has them both. But both we and the Holy Spirit proclaim that the invitation is still open to all who will come— Rev 22:17, The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

—**A Triune God made us and can re-make us for Divine fellowship.** This Holy Trinity desires humanity to join them. What an invitation! What a great Triune God! What grace and peace are *yours in abundance* if you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and your Lord— 1 Peter 1:2, (You) *have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.*