

## **Gloriously God – The Trinity – How Does God Being Triune Impact Us?**

God lives in an eternal community in which the Father, Son and Spirit relate to one another in love. And when God relates to us, He relates to us in the same way – as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So when we talk about having a relationship with God that's really shorthand for having a relationship with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Tim Chester

The main practical reason for learning how to think well about the eternal life of the Trinity is that it is the background for the gospel. The blessedness of God's inner life is the only thing that is even better than the good news. The life of God in itself is the source of all the riches that fund the economy of salvation. It is also the guarantee that God's grace is based on His character rather than on anything outside Himself. Fred Sanders

### **Made in His Image**

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." Genesis 1

### **Because God is Love, We can Love**

<sup>7</sup> Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup> This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

<sup>13</sup> This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. <sup>16</sup> And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. <sup>17</sup> This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

<sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister. 1 John 4

'The statement in 1 John 4:8,16, 'God is love,' is not a definition of God, nor is it merely a statement of one attribute among others. It is a very basic characterization of God. Love is such a powerful dimension of God's nature that it binds three persons so closely together that they are one.' Millard Erickson

‘Love, therefore is not only the description of the eternal God in Himself, it is likewise the fundamental characteristic of God in relationship with His creation.’ Stanley Grenz

Wrath, unlike love is not one of the intrinsic perfections of God. Rather, it is a function of God’s holiness against sin. Where there is no sin, there is no wrath – but there will always be love in God. Where God in His holiness confronts His image-bearers in their rebellion, there must be wrath or God is not the jealous God He claims to be, and His holiness is impugned. The price of diluting God’s wrath is diminishing God’s holiness. D.A. Carson

### **Because the Father, Son and Spirit are One, We Can Enjoy Unity With Each Other**

<sup>20</sup>“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, <sup>21</sup>that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup>I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— <sup>23</sup>I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. John 17

Fellowship in the Trinity, then makes the church much more than a society of friends, the ordinary sense of the word. It also is a participation in the communion of the divine persons. And the participation is to be so visible and striking that it will challenge the world to believe. Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J.

### **Our Unity Should Call us to Sacrificially Die to Self so Others Can Live, Following Christ’s Example**

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Philippians 2

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup> Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup> Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4

If we are going to give and receive grace from each other, we have to get it the way God gave it to us. Tim Keller

<sup>32</sup>All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. Acts 4