

God's Love Life

You, Me, and the Trinity

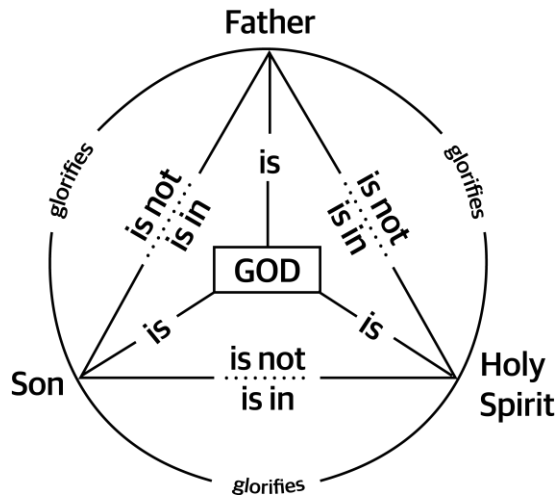
Week 1: WORSHIP & WELCOME

APPETIZER: The Dumbest Series Ever?

Four Key Doctrines...

- THE TRINITY: God is three in one, always in loving relationship.
- PERICHORESIS: The Trinity interpenetrate one another.
- UNION WITH CHRIST: We are “in Christ” and Christ is in us.
- THEOSIS: Our participation in and union with the love life of God.

Trinity & Perichoresis...



Today's Sermon in a Nutshell...

1. IF we are united with Christ (Union with Christ),
2. And IF Christ is united with the Father and Spirit (Trinity/Perichoresis),
3. THEN we are and will be united with all of who God is (Theosis).

DINE IN: Union With God Through Jesus

John 14:15-20; 15:1-8; 17:21-26

1 Peter 3:18 & 2 Peter 1:3-4...

... so that through them you may become partakers (*koinonia* = fellowship) of the divine (*theos* = God) nature (*physis*: energy not essence).

TAKE OUT: Welcoming God

Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.

~ Jesus (Mark 9:37; also see Matthew 10:40)

The church is an alter-culture of welcome.

(A “call-in” culture rather than a “call-out” culture.)

EXERCISE: The Spiritual Practice of “Welcoming”

- Take time to “fall in love” with the image of God in people you know and people you meet.
- In order to cultivate a non-romantic, non-sexual, and non-aesthetic appreciation of people’s hearts, practice first with people you do not find overtly attractive.
- In your heart and mind, “welcome” them into your space with an attitude of hospitality, ready to serve their needs.
- Think: This person is made in the image of God and it is an honour to be in their presence. I want to serve this person, and sense the smile of God as I do.

Let's start now!

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Take time to review Sunday's teaching. What are some things that encouraged you, convicted you, or left you with lingering questions?
2. Have you remembered to continue in the spiritual practice of welcoming? Talk about your experiences.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **2 Peter 1:3-4**.
 - a. What stands out to you from this passage?
 - b. You have everything you need to live a godly life. What are some of the things God has given you that you may not put to full use?
 - c. What are the "very great and precious promises" God has given us?
 - d. The corruption of the world is caused by desire/lust (focussing on what we *don't* have, which is the opposite of gratitude for and contentment with what God has already given us).
 - i. What are some ways you see desire driving our culture?
 - ii. What are some ways you see desire driving you?
 - iii. What could you start doing that you aren't doing now to counteract this corrupting force?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your 2/4/6/8 Huddle questions.
5. Arrange to reconnect at least once before your next Home Church (by phone, text, email, or in person) to see how you're doing on your spiritual exercises – this week, the spiritual practice of welcoming.

May 29/June 5, 2016 // @bruxy

Quotes

Today we begin a new series about the love life of the Trinity and God's invitation for us to join in that divine romance.

The life God has for each one of us is a life of perfect love, one that eternally unites us with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This is why God made us. It's what we long for, to love and be loved.
~ Greg Boyd, Benefit of the Doubt

The Trinity created us with a capacity to live *in him*, as creatures in and with our Creator. The incarnation proves it.
~ Robert Letham, Union With Christ

The Son of God was made the Son of Man that the sons of men might be made sons of God.
~ Augustine of Hippo (354–430 AD)

For we await salvation from him not because he appears to us afar off, but because he makes us, ingrafted into his body, participants not only in all his benefits but also in himself.
~ John Calvin (1509–1564 AD)

It is the purpose of the Gospel to make us sooner or later like God; indeed, it is, so to speak, a kind of deification.
~ John Calvin (1509–1564 AD)

God will raise us up for His Own sake to the same degree as He lowered Himself for our sake.
~ Maximus of Constantinople (580–662 AD)

God became what we are, that He might bring us to be what He is.
~ Irenaeus (early 2nd century AD)

Life within the New Covenant involves an intimate union of ourselves with the very self of God.
~ Michael J. Gorman, The Death of the Messiah and the Birth of the New Covenant

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. ... His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, ... so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature.
~ The Apostle Peter

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.
~ Jesus