

# The Trinity; Part two of two

**Review:** Definition, foundational truths, the necessity of the Trinity

## The Trinity in Creation

### God did not create out of deficiency.

The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. (Acts 17:24-25)

### God is exuberant

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. (Hebrews 1:3)

Creation is good. It does not compete with God, so when he calls us to turn away from creation to himself, it is always for our good.

### Creation exists so the love of the Father for the Son would be shared

<sup>20</sup> "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup> that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. <sup>22</sup> The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, <sup>23</sup> I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. <sup>24</sup> Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. <sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:20-26)

## The Trinity in Salvation: humanity restored

### We were created to love

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (Matthew 22:37)

### But we loved creation more than the creator

The woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired... (Genesis 3:6)

They exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator... (Romans 1:25)

For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money... lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. (2 Timothy 3:2-4)

### The solution

God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:4-7)

Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins... By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. (1 John 4:8-13)

God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit... (Romans 5:5)

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me. (John 8:42)

Religion is inward (love for self). Trinitarian salvation turns our love outward.

## The Trinity in Salvation: Soli Deo Gloria

### The Father initiates

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9)

### The Son achieves

he said, "It is finished"... (John 19:30)

### The Spirit employs

**Convicts:** When he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: (John 16:8)

**Regenerates:** For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures... But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Titus 3:3-6)

**Enables:** No one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:3)

## The Trinity in the Christian Life

### In suffering

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup> For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God... <sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup> And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies... <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:18-9,22-23, 26-28)

### In transformation

We all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18)

### In prayer

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. (Ephesians 2:18)

## Who is like our God?

*"I think it would be rather awful if it was true. If there was a permanent, total, round-the-clock divine supervision and invigilation of everything you did, you would never have a waking or sleeping moment when you weren't being watched and controlled and supervised by some celestial entity from the moment of your conception to the moment of your death... it would be like living in North Korea." – Christopher Hitchens*

*"Every other discovery of God, without this, will but make the soul fly from him; but if the heart be once much taken up with this the eminency of the Father's love, it cannot choose but be overpowered, conquered, and endeared unto him. This, if any thing, will work upon us to make our abode with him. If the love of the father will not make a child delight in him, what will? Put, then, this to the venture; exercise your thoughts upon this very thing, the eternal, free, and fruitful love of the Father, and see if your hearts be not wrought upon to delight in him." – John Owen*

Our loving God

Our merciful God

Our holy God

Our just God

Our glorious God

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?" "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. (Romans 11:33-36)*