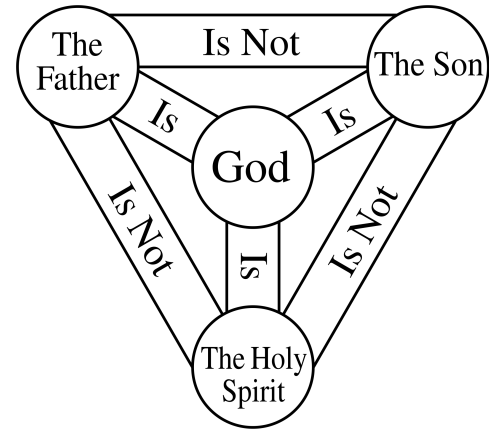


Insight to Trinity Sunday

"In the church's year, Trinity Sunday is the day when we stand back from the extraordinary sequence of events that we've been celebrating for the previous five months—Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Good Friday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost—and when we rub the sleep from our eyes and discover what the word 'God' might actually mean. These events function as a sequence of well-aimed hammer-blows which knock at the clay jars of the gods we want, the gods who reinforce our own pride or prejudice, until they fall away and reveal instead a very different god, a dangerous god, a subversive god, a god who comes to us like a blind beggar with wounds in his hands, a god who comes to us in wind and fire, in bread and wine, in flesh and blood: a god who says to us, 'You did not choose me; I chose you.'



You see, the doctrine of the Trinity, properly understood, is as much a way of saying 'we don't know' as of saying 'we do know.' To say that the true God is Three and One is to recognize that if there is a God then of course we shouldn't expect him to fit neatly into our little categories. If he did, he wouldn't be God at all, merely a god, a god we might perhaps have wanted. The Trinity is not something that the clever theologian comes up with as a result of hours spent in the theological laboratory, after which he or she can return to announce that they've got God worked out now, the analysis is complete, and here is God neatly laid out on a slab. The only time they laid God out on a slab he rose again three days afterwards.

On the contrary: the doctrine of the Trinity is, if you like, a signpost pointing ahead into the dark, saying: 'Trust me; follow me; my love will keep you safe.' Or, perhaps better, the doctrine of the Trinity is a signpost pointing into a light which gets brighter and brighter until we are dazzled and blinded, but which says: 'Come, and I will make you children of light.' The doctrine of the Trinity affirms the rightness, the propriety, of speaking intelligently that the true God must always transcend our grasp of him, even our most intelligent grasp of him."

~ N.T. Wright, in *For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church* (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997), p. 24.

Liturgies for Trinity Sunday

Call to Worship based on Psalm 8:

Leader: Triune God, How majestic is your name! You have set your incomprehensible glory above the heavens.

People of God: When we look to the heavens we see the works of your hands. The complexity and infiniteness of it all lead us to ask, "Who are we, that you would care for us?"

Leader: But the Creator has crowned you with glory. The Creator gave you the Son, our Lord. The Creator gave you the Spirit, who invites you into this place now.

People of God: Triune God, How majestic is your name in all the earth! The name of the Father, the name of the Son, and the name of the Spirit is proclaimed in all the earth!

Confession and Assurance for Trinity Sunday

Reader 1: The Father created us, but we have denied our status as part of the creation. We seek to be the masters over our time, our bodies, and our relationships. We delude ourselves into thinking that we are the infinite ones and that this world belongs to us. We abuse the creation and deny the Creator.

Reader 2: The Son said that he is the Way, but we try to make our own ways. We keep our checklists of accomplishments, our steps to success, our hike to Heaven. We ignore the commands of Christ to follow his example and lay down our lives. We trivialize Christ's death and resurrection by not following the ways of the Son.

Reader 3: The Spirit empowers us to serve, but we ignore the Spirit's voice. We claim the Spirit's works as our own for the purpose of our own glory. We reason away the miraculous ways of the wind and fire that are shaping the world. We try to limit and push aside the power of the Spirit.

Reader 1: But the Father loved us anyways,

Reader 2: And gave us the Son,

Reader 3: And poured out the Spirit upon us.

Reader 1: So the Creator makes us a new creation

Reader 2: And clothes us in Christ's righteousness

Reader 3: And the Spirit guides us into holy living.

Readings for Trinity Sunday

A reading based on John 16:12-15

We believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one God in three persons, a God who is beyond our comprehension.

The Son spoke many words to us, but we could not bear them all. So the Son gave us the Spirit of Truth who speaks what he hears the Son declare. What the Son declares is the Father's.

We believe the Word belongs to the Father, is declared by the Son, and is revealed to us through the Spirit of Truth.

This God is beyond our comprehension, but we have faith in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.