

Faith in the Home

Holy Trinity Sunday, Genesis 1:1-2:4: "Let There be Light"

Today is Holy Trinity Sunday. The doctrine of the Trinity is important because it helps us understand who God revealed Himself to be through His Word. The word "trinity" is not in the Bible, but it is Biblical because Jesus taught us that God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, meaning that we have one God, and He is three separate persons. He commanded us to, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." He also revealed to us that the Scriptures that we now call the Old Testament, pointed to Him (Luke 24 and John 5:39). He was the fulfillment of all of God's promises. This helps us see from the very beginning of the Bible, our "Triune"

God created the Heavens and Earth. In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. (Genesis 1:1-4)

If all Scripture glorifies and reveals to us the nature of our God, where is the Trinity, and where is Jesus in the creation story? Christians have traditionally interpreted all three persons of Trinity to be in this section of Scripture. God's Spirit hovering over the water, is the Holy Spirit. When God speaks it is the Father who speaks. When the light appears, it is the Word of God, that is the light. Who is the Word of God that carries out the Father's commands? The Son of God! Jesus, the "Word made Flesh," is the light. The apostle John, opens His Gospel account in John 1, saying just that. Furthermore, when man is created in Genesis 1:26, God said, "Let us make man in our own image, after our own likeness." One God speaking to Himself uses "us" and "our." This is faithfully interpreted as the Father speaking to the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Why does this matter so much? It matters because the doctrine of Trinity is used to demonstrate that the man, Jesus of Nazareth is also God. This means that your sins being forgiven by Jesus means that God Himself forgives you. This means that God Himself died for you. This means that God who raised Himself from the dead, will raise you, too. This means that the God who created us in His image, wants us to call him Father. So, we are not just creatures in God's creation, but we are God's children in Christ.

Some Additional Thoughts and Applications

1. It is almost impossible to teach the Trinity using an analogy of any kind. Most of them fall short. Simply put, God is one God, but three separate persons. The Son of God when conceived by the Holy Spirit while Mary was still a virgin, became man. Jesus is both God and man, and is still one with the Father, and the Holy Spirit.
2. There is a difference between not fully understanding the doctrine of the Trinity, and outright rejecting it. Rejecting this doctrine is rejecting the divinity of Christ (or in some cases saying there are multiple gods), and His teachings. This is why other religions/cults that claim to know Jesus are not saved, and if they claim to be Christian, they are not. I'm not saying this to say we are so much better than others. I'm telling you this because there is only one God, and salvation can only come through Him. Again, the point of the Trinity is to understand that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God. This is why the Apostle's, the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds are all a good litmus test to confessing and believing a saving faith.
3. Please note that according to a Pew Research Poll, only 45% of Americans who claim to be Christian believe that Jesus is the only way to salvation. This is why doctrine is so important to our faith. Don't fall into trend of Biblical illiteracy.
4. We were created in God's image. God values us as His crown jewel. The tragedy of human existence is we lower our own worth by trying to define our selves through achievement, power, influence, wealth, and everything else except being God's children. Today people are placing all their value and self-worth into their race and sexuality. God sees us as so much more than that. He wants to us to call Him, "Father."
5. Fun fact: The name of our God as He told Moses is, "Yahweh" (some pronounce it Jehovah), which means, "I AM WHO I AM." Jesus' name in Hebrew is Yeshua, which means "Yahweh saves." But we don't have to call Him "Yahweh," we get to call Him "Father."