

## ***Foundations of the Trinity: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit***

### **I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TRINITY**

- A. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are foundational to Christianity. The good news of the gospel is incomplete when we lack understanding of the importance of the relationships within the Godhead...as well as ourselves lacking having personal relationships with all of them.
- B. Paul makes it very clear in the book of Romans that the Lord has revealed Himself to all created things and beings. Take notice of two attributes of God that he wants to point out to men that they are unable to make excuse for being ignorant to. There is no doubt that the Lord has revealed His eternal nature and the revelation of the Godhead, the Trinity...the Father, the Son and the Spirit.

***<sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20)***

- C. We have oversimplified the gospel by simply telling people to “love God and love people.” We share with people the greatest commandment and expect people to just do it. In doing so, we have given them the impossible task to just muster up love in their own strength to give to the Lord and to others, yet we fail to give them the means necessary to overflow in this love. We are only able to love God and others...if we are first loved by Him.

***<sup>19</sup> We love Him because He first loved us. (1 John 4:19)***

- D. We can tell people that God loves them...but what does that really mean? How does God love us? What is the demonstration of the love of God? How does Jesus love us? What does that look like? The only way we can understand the love of God...is to look not just at the demonstration of the One who loves perfectly, but also the demonstration of the One who was perfectly loved! In order to understand the love of God and the way Jesus loves us...we must study the way the Father loved the Son and have the revelation that we are loved with that same love.

***<sup>9</sup> “As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love. (John 15:9-10)***

- E. Justin has been teaching on the five-fold ministry. The Lord has designed men to be equally loved, yet have different roles, giftings and leadership. How do we live that out? I believe that we must model the five-fold ministry off of the fellowship of the Trinity. The foundation of equality and the unity amongst men will be found in a people who look to the Father, the Son and the Spirit to be the demonstration of perfect love and unity. For it is the Trinity who first demonstrated what it looks like to be “diverse, yet equal” for an eternity.

- F. We were created for the purpose of having an eternal fellowship with the Godhead...and we are meant to aspire to be a reflection of that fellowship on earth until Jesus returns.

***<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” (Genesis 1:24a)***

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*<sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. (John 17:21-23)*

*<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. (1 John 4:7-8)*

## **II. THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT HAVE AN ETERNAL AND PERFECT FELLOWSHIP**

*<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Psalm 90:2)*

- A. It is essential to understand the eternal nature of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are uncreated and have always existed. Many of us believe that God is eternal in terms of the future, but we don't often think of the truth that He has lived eternally in the past. In fact, the Godhead lived with one another for an eternity BEFORE there was any created thing that existed.
- B. I have heard many people talk about the Garden of Eden and the joy that Adam and Eve must have felt in dwelling with God. I have heard many people longing to live like they did back in the Garden. And yet, Adam and Eve were not glorified at that time. The Lord is inviting us into something MUCH greater than Eden and the way they lived in that day. We are being welcomed into the fellowship that existed PRE-creation. The Father sent His Son...and then His Spirit so that we could join in with the perfect fellowship and love that they shared eternally before creation.
- C. The truth that our God is three in one is important to our identity in that it shows that we were not created out of a NEED for relationship. In order for love to exist, there must be both a lover and a beloved...there must be an object of affection. God is love...and so therefore, love is eternal as well. The existence of an eternal Godhead reminds us that the Lord does not need us...He simply wants us. Our identity can be found not in necessity...but founded upon being chosen, being wanted, being desired, and being voluntarily loved.

*<sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (Revelation 4:11)*

*<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup> just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup> having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. (Ephesians 1:3-6)*

- D. Imagine suicide and depression being completely vanquished in our day because the multitudes could be confident in this...that their lives matter and have purpose because God loves them.
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**III. THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED ON EARTH**

***<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)***

- A. While Romans 1 says that the invisible attributes of God have been clearly seen EVEN the Godhead, I believe that it was at the baptism of Jesus that the Trinity was first made manifest to the world. Throughout the OT, God was known as a Creator, a King, and a Judge...but He had never been known as a Father. A father could not be a father without a son...and so the Father sent His Son to glorify Him.
- B. It was at the baptism of Jesus that the Godhead revealed the roles that they have lived out from everlasting to everlasting
  - 1. The Father: the perfect Lover
  - 2. The Son: the perfect Beloved
  - 3. The Holy Spirit: the perfect Witness

**IV. THE FATHER: THE PERFECT LOVER**

***<sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)***

- A. The Father has always been the perfect lover and has always loved His Son (*Matthew 3:17, Matthew 17:5, Mark 1:11, Mark 9:7, Luke 3:22, John 3:35, John 5:20, John 10:17, John 15:9-10, John 17:23*)
- B. The Father is the original SOURCE of perfect love. In fact, every form of perfect love comes from Him. As a culture and even as a church, we often place a hierarchy on relationships and describe marriage as the highest form of love. It is seen as the only covenant relationship and the highest form of intimacy that we can have as we wait for Jesus to return. While I believe that there are expressions in love that are reserved for marriage and are meant to be a reflection of Jesus and the church as described in scripture...I do NOT believe that it is the only expression of love that is supposed to be a reflection of God and also I do not believe that you can put a ranking on the expressions of love. The way that you love your spouse, your children, your parents, your brothers and sisters, your friends...while the expression may look different, each of these forms of love come from the source of the perfect way that the Father first loved the Son.
- C. In fact, the entire point of the gospel...the reason why Jesus came...why the Spirit came...was all about reconciliation and restoring the relationship between God THE FATHER and man. Jesus is not the end all be all. He is the way to the Father. On earth, we get married and just kind of have to put up with the in-laws. But in the kingdom of heaven, we bind ourselves in love to the Son for the PURPOSE of being called children of the Father. There is an equality of love that we have for the Son...and the Father...and even for one another because we are all part of the same family.

***<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6)***

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- D. The Father gave something very important to His Son...and that is His glory as witnessed by the Holy Spirit. In Isaiah 42, the Father says that He will not His glory to another, but ONLY after He has given it to His Son. For only a Father can give the glory of being a beloved Son.

*<sup>1</sup> “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles...<sup>8</sup> I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images (Isaiah 42:1, 8)*

**V. THE SON: THE PERFECT BELOVED**

*<sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:16-17)*

- A. Jesus loves us...this I know. I have aspired at different times in my life to love like Jesus because He loves perfectly. I want to love people with the same love that He loves me. Oh to love like Jesus...because Jesus came and showed us how to love perfectly. These were my thoughts for years...and for good reason. Until about a year ago...when I realized that Jesus only ever said once in the bible that He loved His Father. Yet, MULTIPLE times, He talked about how much the Father loved Him. Jesus spoke more often not about how perfectly He loved, but rather how perfectly He was and is loved by the Father. **Jesus came to demonstrate how to be the perfect Beloved!**
- B. The glory of the Father as given to Jesus was that He was given the glory of being the Beloved Son of the Father. In binding ourselves to Jesus, we then too receive the glory of being beloved children of the Father (*John 17:21-23*). For THAT was the glory that Jesus had BEFORE all of creation. He was loved by the Father. Jesus prays in John 17 for the Father to glorify Him with the glory He has before the world was...and then answers the question of what that glory was later on in the chapter.

*<sup>5</sup> And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (John 17:5)*

*<sup>24</sup> “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.”<sup>25</sup> O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me.<sup>26</sup> And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” (John 17:24-26)*

- C. For the last year, I have been in awe of the way that Jesus is confident in the glory of being loved by the Father. For an eternity, Jesus was the ONLY Son of the Father’s love. There was no one else that the Father poured out His affections on. And then one day, they decided to create the world...and man. We sinned against His Father and were thrown out of His presence. And then the Father sends the Son so that we can be ALSO called sons of God. Never once did Jesus complain. He wasn’t angry with the Father or us. He was not fearful that in some way that if the Father also loved us that it would somehow diminish the love in which the Father loved Him. There was no jealousy...there was no competition...there was no comparison. Jesus lives ever in
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the reality of being that both He and WE are equally loved by the Father. Do we live in that same reality...with the same desire that all would be equally loved?

***<sup>6</sup> For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)***

## **VI. THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE PERFECT WITNESS**

***<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. (Matthew 3:16)***

- A. So...what the heck is the point of the Holy Spirit? What did He do for an eternity? If the Father spent forever loving Jesus...and Jesus spent forever being loved by the Father...what was the Spirit doing?
- B. I believe that the Holy Spirit descended like a dove on the day of baptism as a demonstration of what He has been doing for an eternity. Jesus as revealed that day as the Beloved Son of the Father. For the first time, the world witnessed the truth that God is a Father and that He loves His Son. But, while the world bore witness to this truth for the first time, the Holy Spirit was there to bear witness as well...just as He has done from everlasting to everlasting.

***<sup>14</sup> For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (Romans 8:14)***

***<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God (Romans 8:16)***

- C. We love the power of the Holy Spirit...the gifts of the Holy Spirit...and the fruits of the Spirit. But something that I have grown to LOVE is the witness of the Spirit. The leadership of the Spirit is what gives me the identity of being a son of God. When Jesus left, there was no one to testify to the hearts of men of the love of the Father to the Son. And then the Spirit came and not only testified to the love that the Father had towards Jesus...but He dwelt in the hearts of men and bore witness to those who had been adopted in THROUGH Jesus to be called the children of God.

## **VII. CONCLUSION**

- A. The Father is not jealous that Jesus got to become a man and dwell on earth. Jesus is not angry that He had to go and the Spirit gets to dwell in our hearts. The Spirit isn't fearful that He matters less than the Father because He is the One seated on the throne. They love each other perfectly even when their roles are different...when the expressions look different...and when they are clearly three separate beings. Shouldn't that be how we live? Jesus prayed that all believers would be united as one...married people, single people, fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, husbands, wives, friends...ALL people united in the love of the Father and the Son. Our reflection of the Trinity causes people to know that the Father sent the Son and that the Father loves us with the same love that He loves Jesus. I believe that the revelation of the Godhead is essential to living out life in unity here on earth while we wait for Jesus to come. I believe that looking at the perfect fellowship and love of the Father and the Son as witnessed by the Holy Spirit is the key to seeing the revival that comes before the return of Jesus. The five-fold ministry will find success when the foundations are set on the love found in the Godhead.
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