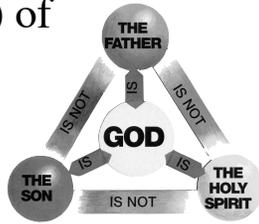


Review

Matt.28:19

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the **name** (singular) of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**”.



The Christian Trinity defined

“In the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and co-equal persons, the same in essence but distinct in subsistence.”

The Christian Trinity is vital to God’s nature.

1 John 4:8

“The one who does not love does not know God, for **God is love**”

The Christian Trinity is vital to God’s will for His people.

Matthew 22

“³⁶ Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law? ³⁷ And He said to him, '*You shall **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*' ³⁸ This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ The second is like it, '*You shall **love your neighbor as yourself.***' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

The members of the Trinity glorify (serve to exalt) one another.

John 1:18

“No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has explained Him.**”

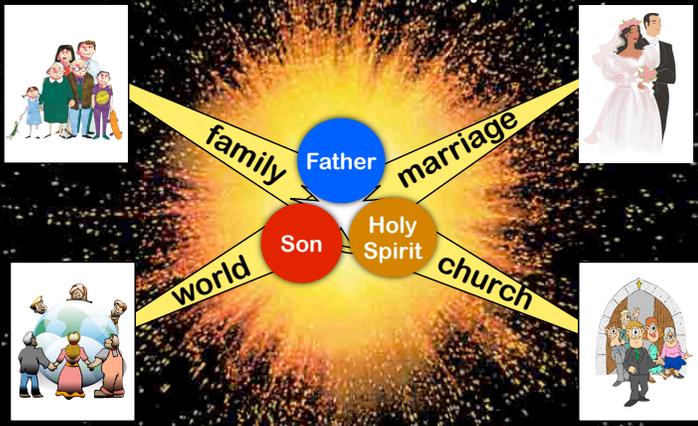
John 16:14

“He (the Spirit) will **glorify** Me (the Son),”

John 17

“⁴ I (the Son) **glorified** You (the Father) on the earth, . . . ⁵ Now, Father, **glorify** Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

Intimate, Loving, Personal, Relationships



John 17

“²⁵ O righteous Father, although the world has not known Thee, yet I have known Thee; and these have known that Thou didst send Me; ²⁶ and I have made Thy name known to them, and will make it known; that **the love** wherewith Thou didst love Me may be in them, and I in them.”

It shows us God’s love.

The intimate loving relationship that the Son of God has with the Father is an important part of the Good News of our relationship with God.

Genesis 2:26-27

“Then God said, ‘Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness; and let them **rule** over . . . God created man in **His** own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.’”

It shows us what it means to be human.
The nature of man is to be understood in the context of the trinitarian image of God which involves intimate, interdependent, loving, relationships with others.

John 15:26

“When the Helper comes, whom **I** will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

It enables us to relate to an infinite God.
The installation of the Spirit into the believer’s life is an important part of our participation in the nature of God as His image bearers.

John 17:22-23

“The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as **We are one**; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

It is a model for the church.
The unity of the church is to be patterned after the relationship between the Father and the Son.

Philippians 2

“⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard **equality with God** a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.** ⁸ **And being found in appearance as a man,** He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore also **God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,** ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus *every knee should bow*, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”

*Equality - Emptied - Exalted
Dignity - Sacrifice - Glory
Origin - Ministry - Hope*

1 Corinthians 12

“⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same **Spirit.** ⁵ And there are varieties of ministries, and the same **Lord.** ⁶ There are varieties of effects, but the same **God** who works all things in all persons”

It is a model of unity in diversity.
We should celebrate our distinctives in a community that shares a common spirit of loving support.

Lessons

1. God reveals Himself as a **relational being of love.**
2. We are to bear His image in the way we live lives of love that glorify Him through **our deference to others.**
3. The Scripture places an **emphasis** on loving, covenant, relationships - marriage, family, church, community.
4. The heart of the Kingdom’s agenda is loving relationships as expressed in the **great commandment.**