

M i s s i o D e i F e l l o w s h i p

*We exist to make disciples who delight in God and make Him known
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

The Trinity: Unity in Action, Pt. 2
Selected Passages

Keywords: Trinity, God, Theology Proper, Plurality

PowerPoint Presentation included: NONE

SermonAudio Blurb: In this continuation on the Trinity we begin to consider in detail how the Trinity functions within itself. Specifically today we examine the many duties and works of the Son.

DISMISS

I. Introduction.

A. "Economy of the Trinity."

1. It is the different ways that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit act as they interact with this creation.
2. It is further reaching than many realize.
 - a. Ontological Trinity = Who God Is as triune.
 - b. Economic Trinity = What God does as a triune God.
 - c. Though there is overlap they are not the same. And often the confusion comes when we try to overlap them.
 - d. Example:
 - (1) The JW attempt to show Jesus as less than God because He does nothing on His own accord.

Jesus therefore said, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. "And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him." (John 8:28-29)

- (2) This flows into other connections such as the roles of men and women in the church. Egalitarianism simply confuses

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"Is subordination bad? Undesirable?"

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**the two points and falsely claims that complementarians
diminish the female role.**

B. Last week we considered the works of the Father.

1. Considering both who the Father is and what the Father does is an exercise that is worthy of all our time.
2. Example how you see it in the scripture: Psalm 42.

1-2 speak against the
w. (S) retreat from
community

C. Review of things God the Father does:

1. Gives all good things.
2. Election.
3. Predestination to Adoption as sons.
4. Sending His Son.
5. The crucifying and raising and exaltation of His Son.
6. He is called the Savior.
7. The giving of eternal life.
8. Giving to His Son those whom He will save.
9. Causes us to be born again.
10. He gives glory and honor to His Son.
11. He maintains our life.
12. He comforts the afflicted.

- Note (S) how he
preaches to himself
& it is in D

D. Today we have the privilege to consider the works of the Son.

II. The Works of The Trinity.

A. The Subordination of The Son.

1. He did and does the will of the Father.
 - a. John 4:34; 5:30; 6:38.
 - b. This doctrine of subordination is not teaching that the Son is in some way inferior to the Father.

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- (1) Even in eternity past we see evidence that the Son was willingly in a subordinate position.
 - (2) This is seen in passages such as Eph. 1:4 where it is the Father who chooses or elects those who will be in Christ. Christ does not. The same in John's gospel. The Father is the one who gave those whom Jesus was to save.
- c. This idea of doing the will of the Father is seen as important to Jesus for obvious reasons. But it also connects to the lives of those who say they follow Christ.
- (1) Matthew 7:21. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.
 - (2) Matthew 12:50. "For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.
- d. As I have said in the past, this subordination of the Son to the Father's will is also important to the assurance of our salvation.
- (1) John 6:39. This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.
 - (2) For those who wish to say that one who has been saved by Christ can be lost, they must be able to first give an answer to how Christ perfectly obeyed the will of the Father if He loses some who were given to Him.
2. All of this is important because you will see this subordination throughout the texts that we will consider today.
 3. With these points in mind let us consider now several of the works of Christ.
- B. Christ's works and duties.
1. The Creator of universe.
 - a. John 1:3.
 - b. Col. 1:16.

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- (1) Verse 17 shows how He is also the Preserver of the universe.
- (2) Think **Romans 1:21**, where though mankind was able to know God, they would not thank Him nor honor Him. Here is just one way that works out, not acknowledging His preserving work.
- c. Heb. 1:2-3.
 - (1) Note again the preserving aspect as well.
2. Giver of life.
 - a. John 5:21-29.
 - b. Note also here the subordination of Christ.
3. Sin-Bearer.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:3.
 - b. Hebrews 9:28.
 - c. 1 Peter 2:24.
4. Redeemer.
 - a. The idea behind the word for “redeem” is out of the slave market.
 - b. 1 Peter 1:17-21.
 - (1) Note how the redeeming work of Christ is to produce in us a sense of genuine fear. To be casual about the work of Christ on the Cross is to mock the Father who sent Him.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 1:26-30.
 - (1) Consider these words in verse 30.
 - (2) “wisdom from God.” Goes back to Paul’s point in vss. 23-24. For the believer, the One, Jesus Christ, who is foolish and a point of stumbling for the unbeliever, is God’s wisdom to us.
 - (3) Christ is our . . . (three things).

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- (4) On judgment day, what shall you point to for your hope of righteousness?
 - (a) Will it be your efforts to walk the Christian walk?
 - (b) NO! Let it be "Christ is my righteousness."
- (5) As you proceed through your life, walking in the steps of Christ, growing in respect to your salvation. What is the basis of your ability to be sanctified, to grow in holiness?
 - (a) Will it be your power? Your ability. Your efforts?
 - (b) NO! Let it be through the abiding presence of Jesus Christ. He is the one who broke the power of sin and death.
 - (c) He is the one who made you a slave to righteousness rather than sin.
- (6) And when you give an account as to why you are different. Why your sin no longer is a factor in your life. When you say that you have been saved and redeemed from your sin. What will you point to?
 - (a) Will it be your sacrifices? Your prayers? Your trials and hardships?
 - (b) No! It is Christ who is your redeemer.
- d. Galatians 3:8-13.
- e. Titus 2:11-14.
- f. Hebrews 9:11-12.
 - (1) Shows the time frame of this work of redemption.
- g. Revelation 5:9.
 - (1) Here is shows the redemption in its essence. There was a purchase that occurred.
 - (2) The payment for our sin was paid.
5. Gathers God's people.
 - a. John 10:15-16.

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- (1) Note that as the good Shepherd He died in the place of His sheep.
 - (2) Even now through His Body He is calling and gathering His flock.
 - b. Titus 2:14, “who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own (the purpose of the redeeming work) possession, zealous for good deeds.”
6. Example to God’s people.
- a. John 13:15.
 - b. 1 Timothy 1:16-17.
 - (1) Paul sees in his life the glorious truth of the vastness of God’s mercy.
 - (2) In the work of Christ there is the promise of full forgiveness and full salvation. Even for the greatest of sinners.
 - (3) Notice Paul says “I am” not “I was.” His own depravity was always before him. That is why he gloried in the Cross. For his salvation was not about him, it was about Christ and Christ’s work.
 - (4) And it was to be as an example of the patience for those unbelievers who are afraid that God would not forgive them of “their” sins.
 - c. 1 Peter 2:18 ff.
7. Advocate, Mediator, and Intercessor.
- a. 1 John 2:1.
 - b. Romans 8:33-34.
 - c. Hebrews 7:24-25.
 - d. 1 Timothy 2:5
8. Building His Church.

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- a. Matthew 16:18.
 - b. Because of this responsibility the bible also declares that he is the Head of the Body.
9. Judge of the world.
- a. John 5:22 For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son,
 - b. Acts 17:31.
 - c. 2 Corinthians 5:6-11.
 - d. 2 Timothy 4:1.

III. Conclusion.

- A. Just as I said last week that all the works of the Father displayed His grace.....So too with the Son.
- B. We see the beauty of that grace when we remember that though he was God, full of grace he emptied himself of his glory and became a man to die for us.
- C. We see the grace of Christ as we enjoy the glories and majesty of nature. When we breath deeply of clean air. When we get excited seeing a wild animal. When we smile at the first hints of spring. By grace He created it with beauty and splendor.
- D. We see the grace of Christ when he became cursed for us. When he took upon himself our sins and bore them fully away.
- E. We see His grace when we look at the tenderness of His speaking and caring for the people in need.
- F. We see grace when we finally come to rest in the full and complete work of Jesus. No longer striving, no longer seeking to be good enough. No longer trying to please God. But rather coming to Christ and resting in Him.
- G. That is grace beloved. "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Small Group Questions

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- Explain and discuss the differences between the economic and ontological Trinity and see if you can see how they overlap. Here is an example: God is love. Ontologically, there is perfect love between each person of the Trinity. This then works out in God expressing that love to His creation in many ways, the ultimate being the Cross. (If you take this question seriously and work at it you will find it to be very rewarding.) One hint, pick an attribute of God, think about how it works out *within the trinity*, then think about how it then works out toward us—you will find it tempting to jump right to us but spend time just within the Trinity.
- Often people tend to think about the Son primarily as being our sin-bearer. What other things came out in this sermon that stretched your sense of the work of Jesus?