

A "Who Is Jesus" Basic Theology Outline

Trinity

Whenever the Bible speaks of "God", it does NOT mean a single, individual "old wise man" with a pointy beard and hat called "God". Biblically speaking, the God Who created us is a Union of 3 Distinct Persons; God is The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. The Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Father. The Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son, and the Father and the Son are not the Holy Spirit. The Persons have distinct personalities but the same motives, intentions and love – the same Essence and Being (**Gen 1:26, Matt. 28:19, Luke 3:21-22.**) The 3 Persons of God are so close and intimate with each other, that when we see One Person of God, we really see the others Persons. This is why Jesus reveals that God is One and what we should mean when we say that there is only One God (**Mark 12:29!**)

In God's Relationship, One means Oneness. To think of the three Persons of God as anything less than One is to betray God's Union and Intimacy! God IS Love! This means that God is a Relational Being (**I John 4:16.**) Because of this Truth about God, God is called "The Trinity" or "The Triune God." Trinity and Triune both mean "Three in Unity." When we say "God" we are always talking about 3 Distinct Persons in Union – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (**Matt 3:16-17, 28:19.**) It's similar to how we understand terms like "family" or "team" - Distinct, yet equal, Persons in Relationship. This does NOT mean that there are three Gods, because there is only One God (**1 Cor 8:4-6**), but it does mean 3 distinct Persons in the ONE Being of God (**I Cor 12:4-6, 2 Cor 13:14.**)

Adoption

God the Trinity enjoys such a perfect relationship in His Oneness that He decided He was not going to keep this Relationship to Himself! It's too good! Triune God wanted to adopt others into His relationship of love so that others could experience and enjoy His abundant life forever, as a free gift. Triune God wanting to share His joyous life with others is the reason behind all of creation, and our existence as human beings (**Psalm 8, Heb 2:5-8!**) This is what the New Testament means by the words "Adopt" or "Adoption" (**Gal 4:4-7, Eph 1:3-6, Rom 8:15-17, 23.**) Triune God was intent on including all of Creation in every part of His life! Adoption is God's first and only reason for creating everything! Just think of God's Good News as Plan "A" for "Adoption!"

Incarnation

Because God the Trinity existed before there was anything called a Creation, God was going to have to make creation in order to adopt it, but the fact arose: How could Creation and humanity get into Triune God's relationship unless Triune God brought creation into that relationship? After all, if you are not God, then you can't somehow become God! Something created CANNOT become something uncreated! Somehow God the Trinity would have to become a Creature, and remain a Creature (while also remaining God), if God was going to get us into

His Shared Relationship and keep us there, permanently. This is where the Incarnation of Jesus, the God/Man, comes in! God the Son becoming Man, means that we have nothing to do with trying to get ourselves into a relationship with God. Triune God has graciously brought all of creation into His relationship in Jesus, the Son of God. The only way for creation to get into Triune God's relationship was for God to lower Himself in Jesus and get creation into Himself by a free and willing act of His own. This act of Triune God to include us in His One relationship, freely in Jesus, is called "grace" (Eph 1:2, 2:4-7, II Peter 3:18.)

Triune God's plan for the Son to become Man for our adoption meant that Jesus was going to come for us even if we had never sinned! Triune God created us in order to adopt us! God did not create us to save us from sin, even though God DID save us from our sin! Jesus Christ is NOT Plan "B" or an afterthought of God. He is not just a band-aid patching up our problem of sin. The staggering truth is that Jesus is God's first and ONLY thought for getting us into God's relationship! Jesus is the fulfillment of Plan "A" from before the creation of the world (Eph 1:5-6, Rev 13:8!) Jesus came to adopt us into Triune God's relationship as God had originally planned, and nothing, not even our sin, was going to prevent that!! We were all saved in Jesus (I Tim 4:9-10) because God was intent on fulfilling His plan of Adoption! Triune God settled this purpose of our adoption, in Jesus, before we were even created, and we are already God's adopted children RIGHT NOW! (Gal 4:4-7, Eph 1:3-6, Rom 8:15-17, 23.)

Secret & Education

This plan of Triune God to adopt all of Creation into God's relationship in Jesus used to be a secret that no one knew much about (Col 1:24-29). However, once Jesus ascended into Heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit of Truth to let us know about our Adoption and Inclusion in the life of God (John 16:5-15.) Through the education of God the Holy Spirit, Who has come upon all people (Acts 2:17), and through people who believe and embrace this truth (Eph 1:11-14), this secret is becoming made known all over the world (Col 1:3-6!) When this truth is kept secret, we cannot embrace and experience its liberation, instead we believe lies and experience all kinds of negative and relational problems (Rom 3:9-20, 5:12-19!) It is only when we know the truth about ourselves in Jesus that we can begin to see just how sinful we are when we do not see Jesus properly in His union with all people everywhere (Matt 25:31-46, John 14:20, II Cor 5:14-16, Eph 4:6!) God wants everyone to know Who He really is and who we are in Jesus (I Tim 2:1-8!) This is God's Good News of His Grace in Jesus (Acts 20:24!!)

Summary Thoughts:

In light of this theology centered on the Person of Jesus, it is not our mission as the Church to get people "saved." We want to help people see Who Jesus is and who they already are in Him – God's Adopted Children! In essence we want them to know that they already Belong to God in Jesus (and this will encourage them to Believe, Be Saved, and Behave!)