

Theology vs. Mythology

The Biblical language of “with” and “in” and “through” with reference to the persons of the Trinity, and the Trinity’s relationship to humanity, is challenging to our thought processes. It is hard for us to grasp what it means to do something “through” Jesus. It is difficult for us to imagine how humanity exists “in” the Son. How are the Father, Son, and Spirit “in” each other without actually losing their distinctiveness and merging into a single personhood? These are hard concepts to wrap our heads around.

The difficulty in grasping this reality is found in the fall of Adam and Eve from this week’s text in Genesis 3. We were created to live “in” and “with” and “through” the Triune Life, even as the persons of the Trinity have always lived “in” and “with” and “through” each other. When Adam and Eve attempted to live against this purpose for their existence they plunged us all into a darkness which only the Light of the World can break through. To embrace the Biblical language of God’s Triune Life, and our place in that Life through Jesus, means allowing our minds to be stretched, shaped, and molded by the mind of Christ and allowing our words to be reformed and repaired by the Word of God. In short, it requires repentance. We have to change our minds in light of what God is saying about himself. This is the theme of Lent: for us to continue surrendering to the work of the Son, in the Spirit, to reveal the Father to us.

In this challenge we see the difference between theology and mythology. Theology is God’s own Word about himself – a Word expressed in words of relationship, communion, interdependence, and connectivity, words such as Father, Son, and Spirit, “with”, “in” and “through”. Mythology is our own words that we create to speak of God. These mythological words are words that we find comfortable and easy to understand, that require no true repentance on our part, and allow us to keep believing what we have always believed and keep speaking of God with words that fit the categories and ideas in our own minds.

And there is the crux of the problem. Our mythology is a lie. If we are to know the Truth and be set free by Him then we must stop thinking and speaking in our mythological language and let the Spirit teach us to think and speak in the Theological language of the Father, Son, and Spirit who are in each other and of our adoption into this life with the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit.

~ Jonathan Stepp