

From Issue 1/Aug. 6, 2007

The Adopted Life in the Trinity

Have you ever wondered, “Who am I?” “Why do I exist?” “Why am I here?” “What am I supposed to be doing?” or, “What will happen to me after I die?” Of course you have!!! Here is a basic, practical, real life, Christian response to those questions (that you already know deeply within your soul by God’s grace; I John 2:20-21!!) After all, we can only be “lost” if we already **KNOW** we have a home! Like a drunk staggering around in his own hometown, we get confused when we don’t see life according to Christ (Col 2:8-10!)

The God Who created us is a Union of 3 Distinct or “Different” Persons – 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. They each 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 thing that is so amazing about God is that the 3 Persons of God give themselves to each other so freely, openly and willfully that they are in total unity! They are so close and intimate with each other that when you see one Person of God you really see the other Persons. This is why they reveal that they are only One God and what we should mean when we say that there is only One God!

To think of the three Persons as anything less than One is to betray God’s Union and Intimacy! In other words, the three Persons of the One God share every thing AND every thought they have. The Father, Son and Spirit have no secrets from each other, and never do anything behind each other’s backs. This is why God is sometimes called “The Trinity” or “The Triune God.” Trinity and Triune both mean “Three in Unity.” To know one of the Persons’ of God the Trinity is to know the others, that is how intimate and close they are! (Mark 12:29)

Isn’t that beautiful? This Triune God created everything that exists and that is why you and I long for such relationships ourselves! Haven’t you ever noticed that even your pets can’t stand being alone??? This relational God created them, too! (Gen 1:1-26, Job 38, 39, 40:1, Heb 11:3)

Whenever the Bible speaks of “God”, it does NOT mean a single, individual “old wise man with a pointy beard and hat” called God. Sometimes we do call God the Father, “God,” but we understand that He is equal in relationship with the other two Persons of God – the Son and the Spirit. When we say “God” we are always talking about 3 distinct Persons in union – The Father, The Son and The Spirit. It similar to how we understand “family” and “team.” One “team” or “family” with distinct, yet equal, Persons. This does NOT mean that there are three Gods, because God is only One God but it does mean 3 distinct Persons in the ONE Being of God (I Cor. 12:4-6; II Cor 13:14.)

This Triune God is so loving and giving in their relationship that God has always been completely fulfilled and has never needed a thing. Triune God has never needed anyone or anything else in order to be completely satisfied, happy and filled with joy (Acts 17:24-25.) There never was, never is, and never will be anything negative, bad or “dark and shady” in Triune God’s relationship (I John 1:5) There always has been, and always will be a Spirit of Love and Sharing in God’s

relationship that is positive and good (I John 4:16.)

God the Trinity enjoy such a perfect relationship with each other that they decided they were not going to just keep it between themselves. It's too good! As we might say on the "street", God's relationship is "all that plus a bag of chips!" God wanted to share their life freely with, and give it to others as a pure gift. **That is where you and I come in!** Triune God wanted to adopt others into their union so that others could experience this EXACT relationship of theirs.

This is what the bible means by the term "Adopt" and this is what the New Testament means by the word "Adoption." Triune God is intent on including us in every part of God's life (and have already done it in Jesus - Eph 1:3-5!) Because God the Trinity existed before there was anything called a Creation, they were going to have to make creation in order to adopt it. The first thing they decided was that they were going to make distinct beings who could share this life with them, but the fact arose: Creation could not 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 other Creatures into their One Relationship and keep them there, permanently. **That is where Jesus, the God/Man, comes in!**

Triune God decided that God the Son would make and always sustain creation (Eph 3:9-11.) Because the Son would make and always sustain creation, it meant that from the very beginning, creation would ALWAYS be connected to God in the Son. There is no such thing as any part of creation, including you, being truly separated from God!! Because we exist in the Son (the one who would become Jesus Christ), there can NEVER be a true separation between God and His creation!

Good Gravy! Most of my life, I thought I really was separated from God. I suffered unnecessarily trying to get "close" to God. Don't let that happen to you! Embrace God's Good News! You are permanently in union and close to God, in God the Son!! (Acts 17:26-28.) You have union! Live in it!

~ Tim Brassell