

From the July 4, 2008, Issue

You Are Included

You are included in...

1. The Triune being.

What is God, and why does it matter? God is Father, Son and Spirit, in unity and togetherness forever. At God's kitchen table there are three chairs, one labeled 'Father,' another labeled 'Son,' and a third labeled 'Spirit.' And if that vision isn't wonderful enough for you, there's more.

The gospel is that this God has taken you up and placed you on the lap of the One sitting in the 'Son' chair. Now and forever, if anyone wants to draw a true picture of God, that picture must have YOU in it.

Because you have been included in the Triune being, this is the beginning of a Trinitarian ontology.

2. The Triune knowing.

What does God know, and why does it matter? Father, Son and Spirit know one another fully, intimately and accurately. This includes their knowing of the created universe, which lives and moves and has its being in the Son.

The gospel is that this God has included you in his knowledge. We are like children sitting at the grownup table, participating in a conversation that is mostly beyond our understanding. We are encouraged to learn by contributing to the conversation. This is an accurate picture of all human science, art, philosophy, history, theology, and every conversation you've ever had.

Because you have been included in the Triune knowing, this is the beginning of a Trinitarian epistemology.

3. The Triune acting.

What does God do, and why does it matter? Father, Son and Spirit act toward one another in love; each actively seeks goodness for the other. And all loving action showered on the Son lands on every atom of the universe that is 'in Him.'

The Gospel is that this God has included you in his energetic loving action. It's like our Father is mowing the lawn and letting us 'help' him push the mower. God is making a world of peace and justice and kindness, and we get to help. Your tiniest act of love is a participation in his cosmic mission that cannot fail. You have already begun, and there is no limit to the good you can do in the world.

Because you have been included in the Triune acting, this is the beginning of a Trinitarian ethics.

~ John Stonecypher