

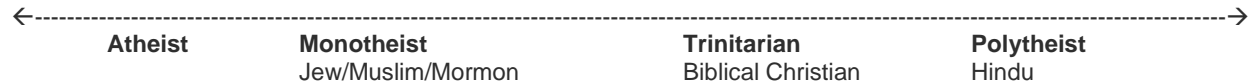
Sermon Outline

LIVING THE TRINITARIAN LIFE | Geoff Lin

Bible Reading: John 17:20-23

Delighting in the Trinity: (1) When $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$
(2) God the Father who loves us
(3) God the Son who saves us
(4) God the Spirit who transforms us
(5) Living the Trinitarian life

Q1. How do we explain the Trinity to unbelievers?



i. partialism

Jn 1:18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

ii. modalism

“modalism” = “moodalism” (Michael Reeves)

iii. the dual natures of Christ

<https://www.trinitycity.church/resources/sermon-archive/>

Q2. What difference should the Trinity make to our church?

i. The triune God is one ... therefore be united (in our diversity)

Jn 17:20 “My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 **that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.** May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, **that they may be one as we are one - 23 I in them and you in me - so that they may be brought to complete unity.** *Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.*

- “one” = united ≠ “the same” or “identical”
- Jesus says, “I and the Father are one”, not “I and the Father are the same”
- unity ≠ uniformity = “being united in our diversity”

Q. How do we decide what type of diversity?

A1. “Be Like the Bereans”

Acts 17:11 Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

A2. “In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity” (Augustine of Hippo (354-430))

ii. The triune God is love ... therefore love one another

1 Jn 4:7 Dear friends, **let us love one another, for love comes from God.** Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because **God is love.** 9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 **This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

- "the vertical shapes the horizontal"

"It is by the Spirit that the Father has eternally loved his Son. And so, by sharing their Spirit with us, the Father and the Son share with us their own life, love and fellowship. By the Spirit uniting me to Christ, the Father knows and loves me as his son; by the Spirit I begin to know and love him as my Father. By the Spirit I begin to love aright - unbending me from my self-love, he wins me to share the Father's pleasure in the Son and the Son's in the Father. By the Spirit I (slowly!) begin to love as God loves, with his own generous, overflowing, self-giving love for others." (M Reeves, *Delighting in the Trinity*, p.96)

Jn 13:34 "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

What I've learned (and my response)
