

THOUGHTS ON THE TRINITY



(Image from Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA) Website)

Thoughts on the Trinity



1. The Mystery of Mysteries
2. Enigmas and Issues: The Oneness of the Three
3. “Specialties”: The Threeness of the One
4. The Trinity in our Lives and Our Faith

God the Father, Creator



- **Transcendent Mystery**
- **Creation as an Act of Love**
- **“Abba” – the Nature of God**

God the Son, Redeemer

- **God’s “Face” for Us**
- **God’s Sacrificial Love**

God the Spirit, Sanctifier



- **Giver of Life to All Creation**
- **God Dwelling in Human Beings**

God the Spirit, Sanctifier



- **Giver of Life to All Creation**

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” *Genesis 1:1-2*

“Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.” *John 3:5*

God the Spirit, Sanctifier



- **Giver of Life to All Creation**
- **God Dwelling in Human Beings**

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate [*Paraclete*], to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.”

John 14:16-17

God the Spirit, Sanctifier



- **Giver of Life to All Creation**
- **God Dwelling in Human Beings**

“I pray that, according to the riches of [the Father’s] glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”

Ephesians 3:16-17

Some Suggestions for Our Lives and Faith



- Live in the *Flow* (or *Dance*)
- Live as an Image of God
- Live for the Praise and Glory
of the Triune God

Some Suggestions



- **Live in the *Flow* (or *Dance*)**

Where can I go from your spirit?

Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there;

if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.

If I take the wings of the morning

and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,

even there your hand shall lead me,

and your right hand shall hold me fast. **Psalm 139**

Some Suggestions



- **Live as an Image of God**

“So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1:27

Some Suggestions



- **Live as an Image of God**

1. Seek to follow the model of Jesus Christ

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. *1 Cor. 3:18*

Some Suggestions



- **Live as an Image of God**

1. Seek to follow the model of Jesus Christ
2. Foster diversity in community

“I want to be like St. Francis of Assisi!”

Richard Rohr

(to his spiritual mentor)

Some Suggestions



- **Live as an Image of God**

1. Seek to follow the model of Jesus Christ
2. Foster diversity in community

“The degree to which you can see the divine image where you would rather not tells me how fully the divine image is now operative in you!”

Richard Rohr

Some Suggestions



- **Live as an Image of God**

1. Seek to follow the model of Jesus Christ

2. Foster diversity in community

“The Trinity has to do with the lives of each of us, our daily experiences, our struggles to follow our conscience, our love and joy, our bearing the sufferings of the world...it also has to do with the struggle against social injustice, with efforts at building a more human form of society.”

Leonardo Boff

Some Suggestions



- **Live for the Praise and Glory of the Triune God**

“The ‘spiritual life’ of Christians is nothing more than training the eye of the heart on the glory of God, and living in such a way that one acquires the habit of discerning the brilliance of God’s glory.”

Catherine LaCugna

Some Suggestions



- **Live for the Praise and Glory of the Triune God**

1. Worship and Praise

Q. 1. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

Some Suggestions



- **Live for the Praise and Glory of the Triune God**

1. Worship and Praise
2. Prayer to the Trinity

“Gracious God, you who hold us as close as a mother holds her new-born child, you who feel our fear, as a woman senses her neighbor’s needs...”

Some Suggestions



- **Live for the Praise and Glory
of the Triune God**

1. Worship and Praise
2. Prayer to the Trinity

The Basic Pattern

To the Father

through the Son

by the power of the Holy Spirit

Prayer to the Trinity



The Spirit helps us in our weakness;
for we do not know how to pray as we
ought, but that very Spirit intercedes
with sighs too deep for words.”

Romans 8:26

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS !