

## Trinity Sunday, 2022

The Father, Son and Holy Spirit work to restore our relationship with Him

1. In the Church Year Trinity Sunday concludes the Time of Our Lord (Christmas and Easter season) and begins the Time of the Church, the season of Pentecost, in the liturgical calendar.
  - a. In other words, Holy Trinity Sunday is a pivot point between God's physical ministry through Christ and the life of the church guided by the Holy Spirit.
    - i. The season of Pentecost is a time where we see how God is living and active in our lives through the Holy Spirit.
    - ii. Trinity Sunday is a day for worshipping God as He reveals Himself in Scripture as three persons together in one divinity, one God.
    - iii. The Father has given the gift of his only-begotten Son for the salvation of sinners, and they send the Spirit to enlighten our hearts and minds with his gifts.
  - b. What Holy Trinity Sunday is not supposed to be is a commemoration or celebration of a theological abstraction: one God in three persons, etc
    - i. The Athanasian creed, while good, becomes very abstract because of its precision and length
    - ii. The goal of this day is not to explain or merely describe God's triune nature (which in our limited, finite capacity is impossible to contemplate) but rather how our triune God interacts with His creation.
    - iii. And as I've said before it's about relationship.
  - c. In the beginning, before sin we were created in image of that triune God, as Genesis tells us, "**Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'**" (Gen 1:26)
    - i. And then after the creation of Adam God said, "**It is not good for man to be alone,**" (Gen 2:18)
    - ii. Therefore, God created Eve for Adam, a suitable helpmate for him so that he would not be alone.
    - iii. But more than that He instituted marriage saying, "**Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**" (Gen 2:24)
    - iv. We were created for communion: communion with God and communion with each other most vividly displayed in marriage where the two become one in a reflection of God's own nature.
  - d. But sin destroyed that communion
    - i. We could no longer dwell with God in the face-to-face relationship for which we were created.

- ii. And we have not been able to dwell with each other in anything close to the relationship we were meant to have in marriage or community.
  - iii. But what we celebrate on this Trinity Sunday is that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit work together to restore our relationship with Him.
- 2. Because of sin we prefer to be “me” not “us”.
  - a. Our present culture thrives on individualism.
    - i. People are getting married later and later, if at all: In 1962, half of 21-year-olds were already married. By 2019, that was down to 8 percent ([businessinsider.com/average-marriage-age-united-states-2019-2](https://www.businessinsider.com/average-marriage-age-united-states-2019-2)).
    - ii. We’ve coined new terms of derision like “Sheeple,” blending sheep and people meaning an individual that unthinkingly “goes with the flow” instead of charting his or her own path, they have lost their individuality.
    - iii. Or remember when Hilary Clinton suggested it takes a village to raise a child, people were indignant.
    - iv. We want to believe we do things on our own.
  - b. But that sinful individualism doesn’t just mar our relationship with each other but even more so with God
    - i. When Satan tempted our first parents, the primary relationship he had to destroy was our relationship with God.
    - ii. When he said to Eve, **“For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil,”** (Gen 3:5) he introduced THE temptation that has plagued us ever since – we want to be our own gods.
    - iii. The French philosopher Voltaire, no friend of Christianity said, **In the beginning God created man in His own image, and man has been trying to repay the favor ever since.**
    - iv. Frank Sinatra captured the essence of our independent spirit in the song he popularized, My Way where he concludes, **“For what is a man, what has he got? If not himself then he has naught, Not to say the things that he truly feels And not the words of someone who kneels Let the record shows I took all the blows and did it my way.”**
  - c. However, whether we like it or not, the One who truly does everything His way will have the final word
    - i. Though Frank didn’t want to say the words of someone who kneels, God tells us, **“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.”** (Rom 14:11)
    - ii. And all of our sinful individualism, the need to do it my way, without regard for God or anyone else, only ends in one way – in death.

- iii. As God warned Adam before he sinned, **“You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”** (Gen 2:16-17)
  - iv. That hasn’t changed, no one has made it out of this life alive no matter how well they’ve done things their way – death comes for everyone
3. But we were created in the image of our triune God, and we see that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit work to restore our relationship with Him and each other
- a. God the Father loved His creation too much to let it destroy itself, so He sent His Son as the Gospel of John tells us, **“For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”** (Joh 3:17)
    - i. Through Christ’s sacrifice what had been separated by sin was now united, this was God’s will as He tells us in His Word, **“which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.”** (Eph 1:9-10)
    - ii. Jesus’ sacrifice restored our communion with God so that Jesus was able to say to His disciples the night before His crucifixion, **“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth...You know him, for he dwells with you and will be *in* you...If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”** (Joh 14:16-17,23)
  - b. And having had that communion with God restored God now places us in communion on earth for our benefit in the church, **“For just as the body is one and has many members...so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.”** (1Co 12:12-14)
    - i. Again, it is not good that we are alone, the devil would have us be by ourselves, islands, disconnected, kept apart, easy pickins for him and his demons.
    - ii. But this church is the bastion of God on earth to serve the world for the Gospel and for our protection.
    - iii. He promised Peter that the very gates of hell will not prevail against it. (Mt 16:18)
    - iv. It is not good to be alone, and our loving Lord, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit all work together to restore our relationship with Him and each other.