

THE TRINITY – THE RELATIONSHIP

- God has always been the Trinity; the Father, the Son, the Spirit.
- God does not change.
 - James 1:17
- God has always been the Trinity.
- “So it is as we would expect: if all three members of the Trinity are equally and fully divine, then they have all three existed for all eternity, and God has eternally existed as a Trinity. Moreover, God cannot be other than he is, for he is unchanging. Therefore it seems right to conclude that God necessarily exists as a Trinity—he cannot be other than he is.” Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

JOHN 17:24 ESV FATHER, I DESIRE THAT THEY ALSO, WHOM YOU HAVE GIVEN ME, MAY BE WITH ME WHERE I AM, TO SEE MY GLORY THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN ME BECAUSE YOU LOVED ME BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.

The relationship of the Father, Son, and Spirit with each other is characterized by love.

1 WHAT IS THE TRINITARIAN RELATIONSHIP LIKE?

- The Father loves the Son.
 - John 17:24
 - John 3:35
- The Father delights in the Son.
 - Luke 3:21-22
 - Isaiah 42:1
- The Son loves the Father.
 - John 14:31
- The Biblical emphasis is the Father as the lover and the Son as the Beloved.
 - Colossians 1:13
- What about the Holy Spirit?
 - It is never said that the Father or the Son love the Holy Spirit
 - John 17:26
 - Jonathan Edwards: The Holy Spirit is the very love, the infinite and perfect love, of God the Father for his Son.

2 WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- Communion with God the Father
 - John Owen: “The chief way by which the saints have communion with the Father is love-free, undeserved, eternal love.”
 - If we are to have communion with the Father in love, two things are required of us. We must receive the love of the Father, and we must show gratitude and love to the Father.

- 1. Receive God’s love in faith through Christ
 - a. 1 John 3:1
 - b. John Owen: *Consider who it is who loves us. It is the love of him who is in himself all-sufficient and who is infinitely satisfied with himself and his own glorious excellences and perfections. It is the love of him who has no need to seek the love of others for himself and no need to make himself happy by loving his creatures. He could, if he so wished, have rested with delight and satisfaction for all eternity in the happiness of his own self-sufficiency. He had his only-begotten Son also, his eternal wisdom to rejoice in and delight in from all eternity (Prov. 8:30). His only Son, by himself alone, would be sufficient to satisfy and delight the Father. But in spite of all this, the Father will love his saints also. And the Father’s love is such that he does not seek his own happiness and satisfaction only, but ours also. It is the love of a God, the love of a Father whose character is kind and generous.*
 - c. Believe the Father loves you!
- 2. Respond in love to God through Christ.
 - a. John 3:16
 - b. 1 John 4:7-12
 - c. John 17:20-26
- 3. The mutual love of God and the saints are similar in that their communion of love is in Christ and through Christ.
 - a. John 14:6