

Can We Understand the Trinity of God?

I believe we can understand the Trinity of God in sufficient depth to know why God presents Himself as a triune God, one God but three persons.

We personally will never fully understand God. To do this we would have to be God, which we can never be, for we are the created not the Creator.

Isaiah 64:8 [NIV] *“Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”*

The clay could never come to understand the mind of the potter.

Everything that God says or does is of value. God never wastes words or actions; all are for our benefit.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 [NIV] *“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

Why then does God present Himself as a triune God?

I believe the key to understanding this fact is found in one word, “relationships”.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 [NIV] *“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.”*

God desires to reconcile Himself to those beings He has created in His own likeness and image.

Genesis 1:26 [NIV] *“Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”*

God is doing this through teaching us about the relationship He desires to develop with us.

This relationship is in three major forms and the one God presents Himself to us as a triune God for us to understand this desired relationship.

As with everything God teaches us He starts with the physical for us then to eventually reach the spiritual aspect of His teaching.

Romans 1:19-20 [NIV] *“...since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

This is a basic approach we need to have to understand God’s spiritual Word.

I am only one person occupying one space at one time. Yet I am more than one person.

- a) I am a **father** of my children.
- b) I am at the same time an intimate **husband** of my wife.

c) And also at the same time as a **Minister of God** I am a servant to His people.

I also am triune, one person yet three in differing relationships.

What then does God desire us to understand through presenting Himself as a triune Creator God?

More than perhaps we will ever understand in this present life, yet much of great value right now.

When we relate the three titles of the triune God to relationships then we will see that every possible aspect of relationship is covered by God.

No part of our life is without our being able to know how God will be dealing with us in our relationship with Him.

At different times we will need God in each of His triune forms.

God the Father

What is a father, on the physical level?

The father initiates the creation of future children through a union with the future mother of those children.

John 6:44 [NIV] *“No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

The initiative is with our Spiritual Father who and when we are called to become His children.

Ephesians 5:24 [NIV] *“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”*

The church depicts the wife within whom each child of God is nurtured.

John 20:17 [NIV] *“... I [Jesus] am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.”*

There will be many times that we will need in our lives the tender protecting care of our loving Heavenly Father.

Psalms 103:13-14 [NIV] *“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.”*

God wants our relationship to be with Him as that which we may experience in a limited form on the physical level. A loving, caring, protecting Father who knows our weaknesses as a baby or young child.

Meditate on this and seek to know our God as our Father.

God the Son

Jesus being the Son of God and we the created children of God, brings to us a relationship with God that differs from that of a Father and child.

God wants us to develop with Him the close relationship that on the physical level we can experience with an older brother.

Every young child naturally looks up to, admires and seeks to follow the example of an elder brother who is loving and kind to them.

We have such an elder brother in Jesus the Son of God.

If however our older physical brother were to save us from death by sacrificing his own life he would become our hero and we would never stop telling others of the great sacrifice he made for us.

Jesus who is God and our Elder Brother is just such a hero and we need to let everyone know about Him and the sacrifice He made for us to live.

Meditate on this relationship and see how it changes our relationship with our Creator God.

God the Holy Spirit

We have through the Holy Spirit the most intimate relationship with God.

Job 32:8 [NIV] *“But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.”*

We have within us a “human” spirit that can be united to the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, [**Proverbs 20:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

It is through this union of spirits that we can experience the loving relationship God desires to have with us.

Romans 8:9-10 [NIV] *“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.”*

The Spirit of God [the Holy Spirit] and the Spirit of Christ are one and the same person.

John 14:15-21 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **will be in you**. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”*

Read this very revealing scripture over and over and meditate on it.

We have described in this scripture the intimate loving relationship we can have with God.

Ephesians 5:24-25 [NIV] *“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...”*

The relationship between Christ and the Church is likened to a marriage relationship in which the Spirit of Christ [the Holy Spirit] is involved.

Luke 1:35 [NIV] *“The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”*

Note the intimate involvement of the Holy Spirit, in the physical birth of Jesus the Son of Man.

Matthew 1:18-20 [NIV] *“This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, **she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit**. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”*

The intimate relationship between Mary and the Holy Spirit [Spirit of Christ] resulted in the birth of Jesus the Son of Man.

John 14:17 [NIV] *“...the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and **will be in you**.”*

The Holy Spirit will be **“in us”** joined with our human spirit.

An intimate union similar to that which a husband and wife can experience on a physical level.

An intimate relationship that can as an end product be the creation of a child of God.

Galatians 5:22-25 [NIV] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. **Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.**”*

As we live with the Holy Spirit those attributes that are His will “rub off” on us.

This will happen in the same way that we by our close relationship with our physical parents take on their characteristics. We are recognised by others as their child by these attributes.

Everything that God does is the perfect way to perform the task in hand.

God presenting Himself to us as One God yet triune is the perfect way to teach us the multi-facet relationship He desires to have with us His created children.

God is our loving, caring Father.

God is our loving, sacrificing Brother, our Hero.

God is our constant intimate loving companion whose attributes He desires that we share.

Accepting these paths to a perfect relationship with our Creator will guide us to become His created child.

To become a child of God.

To experience is to know!