

**Sermon Notes of
Senior Pastor Glen Weber's Sermon on January 31, 2016
"God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit"**

**[Connecting with God and with Others Series;
God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit Sub-Series]**

[In today's sermon, "God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit", part three of a series "Connecting with God and with Others", Senior Pastor Glen Weber shows that through Jesus and the Holy Spirit, we can connect to the Father and get to know Him more intimately.]

Notes:

Introduction:

- In our continuing series on "Connecting with God and others", Pastor Glen is beginning a three-part sub-series called, "God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit".
- In this series we will be focusing on who God is and the amazing connection we can have with Him.

God and science:

- "Science has proved there is no God!" – written by one of our former members on a friends Facebook page.
- Oh, quite the contrary!
- Science can't prove such a thing – that would take "faith" – because God is metaphysical.
- Science can only measure, weigh or observe physical, tangible things!

Carl Sagan's quote:

God Is or Is Not

The idea that God is an oversized white male with a flowing beard who sits in the sky and tallies the fall of every sparrow is ludicrous. But if by God one means the set of physical laws that govern the universe, then clearly there is such a God. This God is emotionally unsatisfying...it does not make much sense to the law of gravity. Carl Sagan – American astronomer (1934-1996)

Our old booklet – "Seven Proofs God Exists"

- Those proofs might show that there had to be a Creator, a Lawgiver, a Designer but it doesn't tell us much about who He is and His nature.

Brad Jersak's book – "A More Christlike God":

- In his introduction, he writes about most people's concepts about God.
 - God is beyond our comprehension.
 - They subscribe to negative theology – only describe what God is "not"
- Brad writes (page 4): "There seem to be as many versions of God as there are people, even within a particular faith, not matter how diligently religion tries to indoctrinate us."
- Truths we declare about God: (page 7)
 - God is good and is never evil. He is the perfection we call goodness.
 - God is love and every other aspect of God must align with his love.
 - God is light and in him is no darkness whatsoever.
 - God is perfect beauty and in him is no ugliness at all.
 - God is perfect truth and let no one call him a liar.
 - God is perfect justice and in him is no injustice at all.

David Bryant's book – "Christ Is All":

- He writes about the many characteristics of Christ.
- While each characteristic is true, pastor Glen finds the information to be lifeless when he reads it.
- It makes Jesus untouchable and distant.

Knowing God:

- We could continue listing characteristics – what some call "divine energies".
- But those do not lead us to a relationship with God.
- So, how do we know God and have a relationship with Him?

Theologian Baxter Kruger's comments in a video:

"The Gospel tells that God has shown Himself to us – that can look at the laws of nature and creation, and we can consider all his character traits (actually they are not character traits – they are His very being!!), but there is the Father's way to show Himself to us.

Tradition has it that the elders in the 1st century begged the Apostle John to write down his experiences with Jesus. The Gospel and Epistles of John were his response."

The Word:

John 1:1, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- John shows a relationship between the Word and God.

2) He was with God in the beginning.

- The Greek implies a "face to face" relationship.

- God is not isolated but has relationships.

3) Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

- He made everything that exists in the universe – including us.

4) In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

- God is filled with life.
- And He has given life to mankind.

14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- When the Word became flesh, He joined humanity to establish a relationship with us.
- We are a believer and follower of Jesus because we have seen the glory of Jesus in our lives.

The Father is revealed:

15), (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ ”)

- Jesus was the One John the Baptist was introducing to the world.

16) Out of his (Jesus’) fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given.

- Out of His fullness – the fullness of Jesus – we receive grace.

17) For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

- Grace and truth only come through Jesus.

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.

- Jesus has revealed God the Father to us – because He is in that face-to-face relationship with the Father.

Jesus and the Father:

- Jesus further explains His relationship with the Father and the fact that He (Jesus) reveals the Father to us.

John 14:5, Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way?”

- The disciples were confused.

6) Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

- He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- We must come through Him to have access to the Father.

7) If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.”

- Through Jesus we know who the Father is.
- He’s just like Jesus.

8) Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.”

- The disciples still didn’t understand that Jesus reflected the Father’s thoughts and actions.

9) Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

- If we’ve seen Jesus, we’ve seen the Father.
- Is the Father an angry God who stays away from sin?
- Or is He like Jesus, stepping right in to the sinfulness of humans (unbelievers) and loving them to transformation?

10) Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

- The Father lives in Jesus.

11) Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.

- Believe that Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in Jesus.

12) Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

- Jesus sent us the Holy Spirit and through Him we have impact in the world,
- As an example, Christians have started hospitals and universities all over the world.
- Through the centuries, millions of Christians have gone out and share Jesus with others.

Holy Spirit:

- Jesus also speaks extensively in John chapters 15 and 16 about the Holy Spirit whom He would send from the Father.

Video: “Old Trinitarian Theology” by Joe Tkach – 1/29/2016 (From GCI’s website:

- The Trinity has been part of Judeo-Christian belief since the beginning.
- We know from the writing of Paul that indeed God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and that these three co-equal and co-personal members of the Godhead are intertwined in a relationship that has been extended to all humanity through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

- The Trinity isn’t a nice doctrine to put at the top of our Statement of Beliefs (although it is there!).
- The Trinity is a relationship that flows through every aspect of our Christian walk.
- The Trinity is a reality that should impact every aspect of our relationships.
- May we become more and more aware of that relationship, as we are “Connecting to God and to others.”

Closing Prayer