

God is Three in One
November 26, 2006
Deut 6:1-9; 2Cor 13:13
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Synopsis:

Trinity = One God, three persons

It's what makes us Christian

Next two weeks.

Does it really matter?

How did we get here?

Not a math problem to be solved: 3 isn't 1

But a relational reality to be lived

2 Texts:

Deut 6 (proclaim and instruct)

2Cor 13:13: Bless in Trinitarian name

Purpose of life is for us to come into the relationship Jesus has with the Father through the power of the Spirit.

I.

Heaven and Earth are the Same

Deut 6:4 "Hear O Israel, *you* are God, *you* alone"

Teaching: Deut 6 proclaims in this environment

Pagan and Neo-pagan belief, e.g Baal, Hindu, Western

Divine = Us, pantheism or pan-en-theism, e.g. Force

Action = get in touch with self, powers

Prayer = meditate

Problem = no evil

Human = individual relating directly to god (us)

Story = your story

II.

Heaven and Earth are Separate

Deut 6:4 “Hear O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD alone”

Teaching: Bible addresses this in Ecc, Job, Paul in Athens

Epicurus, Deist (Enlightenment, Descartes), Islam

Washington, Jefferson, Kennedy (ind rights, our work)

Islam (Allah transcendent with rule book)

Action = on our own, get away, follow rule book

Prayer = get God’s attention, don’t pray, pray to get away

Problem = God is not around

Human = individual not relating to anyone

Story = your story, Allah’s story

III.

Heaven and Earth Overlap

2Cor 13:13 “Lord Jesus Christ . . . God . . . Holy Spirit”

Teaching: Biblical and Trinitarian

God is not us but present at times and places

OT:

Spirit in Gen 1

Abraham (begins rescue operation)

Wilderness, Temple

Torah

Prophets

Wisdom

NT:

Spirit at birth

Spirit at baptism

Jesus is Temple (Passion)

Jesus is Torah (Matt 5)

Jesus is Prophets (Isa 61)

Jesus is Wisdom (John 1 logos)

Son becomes flesh through the Spirit to rescue for the Father.

Action:

What is Jesus doing now?

Not WWJD but WIJD

Prayer: Prayer of Jesus to Father by Spirit

Human: Community, relationship

Story: Father's rescue in the Son through Spirit

Images:

Baptismal font = enter into Jesus' baptism

Table = nurtured in what Jesus' doing to and from Father

Pulpit = hear Word of God from Father by Spirit