

# Practical Implications of the Doctrine of the Trinity

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Waterhouse Lectures 2021

# The Name of God

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- Tetragrammaton
  - The term for the name God gave of Himself to Moses at the burning bush. Exodus 3:14
  - It is comprised of 4 letters, YHWH, and pronounced Yahweh or Jehovah.
  - The 4 letters form the root meaning of the word, 'to be'.
  - It can be translated, "He Who is," or "He Who brings being into being."
  - In the Bible translations, the word, LORD, represents the Hebrew word, YHWH.
  - That is why the confession of Jesus is Lord equates Jesus with God; it recognizes His deity. Phil 2:9-11

# The Description of God

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Throughout the Old Testament, the following statement is repeated concerning the character of God:

"The LORD is good and His lovingkindness is forever!"

- At the dedication of Solomon's Temple, 2 Chronicles 5:13
- Psalm 106:1

L o v i n g k i n d n e s s , *c h e s e d*

-Zealous love, faithfulness, truthfulness

-God's pursuing love that will not let me go.

# God's Description of Himself

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"The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation."

Exodus 34:6-7

# The Description of God's Son

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And the Word became flesh, and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' "

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ.

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 1:14-18

# Grace and Truth

Only by the power of God's Spirit can grace and truth be applied correctly.

Either we over-emphasize God's grace and make God an unjust God, or

We over-emphasize God's truth and make God unloving.

# The Wonder of Creation

- Genesis 1:1-2
  - The Beauty and Awe of the Story of Creation
  - Father
  - Son/Word, John 1
  - Spirit
    - "hovered", to be moved/affected with the feeling of tender love, cherish, to brood over as a n eagle with her young
    - The Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism and the Father said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

# Choral Reading

| Genesis 1                              | John 1                                     |
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| In the beginning                       | In the beginning                           |
| God                                    |  |
|  | Was the Word                               |
|  | And the Word was with God,                 |
|  | And the Word was God.                      |
|  | He was in the beginning with God.          |
| God created the heavens and the earth. |  |
|  | All things came into being through Him,    |
|  | And apart from Him nothing came into being |
|  | That has come into being.                  |



| G e n e s i s 1  | J o h n 1   |
|--|---|
| The earth was formless and void,                                 |   |
| And darkness was over the surface of the deep,                   |   |
| And the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. |   |
| The God said,  |   |
| "Let there be light;"  |   |
| And there was light.   |   |
|  | In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. |
|  | That light shines in darkness,                      |
|  | And the darkness did not overcome it.               |
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# Creation of Humanity

- Then God said, "Let U s make man in O u r image, according to Our likeness; and let t h e m rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Genesis 1:26-27

# The Blessing

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God b l e s s e d them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful; and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:28

# God's Command to Adam

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- The Lord God commanded the man, saying, " From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.
- Genesis 2:16-17

# A Helper Suitable

- Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him." Gen. 2:18
  - H e l p e r , *ezer*, used 21 times in the Old Testament (NASB), only two times for the woman and all the rest for the Lord, as the helper for Israel.
    - "My help comes from the Lord, maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:2
    - A necessary ally
  - S u i t a b l e , *kenegdo*, corresponding to
    - Of all of God's creation, there was not found a creature suitable for him. V. 20

# Creation of Woman, Gen. 2:21-25

1. God took from the man's own body.
2. After seeing every created animal, the man says, "This is now *o f m e*."
3. The man's response is the first recorded song in the Bible.
4. God fashioned/built the woman.
5. Woman = *ishshah*, Man = *ish*

# Unity in Diversity

The same way we think of the Trinity, as oneness with different persons, so in a similar way humanity reflects God's image, with unity in diversity.

Therefore, when we think of humanity, we need to see male and female as unified, working together for the glory of God.

# The Fall

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Gen 3

1. The wiles of the serpent.
2. The response of the woman.
3. The inaction of the man.



# God's response to their rebellion

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God curses the serpent and the ground.

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God says that for the man and the woman to fulfill the creation design for them, they will struggle.

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The relationship between the man and the woman will now have struggles.

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God promises to send a redeemer. The proto-evangelium.

# What can we say about the woman from Gen. 1-3?

Woman was made in the image of God.

Woman was fashioned by God.

The woman was a gift to the man.

Woman was a necessary ally, a helper suitable.

The woman was given the name, Eve, *life*, because she was the mother of all living.

# Husband and Wife: the Redeemed Relationship

1. A note to the singles.
2. Ephesians 5:22–33 is set in the context of instructions to the church, "Be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma." vv. 1–2
3. The passage on marriage is interwoven with the relationship of Christ and the Church. The goal? That we would be holy and blameless, Eph. 1:4
4. A word on submission.
  - a. The verb, submit, is given in verse 21 and not in verse 22.
  - b. Definition: To line up under the leadership of another
  - c. The husband is not to take the place of Christ for the wife.
  - d. The husband and wife work together in unity to represent the gospel.

# Women and Service to Christ

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|---------|---|
| Speak   | Women are to speak God's Word. Joel 2:28-29, fulfilled in Acts 2:14ff, Matthew 28:18-20   |
| Exhibit | Women are to exhibit the fruit of the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-25   |
| Use     | Women are to use their gifts given by the Holy Spirit. Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12. etc.  |
| Act out | Women are to act out of self-restraint and not self-promotion. 1 Timothy 2:9-15   |
| Love    | Women are to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37-39 |

**AS a  
church,  
are we...**

Leading women to Christ?

Discipling women?

Encouraging women to use their spiritual gifts?

Listening to the voices of women in the congregation?

Respecting women as created in God's image?

Women are necessary for the  
life of the church and the  
work of the Kingdom of God.

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*Other practical  
applications  
for the doctrine  
of the Trinity*

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