

2022 WATERHOUSE LECTURES
THE TRIUNE GOD IN WORSHIP, PRAYER & LIFE
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**SESSION ONE: WHY THE MOST MYSTERIOUS DOCTRINE IN CHRISTIANITY
WON'T GO AWAY**

- Trinity Sunday in the west is the Sunday after Pentecost (June 5, 2022) and in the east it falls on Pentecost Sunday.
- The Trinity is largely relegated to the celebration of baptism, a few benedictions and two hymns.
- Why did Muslim apologists claim that Christians had taken the Trinity out of the Bible in 1952? (see 1 John 5:7 in the KJV versus the RSV)
- According to the Catholic apologist and mystery writer (see the Father Brown detective series), G.K. Chesterton, most people read the Bible as tourists and not as travelers. Tourists go out to see what they expect to see while travelers go out to see what's there.
- The manifold NT witness to the Trinity emerges when we start seeing the unexpected patterns of the three persons in the Godhead. See 2 Cor. 13:14 and 1 Cor. 12:4-6.
- Note the "textual pressure" of the scriptural references to the Triune God. Trinity is everywhere in the NT. There are at least 75 such witnesses.
- Trinitarian thinking is the default consciousness of the NT writers. They learned it from Jesus.
- Something amazing happened in 1994, when I conducted a Trinitarian prayer experiment in a seminary systematic theology class and later at a church retreat,
 - Father, Son, Holy Spirit
 - Father, Holy Spirit, Son
 - Son, Father, Holy Spirit
 - Spirit, Holy Spirit, Father
 - Holy Spirit, Son, Father
 - Holy Spirit, Father, Son

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

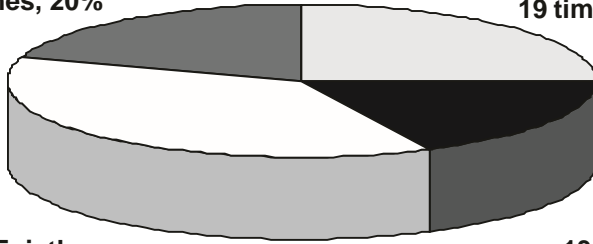
SESSION TWO: TEXT AND CONTEXT IS KING- MAKING DATA SING

A. TRIADIC OCCURRENCES IN MAJOR NEW TESTAMENT AREAS

Hebrews through

Revelation,
15 times, 20%

Gospels,
19 times, 25%



Pauline Epistles,
28 times, 38%

Acts,
13 times, 17%

NT DEMOGRAPHIC FOR TRIADIC OCCURRENCES

Spirit-Son-Father 8 times, 10%

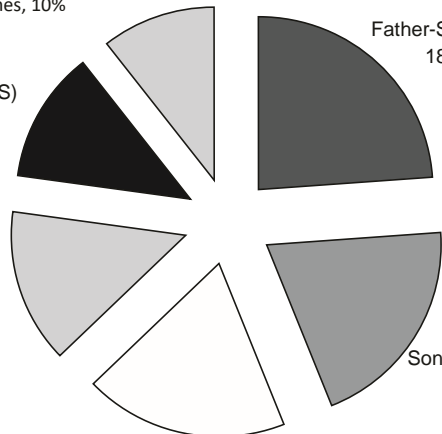
Spirit-Father-Son (Sp-F-S)
9 times, 12%

Father-Spirit-Son (F-Sp-S)
11 times, 15%

Son-Father-Spirit (S-F-Sp)
14 times, 19%

Father-Son-Spirit (F-S-Sp)
18 times, 24%

Son-Spirit-Father (S-Sp-F)
15 times, 20%



TEXT AND CONTEXT IS KING:

Triadic Order	Core Theme	Key Feature, Meaning, Value
Father-Son-Spirit	Missional	Sentness
Son-Father-Spirit	Christological	Service
Spirit-Son-Father	Ecclesial	Oneness/Giftedness (Unity/Diversity)
Son-Spirit-Father	Evangelistic	Acceptance
Spirit-Father-Son	Liturgical	Reverence
Father-Spirit-Son	Formational	Consecration

EXPERIENCING THE TRINITARIAN PRAYER EXPERIMENT

SESSION THREE: TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT THE TRINITY

- The Father, Son, Spirit order is the baptismal order and the triadic order most referenced in the New Testament. This order is God moving to enact His redemptive mission. Knowing, singing and praying this order brings new order to our lives. This order is the most familiar one to children.
- The second most expressed order in Scripture is Son, Spirit, Father. It first occurs at the baptism of Jesus. However, its context is usually one of regeneration, experiencing spiritual rebirth as in 1 Cor. 6:11.
- Baptism is the context of Matt 21:23-27, where Jesus' is being questioned about authority to cleanse the temple. "By what authority do you..." Here Jesus uses good Talmudic methodology, asking good questions and even answering questions with a better question. "Whose baptism was John's?"
- David Bivin and Brad Gray suggest that Jesus was pointing toward his baptism as his ordination/authorization by God to commence his rabbinical ministry. This accords with the pattern of 1st century Palestinian Jewish education wherein completion of rabbinical discipleship happened at @30 years of age after completing a twelve year discipleship under a rabbi with authority.
- Matt 3:15 "Let it be so for now; for this it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."
- So this triadic order integrates two biblically inseparable experiences: cleansing from sin and commissioning to ministry.
- Isaiah 6 emphasizes the theological truth that whomever the Living God cleanses He also calls to service.
- Christian baptism is an ordination and pledge to service. Believers are members and ministers.
- At nineteen occurrences, the Son, Father, Spirit is the third most invoked triadic order in the NT. This order occurs normally in contexts related to service or regeneration, being born of the spirit. It also lays out a great way to teach children about the Trinity. After all, what child does not hear from a friend about that friend's parents and perhaps meets and becomes endeared to that parent by being in their friend's home regularly. So it is clear in the gospel stories that whoever spends time with Jesus often hears about the Abba Father of Jesus. Clearly, Jesus loves his Father and knows he is loved by the Father. The closer you are to Jesus the closer you are to the Father until the Spirit of the Father begins to indwell you with a joy and holiness.

SESSION FOUR: THE ONENESS OF GOD- IMPLICATIONS OF THE TRIUNE RELATIONS

"If our creedal affirmations of the mystery of the Trinity are true, then they must be very true, affecting profoundly every dimension of our existence."

(Anne Hunt, *What are they saying about the Trinity?* Page 4)

1. Preach/practice monotheism versus polytheism or henotheism. Oneness means intimacy.
2. Preach/practice radical monotheism (Richard Niebuhr) versus rigid monotheism. Beware cheap monotheism like "the Episcopalians have the Father, the Baptists have the Son and the Pentecostals have the Spirit."
3. Preach responsiveness to God as He reveals himself. Marvel in His mystery. Maturity recognizes and reverences mystery.
4. Preach distinction without division, identity in relation, autonomy in intimacy, *kenosis* [emptying] in *koinonia* [fellowship], and inseparability of operations.

Preach and practice that in God's oneness lies our hope of oneness, individually and corporately. God's intra-oneness of community (Father, Son and Spirit) and equality critiques our individualism (not individuality) and our ontic hierarchies, [like racism and genderism]. See Moltmann in *Man*.

5. Oneness is not sameness, it is mutual and reciprocal. Our community must reflect His Lordship in our economy of unity, diversity, mutuality, giftedness and reciprocity.
6. Submission in time is not subordination in eternity. Because God serves we can serve.
7. Out of the divine diversity in unity comes mission in creation and redemption. We are made in that image.
8. In mission, the divine triad organizes in a voluntary, functional economy.

NT Book	Ch. 6 - FSSp	Ch 10- FSpS	Ch. 7 - SSpF	Ch. 8 - SFSp	Ch. 9 - SpFS	Ch 11-SpSF	Totals
	Sending Missional	Shaping Formational	Saving Evangelical	Indwelling Christological	Standing Positional	Uniting Ecclesial	Totals
Matthew	C - 12:18		A - 3:16-17				3
	A - 28:19-20						
Mark			A - 1:10-11				1
Luke			A - 3:21	A - 11:13	A - 4:18		5
			A - 10:21	A - 24:49-50			
John	B- 1:33	C - 4:23	C - 1:33-34	B - 3:34		A - 15:26	10
	B - 20:21-22			A - 14:16		A - 16:7-9	
				B - 14:25-26		A - 16:14-15	
Gospels - 19	4	1	5	5	1	3	19
Acts	B - 4:29-30	B - 1:4-8	A - 2:38	B - 1:4-5	A - 7:55	B - 4:8	13
	A - 5:30-32	C - 4:24-25		A - 2:32-33	B - 11:16-17		
	A - 10:38				A - 20:28		
	C - 20:21-23						
Acts - 13	4	2	1	2	3	1	13
Romans	C - 1:1-4	A - 14:17	A - 8:1-3	C - 7:4-6	A - 8:9		10
	A - 5:1-5		A - 15:30	B - 15:12-13	A - 8:16-17		
	A - 15:15-16						
1 Cor.	A - 2:1-5	A - 2:10-15	A - 6:11			A - 12:4-6	4
2 Cor.			A - 3:3	A - 13:14			2
Galatians	A - 4:4-6	A - 4:5-6					2
Ephesians	A - 1:11-14		A - 2:17-19	A - 2:22	B - 4:30-32	A - 4:4-6	6
			B-5:18 ?grade				
Philippians							0
Colossians	B - 1:6-8						1
1 Thess.	A - 1:3-5						1
2 Thess.		B - 2:13					1
1 Timothy							0
2 Timothy							0
Titus		B - 3:4-6					1
Philemon							0
Paul Ep. - 28	8	5	6	4	3	2	28
Hebrews			A - 9:14	A - 2:3-4			5
			A - 10:29	C - 3:1-7			
				B - 10:12-15			
James							0
1 Peter	C - 1:3-11	A - 1:2					2
2 Peter							0
1 John		A - 4:13	A - 5:6-9			A - 4:2	3
2 John							0
3 John							0

Jude					A - 20		1
Rev	B - 1:9-10	C - 1:4-5	B - 22:17-18		C - 22:1		4
Gen. Ep. - 15	2	3	4	3	2	1	15
Totals	18	11	16	14	9	7	75
NT Book	Ch. 6 - FSSp	Ch 10- FSpS	Ch. 7 - SSpF	Ch. 8 - SFSp	Ch. 9 - SpFS	Ch 11-SpSF	Totals

27 books in the New Testament – 19 (70%) have triadic occurrences. 8 (30%) do not. ONLY author w/ no references = James.

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