

First Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy Trinity

Sermon Road Map
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2 Corinthians 13:11-14
June 7, 2020

The Triune God - what a God! What a blessing!

- **The grace of our...** Did you finish it in your mind? We know it.
- The value of repetition: sinks in, an embedded treasure in waiting
- The challenge: *I know it!* We don't give it much thought.
 - ♦ **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**
 - ♦ Today we pull the treasure out to examine it - treasure it. We'll see...

The Triune God - what a God! What a blessing!

❖ What a God! Treasure him.

- The Triune God, the Living God, the only God that exists - is incomprehensible in majesty, power, person, nature, wisdom...
- We know him by his words and deeds - accomplishments & promises
- Paul states in stunning & profound simplicity: **grace - love - fellowship**
- The Son's **grace** - undeserved gifts: forgiveness, coheirs, instruction...
 - ♦ **Lord** - guardian/caretaker; **Jesus** - Savior; **Christ** - God's appointed
- The Father's **love** - promised and proven: sent his dear Son to reclaim us
 - ♦ Love that longs to love us as his dear children, care for us, guide us, bless us with his richest gifts - life - now and forever.
 - ♦ **Love** - far more than a sentiment - ever acting for our highest good
- The Holy Spirit's **fellowship** - restoring our intimate association with God
 - ♦ Our status through faith - remaking us in God's image
 - ♦ Taking us enemy outsiders, transforming us into friends/insiders. Wow!
- Paul spoke of this work of the Triune God in Chapter 5:
 - ♦ ¹⁷ **...if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come!** ¹⁸ **And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...** ¹⁹ **That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. ...** ²⁰ **...We urge you, on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.** ²¹ **God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.**
 - ♦ What a God - known by what he has done for us, to us, in us!
- What other god is known for doing this for his people? **None!**
 - ♦ Their *favours* must be earned. *Love*? They don't love, let alone promise love. They only demand love! Admission, maybe. Fellowship, no! Any talk of *oneness* - **you** have to strive for it. These gods doesn't create it.
- The post-Christian **misconception**: God is so loving everyone dies and goes to a *better place*, even those who refused to treat him as their God.
- Know the Triune God. He's unique and real. What a God! Treasure him.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit **be with you all.***

❖ **What a blessing! Treasure it.**

- The Triune God and all his gifts are not far off and remote!
- Twice Paul pronounces this blessing. Not a casual wish. God's promise!
 - ◆ *And the God of love and peace **will be with you.*** v. 11
 - ◆ *The grace ..., and the love ..., and the fellowship ...**be with you all.***
 - Pastor is not just *being nice* or saying *nice things!* God works there!
- Knowing our guilt, we treasure *grace* - undeserved favor goes to work
- Feeling alone, helpless, scared, put down - we treasure his *love* with us.
- *Fellowship* - it's not just thrown in as a filler. Learn to treasure it.
 - ◆ Paul's entire closing is a package of the Spirit's fellowship work.
 - ◆ *Finally, brothers* - a real bond of brotherhood in the gospel, family
 - ◆ *Set things in order.* *Be restored by God* in his image, in harmony
 - ◆ *Be encouraged.* The Spirit's expert counsel - addressing heart & action
 - ◆ *Agree with one another.* By taking on the mindset of Jesus. Meet there.
 - ◆ *Be at peace.* More than stop fighting! Made whole - in sync in Christ
 - ◆ *Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.*
 - Practice fellowship with God's love, graciously forgiving and being patient with each other, like our Triune God works with us.
 - The *sharing of peace* in Christian service - reminds this is our calling
 - ◆ Is it clear to you? Restored fellowship summarizes God's goal and mission: *be reconciled to God and each other by God's grace and love.*
 - Christians who practice that with each other are ambassadors of God's love and grace - equipped to graciously love all neighbors, no matter what culture, language, race, or social class. They are all people who God wants drawn into fellowship with him in Christ Jesus.
 - Those who treasure this blessing want to share God's blessings - so the Triune God can work in others, bringing them into his fellowship.
- Treasure this blessing. It's far more than nice sounding words. It's more than a model. It's God's power at work.

The Triune God - what a God! What a blessing!