

“This We Believe” #3
A “1 on 1” with the “3 in 1”

The doctrine of the Trinity is the central dogma of Christian theology, the fundamental grammar of our knowledge of God. It establishes the basis of an intimate relationship between us and God, and God and us.

“God draws near to us in such a way as to draw us near to himself within the circle of his knowing of himself.” *Thomas Torrance*

We are drawn into the community of God – to experience the love and relationship of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. John Duns Scotus, a 13th century philosopher, concluded that we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ can only be called “co-lovers” with the Trinity.

What does this mean in our 21st Century experience?

It means that we can have a “1 on 1” with the “3 in 1”.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are able to be...

- Co-lovers with God of God
- Co-lovers with God of one another
- Co-lovers with God of the world

I. CO-LOVERS WITH GOD OF GOD – This is WORSHIP

- The Father loves the Son and draws near to me to draw me near to Himself so I can love the Son the way He does
See Matthew 22:37, Matthew 3:17
- The Son really loves the Father and draws near to me to draw me to Himself so I can love the Father the way He does.
See John 14:20,21,31
- The Spirit really loves the Son and the Father and falls upon us so we can be ravaged with his love for the Son and the Father
See John 16:12-15
- This is true WORSHIP – the Spirit draws us into what is already happening!

II. CO-LOVERS WITH GOD OF ONE ANOTHER – This is COMMUNITY

- How can we be drawn into the circle of the Trinity without learning how to love one another?
See 1 John 1:3
- As a disciple of Jesus, we are commanded to love each other as He loves us.
See John 15:9-15
- I love you by joining the Trinity loving you.
- This is true COMMUNITY

III. CO-LOVERS WITH GOD OF THE WORLD – This is SERVICE (mission)

- “the closer you get to the heart of God, the closer you get to what is on God’s heart” - *Robert Boyd Munger*
- God’s heart is for the world...
 - empty, rebellious and broken people for whom Christ died and the Spirit draws.
See John 3:6
 - groaning creation requires our care.
See Romans 8:22,23
- We join with the Trinity in loving the world.
See 1 John 4:7-12
- This is true SERVICE (mission)

**So the “1 on 1” with the “3 in 1”
is the heart of the Believer’s Journey**

We are to be co-lovers with God of God – that is WORSHIP

Does this encounter with the Trinity guide my worship?

We are to be co-lovers with God of one another – that is COMMUNITY

Does this encounter with the Trinity impact my love for all my brothers and sisters?

We are to be co-lovers with God of the world – that is SERVICE

Does this encounter with the Trinity compel me to reach my world for His Kingdom?