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The Critique on the Article

The article that is being analyzed has a title “In the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: Toward a Transcultural Trinitarian Worldview” and was published in *Evangelical Review of Theology* journal in 2014. The author, Horrel J. Scott, builds his argument on the idea that God is one and diverse, saying that there is a trinity and God itself is the trinity. The author also mentions how by creating everything God limits himself but does it “to praise of his glory”. Overall the article has interesting ideas about how people are depended on God and how God expresses himself through trinity. Although, I do not find this article persuasive enough because it has some contradictions such as God is not just father, he is son and holy spirit as well, God does everything mainly to show his glory and before everything there was nothing but self-sufficient God.

When author talks about the creation he says that “there was nothing that was not God.” So when God decided to create life he just made it from nothing. However, the science will prove that one cannot create a matter from nothing, there must be at least something. Even creationists theory says that there was some intellect and non-living matter in order to create life. Horrell states that all that existed before creation was God, which contradicts with science and even other theological perspectives.

When the author was trying to answer the question why God created everything he mentioned that God did it basically to show his glory. I feel like showing the glory and power sounds somewhat selfless, especially as the author barely mentioned love. However, we are selfless and this is what makes us sinners. God is Holy – he loves us altruistically, there is no way he can be selfish. I think that the main reason for everything must be love that God has for

us, that he even sacrificed his freedom at some point, because by creating everything he limits himself.

Even though God limited himself, according to Horrell there is a dimension where God has no limits – Trinity. The author states that God is in all three parts of trinity: “so the Father is God, the Son God, and the Holy Spirit God”. I agree with the diversity plus unity idea that God is three but one but I find the author’s formulation confusing. From the perspective that I learned in class I see that God is Father, and the Father/God created the Son, so how can Son be God as well? There is God in Son but Son itself is not God, he just kind of represents him as a human being. Along with that God is not human, God is just transcendent.

Overall I found the article pretty confusing as some parts contradict with what we learned in class. The statement that before creation there was nothing but God cannot be true, as science proves the opposite. God’s main act is supposed to be showing his love, not his glory. There is only one God – Father; Son cannot be God because he is human and immanent. If the author changes some of these ideas or specifies and clarifies them, the article would make much more sense.

It sounds like you went back and read the article rather than just based your critique on another student’s presentation. That’s more work!

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