

# The Source of Unity

## Unity as Divine Witness

### What does Oneness in the Trinity Teach Us?

**“I am not praying only on their behalf, but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their testimony, *that they will all be one, just as you, Father, are in me and I am in you.* I pray that they will be in us, so that the world will believe that you sent me. The glory you gave to me I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one – I in them and you in me – that they may be completely one, so that the world will know that you sent me, and you have loved them just as you have loved me. (John 17:20-23)**

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John 17

**17:16** Christians **are not of the world, just as Christ was not of the world.** We should remember this when tempted to engage in some worldly pastime or enter into worldly associations where the name of Jesus is unwelcome.

**17:17** To **sanctify** means to set apart. The Word of God has a sanctifying effect on believers. As they read it and obey it, they are set apart as vessels suitable for the Master's use. That is exactly what the Lord Jesus was praying for here. He wanted a people who were set apart to God from the world, and usable by God. **“Your word is truth,”** Jesus said. He did not say, as so many do today, “Your word *contains* truth,” but **“Your word IS truth.”**

**17:18** The Father **sent** the Lord Jesus **into the world** to reveal the character of God to men. As the Lord prayed, He realized that He would soon be going back to heaven. But future generations would still need some witness concerning God. This work must be done by believers, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Of course, Christians can never represent God as perfectly as Christ did because they can never be equal with God. But believers are here just the same to represent God to the world. It is for this reason Jesus **sent them into the world.**

# Knowing God via the Social Order

## Relationships reflect His Character – “By Design”

*“The LORD God said, ‘It is **not good** for the man to be alone.’”  
Genesis 2:18*

*Is this a **qualitative** statement? (i.e. “could be better”)*

*Is this an **ethical** statement? (i.e. “is not right; ought to be different”)*

*Against **what standard** does God refer to in the context of this statement?*

*Aloneness is bad in an **ethical** sense because it **contradicts the nature of God**, who is three-in-one: God Himself exists in community and relationship; man, who is made in His image, is supposed to do the same. This concept forms the basis of a true, God-centered understanding of the social order.*

*To go against God’s design is to deny His character.*

# The Triune Nature of God

Unity, Relationships, Roles, Equality, Authority, Submission

## *The Son with the Holy Spirit*

*"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I am going away. For if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you, but if I go, I will send Him to you. And when He comes, He will prove the world wrong concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."*

*John 16:7-8*

## *The Father, The Son, The Holy Spirit*

*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

*Matthew 28:19*

## *The Father with the Holy Spirit*

*"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and will cause you to remember everything I said to you."*

*John 14:26*

## *The Father with the Son*

*"The Father and I are one." John 10:30*

*"So Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. Just as the Father has sent me, I also send you.'" John 20:21*

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# Who is God? What does He want?

## The God of Order and Relationships

*“Dominion and awe belong to God; He establishes **order** in the heights of heaven.” Job 25:2*

*“For God is **not** a God of **disorder**...” 1 Corinthians 14:33*

*“**He who has My commandments and keeps them**, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” John 14:21*

*“For **whoever does the will of God** is my brother and sister and mother.” Mark 3:35*

*“**Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus...”  
Philippians 2:5-11*

### **Social Disorder is a Human Pathology...**

*“For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find **disorder** and every evil practice.” James 3:16*

## The Trinity as a Model

**Unity and Diversity:** The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct, yet fully one. This divine relationship is the pattern for all social and institutional life.

**God’s Sovereignty:** All spheres of life derive their structure and authority from God’s design, not from human invention.

## The Six Spheres of Dominion

These represent domains where God’s authority is displayed and delegated to humans:

**Family** – Reflects intimacy and generational legacy.

**Labor/Work** – Stewardship of creation and productivity.

**Church** – Spiritual care and moral leadership.

**State** – Civil justice and protection of the innocent.

**Community** – Social interaction, culture, and charity.

**God-Man Relationship** – The heart of worship and truth.

Each of these should remain in their **proper boundaries** while working harmoniously—like the unity within the Trinity.

# The Mind of Christ...

## What is True Religion?

***“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt. 22:37-39***

***“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”***  
***Matt. 28:18-20***

Reflecting on the way that God operates...

1. Thru 1 man, Adam, sin entered the World.
2. Thru 1 man, Noah, God resolved to renew this World and promised to overcome the effects of sin in it.
3. Thru 1 man, Abraham, God reached a family and promised to bless all families.
4. Thru 1 man, Moses, God reached a nation and promised to bless all nations.
5. Thru 1 man, Jesus, God reached the world and promises to be with each of us to the end of the World

# Focusing on the King's Perspective

A mission from our King... (Matt. 22:37-40; 28:19-20)

1. Love the Lord with all your heart (Worship – Matt. 4:10).
2. Love your neighbor as yourself (Service - Eph. 4:12)
3. Go and make disciples (Evangelism – Acts 1:8).
4. Baptize them (Fellowship; Covenant Unity – Eph. 4:1-6)
5. Teach them to obey (Discipleship – Col. 1:28)

*"We proclaim Him by instructing and teaching all people with all wisdom so that we may present every person mature in Christ."*

*Colossians 1:28*

# How the Early Church Responded

A foundational pattern for every church. Acts 2:40-47

***“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine (DISCIPLESHIP) and fellowship (FELLOWSHIP), in the breaking of bread, and in prayers (WORSHIP).” v. 42***

***“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need (SERVICE).” v. 44-45***

***“For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it.” 1 Corinthians 3:9-10***

***We trust the Lord that you are putting into practice the things we taught you. 2 Thessalonians 3:4***



# The Heart of the Christian Gospel

## Restoration of a covenant relationship with God

**John 17:3** "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

### How to be Right with God...

*"If anyone says 'I love God' and yet hates his fellow Christian, he is a liar because the one who does not love his fellow Christian whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. And the commandment we have from Him is this: that the one who loves God should love his fellow Christian too. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been fathered by God, and everyone who loves the Father loves the child fathered by Him. By this we know that we love the children of God: whenever we love God and obey His commandments. For this is the love of God: that we keep His commandments. And His commandments do not weigh us down, because everyone who has been fathered by God overcomes the world."*

1 John 4:20 – 5:4

The Gospel centers on the restoration of relationship with God, accomplished through Christ's life, death, and resurrection.

- **John 17:3** : "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."

- **Defines eternal life as knowing God personally and relationally.**

- **John 14:16-17** : "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

- **Speaks of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence, a vital part of the believer's union with God.**

- **2 Corinthians 5:17-18** : "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ."

- **Highlights the transformative power of the Gospel, reconciling believers to God.**

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