

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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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

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 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

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