

Friends,

This Sunday is another important Sunday on the church calendar, but it's one that doesn't always get a lot of attention. I'm not talking about Memorial Day Sunday, but rather Trinity Sunday.

On Trinity Sunday, we celebrate the doctrine of the Trinity. The Trinity, of course, is something that most of us know about but few of us truly understand or can explain. Even seasoned pastors and theologians often struggle to talk about the Trinity.

The doctrine of the Trinity holds that there is one God that exists as three persons (or personae in Latin). The problem is how we wrap our mind around something being both one (God) and three (persons) at the same time.

Part of the challenge is that when theologians have talked about God being three persons, they don't actually mean "persons" as you and I think of them. That is, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not each a person as a human being is a person, but rather each "person of God" is a certain personality or essence of God.

Perhaps a more helpful way to think of this doctrine is to use a model or analogy that makes sense to us. Thus, some have compared God to the three parts of a person: mind, body and soul. Each of those parts is unique and different, yet they are indivisible. Put another way, each is a part of the same entity, but they are incomplete without one another, as a human needs a mind, body, and soul to be a full human being. Another popular model is that of a family. In a family, the members are each separate individuals, but are all a part of one family, and the family is lacking if one of them is missing.

We could go on at length discussing various models and debating the details. In fact, students in seminary often spend hours in class doing just that. But the most important point is that in Scripture we see God working in three ways, sometimes as God the Father (in the case of creation), sometimes as God the Son (in dying on the cross), and sometimes as God the Spirit (in filling believers on Pentecost).

So, on Trinity Sunday, even though we may not fully be able to understand the Trinity, we can remember and be thankful that God works in different ways, as Father, Son, and Spirit. Most importantly, even if we don't understand, we can trust God as God has revealed Godself.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Jordan