

AccountabilityThe Forgotten Principle

Texts: Proverbs 8:1-4,22-31

Romans 5:1-5 (Series C, The Holy Trinity Sunday) Ps. 8

John 16:12-15

Prayer:

Today, first Sunday after Pentecost is Holy Trinity, designated to the God head: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is the doctrine that identifies a Christian. No other religion holds to that truth. Why do we believers and emphasize the Trinity on this particular day? We do so, because the Trinity is needed to give us a sense of balance to our understanding of God.

One part of the human condition is the obsessive need to be rational about the irrational, that is to make sense of out of what we don't understand so that we can find something of value or usable in it. Great thinkers and ponderers, researchers and scientific minds alike, seek to grasp the ungraspable and define the indefinable.

We often strive to know what is unknowable and explain the unexplainable, or at least contain the concept in some mortal definition box. And there is nothing more irrational, indefinable, or ungraspable than the theologically and intellectually mysterious Christian concept of *The Trinity*, One God in Three Persons.

All manner of councils, creeds, arguments, and guesses have sought to develop a workable, understandable, useful definition out of a held doctrine of many Christian faith communities to which many simply choose not to believe because it cannot be contained in a comfortable box.

[This is the Sunday which sends many preachers just like me running for the list of available alternatives to fill in so as to dodge those unanswerable questions.](#)

For some, God is too far above us, beyond us, transcendent to this point that we cannot nor approach him. Christ then becomes our all in all. He is the common person's God. Martin Luther: refers to God as one hiding behind a mask: He is too Holy for people to behold his face.

The Trinity is needed to give us a comprehensive view of God and a sense of belonging. The doctrine of the Trinity embraces the full nature and work of God as well as his relationship to humankind.

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob is the God who created the world, redeemed it through the Son and sustains it by his Holy Spirit. The earth belongs to God and all that is in it. Thus, we are **(pediagogos)** stewards or custodians of the earth. We are *responsible* and *accountable* to God.

"We live in a time of great enlightenment, knowledge, and achievements. The God of both Hebrew Scriptures and the Bible have come under great scrutiny in our day. It is old fashioned either go to church or believe in God, much more believe God created the universe.

And it seems to me *accountability is a forgotten principle* and we have come to believe in gods created by human hands. I do not pride myself to be scientific minded individual, but the little I know only reaffirmed what God has already proclaimed before time.

"There is no God!" All of the wonders around us are accidental. No almighty hand made a thousand billion stars. They made themselves. No power keeps them on their steady course so crash into one another.

Earth spins itself to keep the oceans from falling off toward the sun. Infants teach themselves to cry when they are hungry or hurt. A small flower invented itself so that we could extract digitalis for the sick.

The earth gave itself day and night, tilted itself in the right angle, so that we get seasons. Without the magnetic poles humankind would not be able to navigate the vastness of oceans of water and air, but they just grew there. The human heart will beat for 70 to 110 years or more without faltering. How does it get sufficient rest beats?

A kidney will filter poison from the blood, and leave the good things alone. How does it know one from the other? Who gave the human tongue flexibility to form words and brain to understand them, but denied to all other animals?

Who showed a womb how to take the love of two persons and keep splitting that tiny ovum until, in time, a baby would have proper number of fingers and eyes and ears and hair in the right places and come into the world when the baby is strong enough to sustain life? There is no God eh!!!

The belief that there is a God, of heaven and earth is shared by many cultures of the world. My visit to Chicago four decade ago, and seeing the Sears Tower, a marvelous piece of engineering only reinforced and reaffirmed the belief in me that there is a creator behind our world, and it didn't just happen.

The God we speak of today is God who hasn't left us without a testimony. His handiwork is displaced all around us. The universe around us is orderly, because it obeys the will of its creator. Ps. 19

Once upon a time, there was an island where all *feelings* lived *Happiness*, *Sadness*, *Knowledge*, and all of the others including *Love*. One day it was announced to the *feelings* that the island would sink, so all repaired their boats and left. *Love* was the only one who stayed. *Love* wanted to persevere until the last possible moment.

When the island was almost sinking, **Love** decided to ask for help. *Richness* was passing by *Love* in a grand boat. *Love* said, "*Richness*, can you take me with you?" *Richness* answered, "No, I can't. There is a lot of gold and silver in my boat, I don't want to risk sinking. There is no place here for you."

Love decided to ask *Vanity* who was also passing by in a beautiful vessel, "Vanity, please help me!" "I can't help you *Love*. You are all wet and might damage my boat," *Vanity* answered.

Sadness was close by so *Love* asked for help, "Sadness, let me Go with you." "Oh...*Love*, I am so sad that I need to be by myself!" *Happiness* passed by *Love* too, but she was so happy that she did not even hear when *Love* called her! Suddenly, there was a voice, "Come *Love*, I will take you."

" It was an **elder**. Love felt so blessed and overjoyed that he even forgot to ask the elder her name. When they arrived at dry land, the elder went her own way. Love realizing how much he owed the elder asked **Knowledge**, another elder, "Who helped me?"

"It was **Time**," **Knowledge** answered. "Time?" asked Love. "But why did Time help me?" *Knowledge smiled with deep Wisdom and answered, "Because only Time is capable of understanding how great Love is.*

God has given each and everyone of us the ability to love as much as hate, and the choice is ours. The prophet Micah writes: "*He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God*" (Micah 6:8).

The apostle Paul writes: Romans 5:1-5 "*Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been pour into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.*"

One day a man punished his little daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight and he was furious when the child tried to decorate a box. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "*This is for you, Daddy.*"

He was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, but his anger flared up again when he found the box was empty. He yelled at her, "Don't you know when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside it?"

His daughter looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "*Oh, Daddy, it's not empty, I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy.*" The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged for her forgiveness.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later and it is told that the man kept that gold box by his bed for many years and whenever he was sad and discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each and every one of us have been given a gold container filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, our friends, our family and from God himself. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold. Pass this on to those you care about. Remind them what the most precious gift in the world is—

One of my favorite ways to attempt a somewhat workable sense of the Trinity — is through a piece of a 6th century creed from Dublin known as *Tírechán's Creed* ~ when speaking of God it says:

He has a Son who is co-eternal with himself; and similar in all respects to himself; and neither is the Son younger than the Father, nor is the Father older than the Son; and the Holy Spirit breathes in them. And the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are inseparable

With the millions of pages of commentaries, books, treatises, etc., available to us, we're still trying to put the pieces and Persons of the Trinity together in a way that helps us to explain to ourselves, let alone others, what it is that we believe. My friends step back, take a breath, some things are simply not simple.

Mystery is just that. Faith is a mystery ~ outside of any and all types of boxes as is the Peace that passes all understanding. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier; One for All and All are One. Alleluia!

Unconditional Love which comes God Father. Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Prayer concerns: *Matilda Molyneaux-Piper, Shirley Walker, Hanne Bourgeoise, Sven Berg, Astrid Hylland, Ellen Eriksen, Ellen Dahal-Lanteigne, Karen Abazio, Wilhelmina Tiemersma, Matilda Molyneaux-Piper, Soo Young, Shirley Walker, Pastor Timothy, our prayers and thoughts are with Sherly & Roger Kenner, Sherly's sister Iris Belle died over the weekend. May her soul rest in God's perfect peace. The dire tension between Russia and Ukraine, Protectors at various places in Canada, Covid -19 patients, essential and Frontline workers, finally Families of departed souls in recent weeks and months.*

Prayer: Triune God of the Heavens, the Earth, and All Else that is Known and Unknown, you are our Complete and Infinite Source of Faith, Love, and Hope. Urge our earth-bound hearts to seek higher fulfillment as heirs and proclaimers of Your eternal Truth in this life, exalting Your Name in all the world by our thoughts, words, and actions. We ask through Jesus, our Redeemer; and the Holy Spirit, our Sustainer; who, co-eternal and co-equal with You, reign as our One True God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

Make melodies in your heart with these hymns:

- **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty # 413**
- **Father Most Holy # 415**
- **Come, Thou Almighty King # 408**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sheena King-Kabu

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Susan & Samuel King-Kabu