

JOHN 16 V 12-15 EYNSFORD 16 JUNE 2019

Today is Trinity Sunday, and Trinity Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after Pentecost and is one of the few celebrations of the Christian year that commemorates a reality or doctrine rather than a person or event. On Trinity Sunday we remember and honour our Eternal God, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Three in one and one in three. All three separate, but all three are one. Are you following me ok? Simple.. yes. Actually simple... no.

The Trinity is one of the most fascinating of Christian teachings. It is also sometimes called a mystery. By mystery this doesn't mean a riddle, but rather that it is a reality above our human comprehension.

Over the years that I have been attending church many folk have tried to describe in human terms the make up of the Trinity. Some have used the three leaf clover, others have used the workings of an egg with the shell, the white and the yoke, and some using 3 in 1 oil, so we have 3 in 1 just like Father Son and Holy Spirit, yes.. no. Why, because in John ch 14 verse 9 Jesus says "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" So in the example I used earlier, they cannot be right, for if you see an egg shell you haven't seen the yoke, or if you see the yoke, you haven't seen the white, and this is the same with my other examples.

The mystery of the Trinity is difficult to put into words. One important word in considering the Trinity is 'sharing'. The three persons live in the love of sharing their truth and sharing all they are.

Prayer introduces us to the mystery of God, the mystery of truth and the mystery of gift. For all of God is gift; and prayer is our time of allowing the gift of Father, Son and Spirit to reach deeply into our lives.

The mystery of the Trinity is at the heart of the Gospel passage we have just read. Pope Francis reminds us that "everything, in Christian life, revolves around the mystery of the Trinity and is fulfilled in this infinite mystery. Let us therefore, keep high the 'character' of our life, reminding ourselves to what end, and for what glory we exist, work, struggle, suffer, and be; and to which immense prize we are called." The prize, the goal, the gift of eternal life with Our Father.

What Jesus says in our Gospel reading in verse 12 "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now" could seem to contradict what he had just told the disciples in chapter 15verse 15: "I have made known to you

everything that I have heard from my Father.” How can Jesus have made known “everything” to the disciples and yet “still have many things to say” to them?

In John 16:14-15 John explains as he continues drawing parallels between Jesus’ role as Revealer and the Spirit’s function of continuing Jesus’ revelation after He had ascended to be with His Father. What the Spirit reveals he tells us comes directly from Jesus: “he will take what is mine and declare it to you” (16:14). Then verse 15 confirms that the ultimate source of revelation for both Jesus and the Spirit is God. Since the Spirit takes what belongs to Jesus, and since what belongs to Jesus belongs to God, then even in Jesus’ absence God’s revelation to the world and to us the church is still available -- through the Spirit. This is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Three in one, and one in three. All separate but one,

Then in verse 12 Jesus told the disciples that the Spirit would guide them into all truth. He does this not by "speaking in his own authority" but by giving to them the Words of Christ Jesus. The Spirit guides us to Jesus. It is in the person of Jesus that the Spirit reveals truth.

Matthew Henry expounds further:

The Spirit guides us to not only see Christ but also to savour and relish the power of Him in our hearts..

These 4 verses of the Gospel reading bring up some interesting questions.

What would Jesus have to say to you and me right now? What would be ‘too much ‘for you or me to hear?

How much has Jesus said to us that can we already understand by what we have learnt, The answer is different for each of us depending where we are spiritually in our life with Jesus in our heart.

I have been a Christian now for 45 years, and there are still many things that are, "too much for me to hear" things I don't yet understand. God knows the capacity of our heart and will not fill us with things that are too much for us until we are fully prepared.

There are things that we could not handle in our early spiritual development but as we grow and mature in Christ, as we find Him faithful, we are able to handle more difficult things.

It is impossible to absorb in a short period of time all that Jesus has to teach us. But as our journey through life continues, the Holy Spirit gradually unfolds

God's message so that it speaks to us at appropriate times in our lives. Our capacity to take in what God has to reveal to us is expandable - when we become more open, the "Spirit of truth" will reveal more, and guide us into all the truth.

We find that He is faithful and He always provides, but not always as we expected, sometimes He reveals things in very unexpected ways. I'm sure some of us have found that to be true in our own lives.

That's what makes it so interesting and exciting, in following Him.

When the Holy Spirit comes, our Lord tells us, He will guide us into truth. The same Spirit of God that caused the prophets to prophecy, the craftsmen create, the judges to speak, will lead us to do the work He has planned for us.

Our Lord tells his disciples that He has much more to say. His revelation isn't finished. He wants to tell them, and us many more things and He will through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells His followers that the Holy Spirit will speak to them the things He hears from God and then He will relay those truths to the Apostles, His followers, His believers, and therefore to us.

Jesus wants to draw us into the life of God through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you cannot understand how the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit can be three in one and one in three, that's fine, some things are a mystery beyond our human comprehension. But it is by the faith and belief in our hearts that God knows our understanding.

Being called to follow Jesus in every aspect of life, is not easy, but He never asks us to do what we cannot do by His power. With His help, we can choose a holy life which will lead us to faith adventures beyond all that we could ask or imagine. It says in Ephesians 3 verse 20. We will with the Spirit's empowering, indeed taste and see that the Lord is always good and will never let us down.

Amen

