

Life Through the Spirit **Romans 5:1-5**

The Divine Dance of the Trinity

Today is Trinity Sunday. I believe all of you have heard about the Trinity but at the same time, I bet nobody really knows the precise meaning of this strange theological concept. Of course, some of you may say, “I don’t care since I believe in Jesus. I don’t need theological baggage. That’s why we hired a pastor to carry that baggage for us.” Right? If you don’t know about the Trinity, that’s o.k. because you are not alone. The church has wrestled with the exact meaning of the Trinity from the very beginning but no one has ever completely understood this mystery of God. But we need to remember that the symbol of the Trinity does not intend to make you confused or frustrated or make pastors seem smart. Rather it helps Christians engage with God in our lives. So, today we will reflect on this deep Christian symbol of God. Let us see a short video clip about the symbol of the Holy Trinity. [video]

[ppt] We, Methodists, believe in the Trinity. We believe in one God who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. They are distinctive from one another, but the three indwell fully in each other. The important meaning of the Trinity is an intimate relationship between divine persons and dynamic flows or movement among them. I know it sounds heady and may not make sense to us.

Dance can be a good analogy for the Trinitarian relationship. How many of you like to dance? [ppt] I remember Frank and Deb and Barbara and Carl jr. dancing at our cookout three years ago. They seemed like naturals. Unfortunately, God gave me two left feet so I am not a dancer. Anyway, think of dancing in a group. When you dance, you are still who you are but at the same time, you closely relate to the people dancing with you. There is a movement and energetic flow among people dancing together. Your bodily movements change in relation to the movements of your partner. As people share the same space, movements and energetic flows, they feel intimate connections without completely losing their own individuality. Each person is still distinct from one another, but everyone becomes one in dance. In a similar sense, the Holy Trinity is often described as the divine dance.

The symbol of the Trinity shows that God is relational. Stephen Bevans wrote, “God is not even static within Godself as such. God in God’s deepest identity is a relationship, a communion... This divine life in communion spills out into creation, healing and sanctifying, calling all of creation into communion.”¹ God wants to relate to the creation. God wants to have an intimate relationship with us. Also, God, the Trinity, wants all of us to join this divine dance of love and experience the flow of life-giving energy from communion with God. God wants us to expand the circles of divine dance, sending us to gather others into this divine dance of love and embrace.

Sin and Evil block the flow of Spirit

The fact that God is relational and the world is created from this relational and self-diffusive God means that the true nature of reality is relational. Everything is in relationship with

¹ Stephen B. Bevans, and Roger Schroeder, *Prophetic Dialogue*, 10

everything else and any attempts to separate, isolate or oppress other people are clear violations of God's will. Sadly, our everyday experience is often the opposite to God's intention.

We hear that we are living in a most divisive time. We are separated by political positions. Racism separates people from one another in terms of their skin colors. Our residential areas are segregated by socioeconomic inequality. We are divided by borders, nationalities, and even religions. There are many things that separate us from one another and block the energetic flow of the Trinity into the world. We can call them sins and evils. They disrupt and block the flow of life-giving movement and energy from God.

Since I received my doctorate degree, some of you have asked. "Now, that you are a doctor, can you give me a prescription?" Of course, I can give you a prescription though you may not like it. My prescription would be something like "Rejoice always; pray three times a day for an hour each time. Give thanks in all circumstances and increase your pledge with a joyful heart." If you want a written prescription, please come to see me after the worship service!

While I am not a medical doctor, you may know that I am a licensed hand acupuncturist so I know about acupuncture and Eastern medicine. Western medicine tends to treat particular symptoms. So if you have a stomach problem, you go to see an internal medicine doctor. If you have an issue with your feet, you will see a foot doctor. Eye doctor for eye problem, etc., etc. [ppt] In Eastern medicine, diseases are understood as states of yin and yang imbalance so what acupuncturists or Eastern medicine doctors do is to rebalance the state of yin and yang in body by enhancing the flow of Chi, the life energy. We all know what will happen if we eat too much junk food and become a couch potato. Sugar and cholesterol levels in our blood will increase and could block the flow of blood in our veins. Of course, a blood clot can be deadly. Similarly, the excessive concentration of wealth in a few people can be as deadly for our society as excessive poverty which is literally threatens the lives of people. According to data, in the United States, one dies as a result of poverty every 12 minutes, not in some impoverished country, but here in the United States, one of the richest countries in the world. Human greed disrupts the flow of life-giving grace from God. Racism blocks the flow of life-enriching friendships between people. The lust for power, loving guns more than loving neighbors and enemies... there are so many sins and evils that try to stop the flow of energy from life-giving God.

God continues to reach out to us!

The good news is that God, the Trinity does not leave us alone, but reaches out to us and reconnects with us. Today's scripture reading comes from the Epistle to the Romans. In this letter, Paul primarily talked with the Roman congregations whose majority were Gentile Christians. There were some conflicts between Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians. Jews had been expelled from Rome under emperor Claudius. Although they had returned to Rome under Nero, Jewish Christians faced adversities both from the society and within the church because the Gentile Christians boasted against Israel. They thought that they were better than Jewish Christians because they were first Romans, the empire that ruled the world. Paul reminds these Romans how God works for their redemption and how they experience a new life in God.

Paul said, "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Through Jesus Christ and his faithful obedience, "we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand." (Romans 5:2). Peace with God is grace that is freely given. We don't earn it but receive it

through Jesus Christ. Also, God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5) so that we can boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope that does not disappoint us.

What caught my attention was the word, "through." "We have peace with God THROUGH our Lord Jesus Christ, THROUGH whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand. God, the Father and the Creator, mends the broken relationship between God and us "THROUGH" Jesus Christ, the Redeemer. We know and experience God's love THROUGH the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer. From beginning to the end, our salvation is God's work. This free grace for us flows from the Father THROUGH the Redeemer, and the Sustainer into us. So there is nothing to boast about. Paul didn't want the Gentile Christian's false sense of ethnic superiority blocking the flow of the live-giving power of God within the church.

Christian salvation does not refer to a static status of being saved or better than others. Rather the true meaning of salvation is joining the ever-flowing moments of God's divine dance of love that enable, enfold and enliven all things. As we join in this dance, we become a channel of life-giving energy through which people experience the flow of life.

Last Sunday, many of you picked up letters and sent them to representatives to vote for more just gun laws. While human greed may block the flow of life and create a deadly gun culture in our society, we are not discouraged but want to do something to create a culture that values life. Through your prophetic action, the Spirit of the Lord flows into the world and will make "justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!" Can I get an Amen?

Last Monday, a neighbor stopped by the church office to express his gratitude for Asbury, creating a beautiful memorial for the victims of the Uvalde school shooting. Our memorial offers a place to pause, mourn and pray and through this memorial, some people surely find a sense of community and call to action. The breath of life surely blows and flows through Asbury.

On Tuesday, I participated in our annual review of our Food for Soul event, which we started last year. For about 8 months, Asbury and Lakewood Baptist church have worked together to serve our neighbors in need. I would like to thank all of you who prayed for it and participated in it. We did well in some aspects and we need to make some improvements in others, but I believe that many people surely experienced the flow of love and compassion through our acts of serving.

We are doing these works because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit and we want to be a channel of grace through which others may receive God's love. Remember, we are not doing these works by our own efforts alone but we participate in God's divine dance of love and reconciliation. God is doing God's work through the Redeemer, the Sustainer and through all people of God.

God, the Father, is God for us. Jesus Christ, the Redeemer is God alongside us. The Holy Spirit, the Sustainer, is God within us. It means God is always with us and we are in God. So my brothers and sisters, let us join this joyful dance of salvation. Let's dance with God, the Trinity! Amen.

"God for us, we call you Father.
God alongside us, we call you Jesus.
God within us, we call you Holy Spirit.
You are the eternal mystery that enables, enfolds, and enlivens all things.
Even us and even me.
Every name falls short of your goodness and greatness.
We can only see who you are in what is.
We ask for such perfect seeing –
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.
Amen."

We discuss about how we can reach out to more people.

our small act of remembrance,

I believe that he and other neighbors experienced

love, forgiveness, reconciliation and transformation among the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

흐름

Everything flows

The life flow.

\“loosen-empty-push
Empty

God enfolds

Paul wants Gentile Christians

"God for us, we call you Father.
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Amen."

We experience God's love THROUGH

“THROUGH” whom we have obtained access to this grace. We are able to

Romans is addressed to the Roman congregations whose majority is Gentile Christians

“Therefore, 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.” (5:1-2)
What caught my attention is the word, “through.” God,

Peace with God is grace that is freely given. But we received this grace through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection so it requires our active response to Jesus' faithfulness by our faithful obedience.

Of the seven deadly sins, theologians and philosophers reserve a special place for pride. Lust, envy, anger, greed, gluttony and sloth are all bad, the sages say, but pride is the deadliest of all, the root of all evil, and the beginning of sin.

The Spirit as the assurance of God's love in suffering

5:5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.
racial boundaries, and economic gap, and even religions.

Also, racial

and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

5:3 And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

5:4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

5:5 and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

racial boundaries, and economic gap, and even religions.

Also, racial

Richard Rohr said,

People feel the intimate connections

I know Fran

I am not a dance When you dance in a group,

[ppt]

Relational... something vulnerable and something implying movement energetic flows

dance

Richard Rohr

or God, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer.

When we

5Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in

our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Different Dr.!

Since I received my doctorate degree, some of you have told me that. "Now, you are Dr. Can you give me my prescription?" Of course, I can give you a prescription through you may not like it. My prescription would be like "Rejoice always; pray three times a day for an hour each time. Give thanks in all circumstances and increase your pledge with a joyful heart." If you want to have a written prescription, please come to see me after the worship service!

While I am not a medical doctor, you may know that I am a licensed hand acupuncturist so I know about acupuncture and oriental medicine. There is a difference between western medicine and Eastern medicine. In western medicine, if you have a stomach problem, you will go to see an internal medicine doctor. If you have an issue with your feet, you will see your foot doctor. In Eastern medicine, a doctor treats many different symptoms. Western medicine focus on treating particular symptoms of diseases by different specialists while Eastern medicine focus on the person rather than just the symptoms."

I believe you all have heard about yin and yang. In eastern philosophy, the principle of Yin and Yang describes the innately dynamic, cyclical and rhythmic nature of everything in the universe. The human body also consists

of this principle. If you have

The Law of Yin and Yang describes the innately dynamic, cyclical, bipolar, pulsing, rhythmic nature of everything in the universe.

Bascially,

According to Medical News Today website, "Western medicine refers to a system where medical professionals utilize medical treatments to treat symptoms of diseases. Eastern medicine refers to nonconventional treatments that focus on the person rather than just the symptoms."

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances;

박사가 되니... 프리스크립션 달라는 사람들 많다.

기도해라..

내가 의학박사는 아니지만, 수지침 자격증이 있다.

동양의학에서 통증이나 병증은 음양의 균형이 깨지고, 순환이 되지 않을 때 발생한다고..본다..

서양의학도... 피가 통하지 않거나 해서 혈관을 막는 것... 통하지 않는 것 문제다.

막히고 쌓이고, 갇히는 것... 넘어서서
잘 순환되는 게 살아있는 것...이라고 건강한 것이다.

通자는 ‘통하다’나 ‘내왕하다’, ‘알리다’라는 뜻을 가진 글자이다. 通자는 辶(쉬엄쉬엄 갈
착)자와 甬(길 용)자가 결합한 모습이다. 甬자는 고리가 있는 종을 그린 것이다. 通자는 본
래 ‘곧게 뻗은 길’을 뜻하기 위해 만든 글자로 甬자는 속이 텅 빈 종처럼 길이 뻗
고 뚫려있다
는 의미를 전달한다. 길이 뚫려있으니 이동하기가 수월할 것이다. 그래서 通자에서 말하
는 ‘통하다’나 ‘내왕하다’라는 것은 길을 가는 데 있어 거침이 없다는 뜻이다.

삼위일체주일

우리가 하는 것이 아니라...
우리가 하는 것이 아니라... 하나님이 하시는 것이며
예수 그리스도를 통해서 우리 하나님과 화해했으며
성령님을 통해서... 그 은혜를 경험하며 사는 것

우리는 통하는 삶을 살고,
통하기 위해서 필요한 것은 우리 속이 비워지는 것이다.

우리는 하나님께 순종하는 것이다.

“Chi is the energy current that runs through our bodies, providing us with circulation, nutrients,
and minerals that we need to be whole,” s

삼위일체는 어렵다.

Stagnate

삼위일체가 관계다 – 한인들은 ‘직관적 신비를 체험하지’ ‘분석적으로 삼위일체를 이해할 필요 없다.’
동양의 기본사상 – 음양사상이고... 관계적 사고이다.

성령의 역할을 어머니의 역할로 이야기한다.

성령에 대한 이해를 직관적으로 아는데... 이게 명확하게 이해가 되면 좋겠다.

성령에 대한 이해가 단편적인 경우가 많이 있다.

하나님이 우리 안에 운영하시는 성령님 속에서 소망을 찾는 것 아닌가?

- 통하는 신앙 – 단절과 분열
- 순환되지 않는 것이... 병의 시작이다.
- 그 병을 치유하기 위해서... 하는 것이 침, 뜸... 뭉쳐있는 적을 풀어주고...
- 순환되도록 도와주는 것이다.
-
- 호흡... 기...
- 고난...
- 교단의 분열과 단절이... 문제...
- 단련된 인격
-

음양의 문제...

음이 커지는 것, 양이 커지는 것... 병이다.

단련된 인격... 희망...

희망, 성품의 길이다

흐름이 변화를 야기하는 것 –

통하는 것 자체가 고통일 수 있다. 변화가 고통일 수 있다...

그러나 통해야 산다.

그리고 그 통하는 힘의 에너지, 호흡은 성령이다.

- 관계속에서 찾는 새생명의 삶
- 환난-인내-연단 – 성품의 변화 –

통한다는 것

-

평화 –

아름다운 트리뷴이다. 와서 이야기...

쓰나미가 몰려왔을 때... 그 후를 소망의 눈으로 바라 보는 것...

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