

God the Son
Series: The Holy Trinity
Philippians 2:5-11
January 24, 2021

Two weeks ago, we began a series on the Holy Trinity, one of the fundamental tenants of the Christian faith. This doctrine is foundational to our faith, and yet, it is mysterious and difficult to comprehend in all its fullness.

It's kind of like what one person said: God is a lot like our pastor: I don't see him through the week, and I don't understand him on Sunday.¹

Christians believe there is one God, and He reveals Himself in three different persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. All three are God and all are one. God is a Trinity, or tri-unity, three persons in one.

We are spending four weeks talking about the Holy Trinity. Last week, we talked about God the Father. Today, God the Son. So, I invite you to turn to page 5 in your bulletin.

There you will see a portion of the Trinity Wheel that I've talked during this series. Let me remind you what this diagram means.

"The Son is God, but not the Spirit or the Father. The Son submits to the Father and sends the Spirit."

Now, I'm sure most of us would say, "Yeah, I know a lot about Jesus. Born Christmas Day. Died Good Friday. Raised Easter Sunday. Pretty big deal kind of dude.

Well, that's true. Of the three parts of the Trinity, we identify most with Jesus. We all know He was born, grew up, began His ministry at aged 30, which lasted three years, outlined in the 4 books we called the Gospels. He was tried as an innocent man, sentenced to death by a Roman governor, using a Roman method of execution. But 3 days later, He arose, and spent the next 40 days meeting with His disciples, even 150 persons at one time, then ascended into heaven. We know where He was born, where He grew up, where He did most of His ministry, and where He died and was raised.

You know all of that, far more than you know of the other three parts of the Godhead. Yet, do you know what is unique about Jesus, the Son of God? Do you know that there are seven things about Jesus that has never been seen in anyone else in all of history? Of all the men and women who have ever been born, Jesus is totally unique. He was the most unique individual to ever live. No one else has equaled His life, teachings, and influence on the world. He's one-of-a-kind! Let me share these 7 things:

First, and my longest point is: Jesus was divine and human.

Let's first talk about His divinity. There never was a time when Jesus didn't exist. He had no point of origin. He is Alpha and Omega. John says:

*He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.*²

He is Creator; He wasn't created. We differ from many cults and religions on this fundamental point. Muhammed: created. Moses: created. Buddha: created. Jesus Christ: Creator.

He was also human. He was a real man who lived 2,000 years ago. Jesus had the

¹ Contributed by: Mike Hamilton. Downloaded from www.sermoncentral.com

² John 1:2-3 (NLT2)

common experiences of humanity:

- Jesus had a physical body, a real body. Some want to say that Jesus was an apparition, a ghost, not real. But the evidence is clear: He touched people, and people touched Him. After He was raised from the dead, He said to doubting Thomas, “Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.”³
- He experienced natural growth. Luke 2:40 tells us, “The child [that is Jesus] grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.”⁴ So, everything you have experienced in growing up, Jesus experienced. Jesus even had pimples.
- Jesus experienced weariness. He ran out of gas. John 4:6 reads, “Jacob’s well was there; and Jesus, tired from the long walk, sat wearily beside the well about noontime.”⁵
- Jesus slept. He got tired, so tired that He almost slept entirely through a storm if it hadn’t been for the disciples waking Him up in fear.⁶
- He experienced sorrow. Matthew 26:37 says this, “Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee [into the Garden of Gethsemane], he plunged into an agonizing sorrow.”⁷
- He experienced hunger. The Bible tells us that He spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, eating nothing at all.⁸
- Jesus experienced poverty. He said of himself, “Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.”⁹ So, don’t listen to any prosperity preacher who says that if you are faithful, God will make you rich. Jesus was poor.

So, Jesus was both God and man. This is called the Incarnation. The Incarnation was the act of the preexistent Son of God voluntarily assuming a human body and human nature. Without ceasing to be God, He became a human being. He did not give up His deity to become human, but He set aside the right to His glory and power.

Look at Philippians 2:5-11:

You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.¹⁰

In submission to the Father’s will, Christ limited his power and knowledge. Jesus of

³ Luke 24:39 (NLT)

⁴ Luke 2:40 (NLT)

⁵ John 4:6 (NLT)

⁶ See Luke 8:23ff

⁷ Matthew 26:37 (MSG)

⁸ See Luke 4:1-2

⁹ Luke 9:58 (NLT)

¹⁰ Philippians 2:5-11 (NLT2)

Nazareth was subject to place, time, and many other human limitations. In His full humanity, Jesus showed us everything about God's character that can be conveyed in human terms.

And here is where some who call themselves Christians falter. They say that Jesus was just a man; He was not God, that He never said He was God. No true. We believe without reservation that Jesus was both divine and human, God and man.

Second, Jesus had a unique birth and genealogy.

No one else has ever been born like Jesus. Listen to what the angel told Mary:

*"Don't be afraid, Mary,' the angel told her, 'for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.'"*¹¹

Never has another woman experienced Virgin Birth, though there are supposed Christians, even United Methodists (yes, there are United Methodists here in West Ohio), who discard the Virgin Birth. The Virgin Birth is critical for our theology of salvation. Only God could die and cover the penalty of sin for all humanity. Jesus was totally unique in that He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born to a virgin.

Third, Jesus was sinless.

1 Peter 1:19 says,

*"It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God."*¹²

How many of you can guarantee you will not sin at all this year? This month? This week? Jesus never sinned – not once.

Why is that important? Well, sin could only be forgiven through the sacrificial blood of a perfect animal; lamb or bull. If it was marred or flawed, it could not redeem a person. So, Jesus came into the world knowing He could never sin. Never once. And He never did.

There are those who say that the idea of a sinless Messiah is ridiculous, that it is impossible. Jesus had to have sinned. Again, they are discounting His divinity. They are creating Jesus in our image. But Jesus was a perfect sacrifice for our sin.¹³

Fourth, Jesus performed miracles.

Now, there have been others in the Bible who performed miracles. Moses did, as did Joshua, Samson, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Peter, the other disciples, the Seventy Jesus sent out, Stephen, Philip, and Paul.

The Bible records 37 specific miracles performed by Jesus, from the blind seeing, the lame walking, lepers cured, the deaf hearing, and the dead raised to life. Then there are verses like Matthew 4:23:

*Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.*¹⁴

Hundreds and hundreds, maybe even thousands of people, were healed by Jesus.

Now, there are liberals who say that Jesus didn't perform miracles, that those were just stories, fairy tales, to which I would like to say to them, "Go walk on water. Go raise

¹¹ Luke 1:30-32 (NLT)

¹² 1 Peter 1:19 (NLT)

¹³ See Hebrews 9:14

¹⁴ Matthew 4:23 (NLT)

someone from the dead. Then I'll listen to you."

Jesus performed amazing miracles. Never was there a person who came to Him seeking deliverance that they were not healed.

Speaking of death, the fifth thing that is unique about Jesus is that **Jesus has power over death.**

Jesus has power over death. And not just any old death, for those that He did raise from the dead later died. No, I'm talking about spiritual death. Through Christ, we can now be reconciled to God and receive eternal life.

2 Timothy 1:10 says:

*But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*¹⁵

To abolish death means to counterwork death; operate against its operations and rendered all its instruments and principles of attack useless.

In my next book, I write about what it may have been like when my dad went to heaven in 2011. It will touch your heart when you read it and think of your lived ones, all because Jesus has power over death.

Sixth, Jesus has authority to forgive sins.

He said to a woman in Luke 7:48, "Your sins are forgiven."¹⁶

To the woman caught in adultery, Jesus said, "Neither do I accuse you."¹⁷

In Mark 2, we read the story of 4 men who brought their paralyzed friends to

Jesus.:

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"¹⁸

Jesus has authority to forgive sins. Peter said:

*He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name.*¹⁹

And finally, Jesus satisfies spiritual hunger.

Jesus said:

"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."²⁰

People eat bread to satisfy physical hunger and to sustain physical life. We can satisfy spiritual hunger and sustain spiritual life only by a right relationship with Jesus

¹⁵ 2 Timothy 1:10 (NRSV)

¹⁶ Luke 7:48 (NLT)

¹⁷ See John 8:1-11

¹⁸ Mark 2:5-12 (NIV)

¹⁹ Acts 10:43 (NLT)

²⁰ John 6:35 (NLT)

Christ. No wonder He called himself the bread of life. But bread must be eaten to sustain life, and Christ must be invited into our daily walk to sustain spiritual life.²¹

The story goes of a Christian in India who was distributing Gospels. He came to some non-Christians on the train and offered a man a copy of John's Gospel. The man took it, tore it into pieces in anger and threw the pieces out of the window.

That seemed the end. But it so happened, in the providence of God, there was another man anxiously seeking for truth walking along the line that very day. He picked up a little bit of paper and looked at it, and the words on it in his own language were "The Bread of Life."

He did not know what it meant; but he inquired among his friends and one of them said, "I can tell you; it is out of the Christian book. You must not read it or you will be defiled." The man thought for a moment and then said, "I want to read the book that contains that beautiful phrase!" and he bought a copy of the New Testament. He was shown where the sentence occurred—our Lord's words "I am the Bread of Life"; and as he studied the Gospel, the light flooded into his heart. He came to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and he became a preacher of the gospel. That little bit of paper through God's Spirit was indeed the Bread of Life to him, satisfying his deepest need.²²

My friends, there are some, including some United Methodists, who say that Jesus is not the only answer, that He is just one of many. I am here to tell you that only Jesus satisfies the inward longing for spiritual matters, that only Jesus can fill the God-shaped hole in each of us, because He is God the Son. I invite you to turn to Him and you will be satisfied.

²¹ Life Application Study Bible, John 6:35

²² Encyclopedia of 15,000 Illustrations: Signs of the Times, John 6:35