

This was written and delivered by the Rev Mark Barrett,
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The Trinity relationships.

(Robbie Coltrane) "You've got the Father, the Son and the holy ghost. But the three are one; like a shamrock, my old priest used to say. "Three leaves, but one leaf." Now, the father sent down the son, who was love, and then when he went away, he sent down the holy spirit, who came down in the form of a --"

(Eric Idle) "You told me already; a ghost."

(Robbie Coltrane) "No, a dove."

(Eric Idle) "The dove was a ghost?"

(Robbie Coltrane) "No, the ghost was a dove."

(Eric Idle) "Let me try and summarize this: God is his son. And his son is God. But his son moonlights as a holy ghost, a holy spirit, and a dove. And they all send each other, even though they're all one and the same thing."

(Robbie Coltrane) "You've got it. You really could be a nun."

At the beginning of the Bible, we are told that in the beginning there was God. God was there as God and there was nothing else but God. The Spirit of God hovered over the waters.

If we read Proverbs 8 alongside Colossians 1:15-20 and John 1:1-5, we are aware that Jesus was there at creation as the creative agent, Jesus who was with God and was God and is the perfect image of God.

The Trinity, there from the beginning. The Trinity that exists in perfect relationship – perfect love, one with another – each reveals aspects of God as father, Son and Holy Spirit and there is no jealousy or self-seeking in that relationship. It is from that love that God created and being created in love 'God saw it and it was good.'

In Genesis 1:26-28 we find the creation of humanity. In those verses we hear the Godhead say: 'let us create humanity in our own image'. This speaks to many of a dialogue within the Godhead, the dialogue of the Trinity.

Everything that was being created by the Godhead was good and was as it was meant to be, but what comes next? There is a relationship in the Godhead between father son and only spirit it is one of equality, equanimity and it is one of understanding of the different roles each plays in the godhead. This relationship is one of perfect love. But what does love do? Love loves as love is an outward emotion it is not something you keep inside, even for those who love themselves as they like to tell you about it. For love to be in its entirety, for love to be in its reality someone has to be loved and there is that perfect love within the Godhead, but the godhead wants to love beyond itself and so humanity is created in its image humanity is created out of love, to love and to be loved and humanity in that way is created in the image of the godhead. That means something for us. the first is that we too should exist in relationship with one another. Not just people on in our congregations or fellowship or our neighbourhood or even our family but everyone for all are made in the image of God all are made out of love and if you are made out of love to be loved by the Godhead you're also made out of love to love as the Godhead does and that love we received from the Godhead is perfect and that love we are to hold for one another is perfect too.

Remember Jesus tells us the greatest commandments love the Lord your God with all heart, with all your soul and with all your might and the second is like also to love your neighbour as yourself and if you are to love in the way of the Godhead then that is perfect love so we are to love to love all that is created by God god's creation but especially God's pinnacle of creations – humanity. We cannot differentiate, we cannot allow that

some people are not to be loved whether it's because of their colour, Creed, race, culture, gender, nationhood, or their sexuality.

Those that we might feel led to call 'them', we cannot for in calling 'them', 'them' we diminish 'them'. But they are 'us' and in diminishing 'them' we diminish ourselves and God who created them in the Godhead's own image. We are diminishing ourselves because 'they' are 'us' not some child or babies dead on a beach washed out of a immigrants boat, 'they' is not just some forlorn body 'they' are our children, it is 'us' who are 'them' the immigrants, the asylum seekers seeking to run away from tyranny from bombs from death destruction and starvation. 'They' are 'us' and we are to love 'them' and if we don't love those that are created in the image of God then we are not loving God.

Then there are relationships. As I said the relationship in the Godhead is one of equality of equanimity and understanding each other's roles. Our relationship with all others is in love and out of love. So, what is that relationship built on.... LOVE. Paul's chapter 13 Corinthians speaks of perfect love and what love is and that is in relationship therefore we too do not just love those who are created image God we are in relationship with them we must be in a relationship that looks like Chapter 13 of Corinthians. We cannot be in relationship with God if we don't love those who God brings before us to love. Contrary to some people misreading of the Bible, God of the Old Testament is the God of righteousness and justice who continually speaks up for the needs of the poor the widow the orphan the marginalised the alien the foreigner in the land. God challenges us to be in relationship with them to love them.

There's a bit in a song by Steve Camp 'don't tell them Jesus loves them too you're ready to love them too, till your heart breaks with compassion for the pain they are going through' and in another song he sings 'do you feel their pain, does it touch your life, can you taste the salt in the tears they cry'. If we were close enough in relationship, we would taste that salt of their tears.

Relationships are fractured in this world between people, between communities, for all sorts of ungodly reasons that people invent, perhaps sometimes to make themselves feel superior. Relationships are fractured and yet we are challenged by the Trinity to be in relationship that is why we are told in scripture that we have a ministry of reconciliation to bring those relationships back into the same relationship has existed in the Trinity, we are called to reconcile one to another, people to people. Nation to nation and humanity to creation.

If we are created out of the love of the Godhead, we are created to be loved, we are created to love. We are created out of the Godhead to exemplify that relationship that exists in the Godhead with all humanity and with God's creation.

The Trinity can be a dry theological exposition and that lets us off the hook as we can say well, we don't quite understand the Trinity, but God's hook in our life is love and we don't want God to take us off that hook. The Trinity challenges us to love as God loves, and yes, we fail at times but that is no reason to give up, because the Trinity has all the attributes of God as God, forgiveness, mercy and grace and we will be forgiven, we will be restored, we will be embraced and oh how we will be loved.

Now let us go and do same. AMEN