June 4, 2023 **This is Good**

This Sunday is called the Trinity Sunday and we are confronted with the mystery of the Holy Trinity. The Trinity is a foundation doctrine of the scripture and our Christian faith. At times some of us find it difficult to understand and believe completely the concept of Trinity. Today we will be meditating on the mystery of the Trinity: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Perhaps it would help us to overcome our confusion if we can say that our God is a triune-God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

There is only one God and Three persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three are God. We can enter the nature of God through the Father, or the Son, or the Holy Spirit. This is the threefold nature of God into which we are baptized. Jesus’ final direction to his church was to baptize the world in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If we were so baptized, then we need to know what this Trinitarian formula means and implies.

In the creation story God said as we read in Genesis 1: 26, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Who is this God who creates continuously? The popular notion is that God the Father is the creator. We get this idea from the traditional division of the Apostles’ Creed or the Nice Creed, which is divided into three parts. The articles/creed deal with God the Father as creator, God the Son as redeemer, and God the Holy Spirit as sanctifier. These three constitute the Trinity, which we are celebrating today. God is one but manifests himself in three persons.

In God there is plurality. Thus, our text quotes God as "us" and "our." "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." If God is one, why does he use the plural in referring to himself? Many biblical scholars are of the opinion that "us" refers to the three persons of the Trinity. In today’s first Lesson we read about God the Father - "God created." In the next verse, we learn that the Spirit participates in the creation - "The Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters." It is not the whole story, then, to confine the creation only to God, but to the triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Our First Creation: Who started the universe and who is guiding its continuous creation? How did we get on earth? Our Scripture passage for this Sunday from Genesis, the very first verse of the Bible gives the answer: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." This includes every living thing on earth including man, the culmination and crown of creation. In the interest of time, we will limit our discussion to the creation of humanity. Since God the Father created humanity originally, it is an important fact that humanity is not here by accident or by some accidental meeting of cells, nor by some automatic, natural selection ending in a human being.

It does not really matter how God created homo-sapiens nor how long it took him to create man. The essential fact is that God the Father is responsible for our being what and where we are. Out of this basic fact of this first creation come several implications. One of them is the truth that we human beings belong to God and to no one else! The Father made us for himself. Since God is love, he made us capable of receiving and giving love. To be filled with love and have no one to love is pathetic. One can love things and animals, but this is not satisfactory. No one is fulfilled until there is a like-human person to love.

Peace!

Rev. Dr. Christopher Ponnuraj

Minister