

# "YOU'RE NOT SIMPLE AND NEITHER IS GOD"

Message for "The Holy Trinity" Sunday

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GENESIS 1:1-2,4A ❄️ 2 CORINTHIANS 13:11-13 ❄️ MATTHEW 28:16-20



GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND FROM OUR  
LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST AND OUR ADVOCATE, THE HOLY  
SPIRIT. AMEN. HE IS RISEN; HE IS RISEN INDEED!!



God is a God of action. The Holy Trinity is all about action: doing, loving, teaching, and saving.

A family was sitting in church one Sunday morning. The little brother was fidgety and whiny. His big sister looked at him and said, "why don't you sit still and be quiet?" "Because church is boring", he said. The big sister looked and at him and said, "church is supposed to be boring."

There are certainly some misconceptions about the church. It is loved by so many; it's also despised by many (due to scandal and abuse and other reasons), and a large portion of society is simply indifferent towards the church.

I want to look at a passage in Scripture from the book of Matthew. In Matthew 16: 13-18, Jesus says some straightforward truths regarding the church. This passage has been a controversial passage. The debate has been over what Jesus meant when he told Peter "on this rock I will build my church." 'Rock' was more likely a name given as a promise of what he was to become not for what he was. He became a man of strength. The rock could mean, Peter himself, the faith of Peter, the confession of Peter, Christ himself or a combination of factors. We have to remember that the New Testament is about Jesus and not Peter. There could be a church without Peter but not without Christ. Peter is neither the head nor the foundation of the church. Jesus founded it and it stands or falls with him, and he is yet its living Lord and head.

Look at these lessons from Matthew: the church is not a building.

Church is not somewhere we go, it's not something we go to; it is what we are. Jesus used the Greek word "ekklesia" This word means "a gathering of people; a called out people." He meant the church is the people of God called out by Him. Jesus did not die for a building but he did die for people. Yet, you go to some churches and it seems the focus is not on people but on great buildings...on building structures. The focus of many churches is how extravagant and how big can we build buildings. Well, God is more interested in building up people. Now, I'm not against buildings but we can't forget that the church is people. Yes, I want our church to grow. I want this place to be packed—but we better make sure we're building people up.

So, the church is not a building. Secondly, the church is a new community.

You ever thought about the people who made up the first church? Jesus' disciples. Those guys weren't superheroes. Remember when Jesus was arrested? What did all of his disciples do? They ran! After Jesus rose from the grave and went back into heaven. He sent his Holy Spirit down and empowered God's people. Those early followers were all together and when the presence of God came on them, they began to speak in foreign languages.

Look at Acts 2: Jesus was preaching a message after being empowered by God's presence. "Cut to the quick, those who were there listening asked Peter and the

other apostles, “Brothers! Brothers! So now what do we do? Peter said, “Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact our Master God invites!”

Whom did the Lord invite? The blind, the beggar, the prostitute. Why? The healthy don't need a doctor but the sick do! This new community is made up of sinners bought by Jesus Christ himself! It is so dear to Jesus that he died for the church.

This new community was lost but now found. Separated yet brought near. An enemy of God but now a friend. Dead in their sins and now alive with Christ.

There is the universal community (every believer belongs to one another). There is also the local community of believers. In local churches. Many people often ask, “why can't we all just be one big church?” Because it takes many different kinds of churches to reach many different kinds of people. Bottom line, we belong to one another and need to act like it. We are to live in community. We aren't just to go to the same place of worship. We are to belong. We have common interests. We are to share with one another. Some of us don't want any part of living in community. You are missing out on one of the reasons God created you.

The church belongs to God. In verse 18 of our text today, Jesus said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

Look at the words “My church..” I do not want to overstate this point but the church belongs to Jesus.

By his power, the church will triumph,

The church is victorious! Jesus has already declared that the church will finish its purpose. Not even death will be able to stop it! That was proven later when Jesus died. Many of the first followers of Jesus were martyred for their faith. Many are being persecuted and killed for their faith even now!

You won't be able to snuff out the church. Jesus died for the church and he is coming back for his “ekklesia,” his called people. It will be victorious; it will succeed.

Let's be honest though...sometimes it seems like we aren't going to finish what was started. Sometimes things in the church can seem messy and unorganized. People are looking for the perfect church; they won't find it because there is no perfect church. And even if there was, as soon as you and I would walk in, it would become imperfect. Church is not a club for perfect people, it's imperfect, sometimes unpredictable, a cross section of life, and the Holy Spirit uses it to draw lost sheep home to the Father."

If this is true, then...the church must fulfill its purpose. Each local church must fulfill its purpose.

A summary of the church's purpose is found in two key scriptures:

The Great Commandment—"Love the Lord your God with all your mind with all your heart and with all your strength. And love your neighbor as yourself.

And our text today, called the Great Commission—"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."

Today on Trinity Sunday, we gather to celebrate the Holy Trinity of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In light of that, we'll be using the Athanasian Creed instead of the Nicene or Apostles' Creeds.

The concept of the Trinity is a profound mystery that theologians have grappled with for centuries.

While we may not fully understand it, we must believe by faith what God has revealed to us because His word is truth.

Through progressive revelation, God revealed more about the Triune nature of Himself throughout the writing of the Bible over 1,500 years. From the earliest verses of Genesis to the closing words of Revelation, we see glimpses of the Trinity's presence and activity.

The Old Testament hints at it, and the New Testament reveals it more clearly, culminating in the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

In the Bible, we see examples that clearly teach the truth of the co-existence of the Trinity. For example, in Matthew 3: 16-17: After His baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on Him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, who brings me great joy.”

This interaction between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is just one glimpse of the Trinity’s existence, just one example of where the Bible clearly teaches the truth of the co-existence of the Trinity.

Belief in the Trinity is essential to our faith, even if we do not fully understand the complexity of the Trinity.

The Trinity - The Triune nature of God is difficult for us to comprehend - It is a mystery.

There are many mysteries in life that we accept without fully understanding.

We take medication without comprehending how it works or understanding its chemical composition;

we use a microwave without knowing its inner workings and drive cars without understanding the intricacies of the engine.

However, the Trinity is not a mystery we can overlook because, without it, we lose the truth and power of the Gospel.

We believe in the truth of the Trinity by faith, even though there are aspects of God we cannot fully grasp.

We may not fully understand the mystery of the Trinity yet we must believe by faith what God has revealed to us because His word is truth.

Over the centuries, theologians have tried to understand and explain the nature of the Trinity.

St Augustine spent almost thirty years of his life writing a fifteen-volume work called “About the Trinity.”

15 volumes! Would you like me to preach on each one because a single sermon is not enough to explore every aspect of the Trinity but I hope that what I've said will benefit you.

The Bible teaches us that by our nature, we are sinful and deserving of God's wrath.

But Jesus, the Son, came to Earth to take the punishment for our sins upon Himself.

Through faith in Jesus, He imputes His righteousness to all who believe, making reconciliation with the Father possible.

We know because of what Jesus did at the Cross, reconciliation with God is possible.

After His resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven, and the Holy Spirit came to empower His disciples to live for God's honor and glory.

Each person of the Trinity plays a role in our redemption. Without the Trinity, there would be no salvation and no possibility of a restored relationship with God.

But how can God exist as three distinct persons yet still be one God?

The term "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, but the Triune Nature of God is taught and demonstrated.

Earlier in Matthew 3, we witness the Father speaking, the Son being baptized, and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove.

All three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit together at the Baptism of Jesus.

All three co-exist and are co-eternal.

While we may grasp the concept of the Trinity, we can never fully understand it – three persons in one God, each fully God.

I am so thankful that although the Trinity is central to our Christian faith, I and we do not have to fully understand the mystery of the Trinity to believe in God and be in a relationship with Him.

My God is not only the God who created the universe, but my God became human; my God became Jesus Christ who died on a cross and rose again.

We think of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as only proper names, static nouns if you will, just helpful labels. But Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are full of doing, loving, and teaching. God is a God of action. God created. God sent Jesus to save. Jesus lived, served, died, and rose. God's Holy Spirit has been creating since the beginning of time and now comes to create the Christian community by bringing Christ to the world.

We are called to be part of the Spirit's work. We, you and I, all become the voice, hands, and feet of the good news. Our text from Matthew 28: 19: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. We are called to go and make disciples, baptizing and teaching. With all due respect to our teachers here, will we be good teachers when it comes to teaching and baptizing. Today, Holy Trinity Sunday is a good day to think about what we are doing to bring God's love, forgiveness, understanding, and faith to others, and what we are doing to nurture it in our own lives. Our words and actions teach. Again, I raise the question: will we be good teachers or not?

**Amen!!**

