

"I BAPTIZE YOU IN THE NAME OF..."

John 16:12-15

Ann Spivack, writing for *Reader's Digest*, shares the following story. "While our friends from India traveled around California on business, they left their 11 year-old daughter with us. Curious about my going to church one Sunday morning, she decided to come along. When we returned home, my husband asked her what she thought of the service. "I don't understand why the West Coast isn't included too," she replied. When we inquired what she meant, she added, "You know, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the whole East Coast." [Ann Spivack, Reader's Digest.](#)

Today is the Sunday on the church calendar that has been set aside to focus on the three persons of the Godhead- God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit otherwise known as "the Trinity." So today is "Trinity Sunday" and it follows the great drama of salvation which is proclaimed in Advent- which involves the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas; followed by Lent-which takes in the 6 Sundays prior to Easter;

then there is Easter or the Resurrection Day; and, last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost- which is the birthday of the Christian church. And now we come to Trinity Sunday, a Sunday where we can look back over the story of salvation and see that the concept, the doctrine of the Trinity, "proclaims to us the very heart of God."

And as we have just experienced Elijah John Whetstone's baptism the words that were spoken as I placed water on his forehead were, "I baptize you in the name of... and I mentioned all three persons of the Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Even though the concept of the Trinity is not always easy to grasp and understand, it would seem that out of the three persons of the Trinity we have the least problem getting our heads around God the Father, Creator and sustainer of all; and Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came to this earth to save us from sin and destruction and grant all who believe eternal life; but it is the third person of the Trinity that seems to

be the one that is more difficult to grasp and yet I want to suggest we can and should and not give up trying.

We, Christians, believe in one God in three persons which has caused followers of Islam to claim that we really believe in three gods. And this claim is, many times, the accusation that monotheistic religions level on us, those who do not claim Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Today, I want to eventually spend some time talking about the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, but before I do, let me share with you an illustration that I recently came upon that might be helpful as we try and gain a better understanding of God being in three persons. The illustration focuses on **an egg**, that's right, an egg. It goes like this-the egg has three parts: **first, there is the Shell**- would you call that an egg? **Second, there is the Albumin- or the White**- would you call that egg? **And third, there is the Yolk**- would you call that egg? The reality is the egg is made up of all three parts for the shell; the white and the yolk are all substance Egg.

And when you think of the egg it is incomplete without one or more of these elements and yet you would call them all egg, correct? And so it is with the Trinity. The Godhead is one just as complete egg is one and yet the Godhead is made up of three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And if we were to separate the shell from the white and the white from the yolk of our egg, the egg would not, all of a sudden, become three eggs would it? NO. Because it would still be one egg. Just as there is only One God but we recognize three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Now here is where this analogy breaks down a bit- there are times that it is not possible to distinguish the various persons of the Trinity. For Jesus said in John 14:9 & 11, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.... Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?" This brings us back to the third person of the Trinity- the Holy Spirit.

In John 13:33 we find Jesus telling His disciples, "Little children, I am with you only a little longer."

Jesus is preparing them for His eminent departure. Think how you would have felt if you had been one of His closest friends and Jesus would be telling you that He is leaving soon, only it is for good. So it is understandable that the disciples are taken aback and are overcome with sorrow. And yet they do not ask where He is going for if they knew why He was leaving, they would not have been grieving. So now is the time for Jesus to fill them in, and He does.

In the few verses before our passage today, Jesus tells them in vs.7 that if He would stay with the disciples in the flesh the Advocate or, as the footnote in my Bible says the Helper, in other words, the Holy Spirit, would not come. It is the Holy Spirit who will come and dwell in the believer and unite that person with Jesus in His glory. But the key is that the Advocate will only be able to come to the disciples when Jesus has completed His work here on earth, when Jesus has died, thereby atoning for our sins, and then, after dying, be raised from the dead and return to the Father.

Only then, will the Advocate or Holy Spirit come. And so, when you put this together, it is to the advantage of the disciples if Jesus leaves them.

Look with me in your Bibles **what the Holy Spirit will do when He comes. First, vs. 8 tells us that, “when He [the Holy Spirit] comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.”** You see it will be the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples who will then actively prove or, as another translation puts it “convict” the world through the witness of these disciples. The sin of the world will then be exposed. And what is at the root of the world’s sin? Friends, it is the rejection of Jesus Christ. I mean just look around in our community, our state, our country and this world- when there is no faith in Jesus Christ people are prone to self-centeredness, people are prone to hatred, people are prone to corruption and immorality, and the list continues, for these are all real, concrete signs of unbelief.

Second, the coming of Holy Spirit will reveal to the world the righteousness of Jesus Christ all the while exposing the unrighteousness and false justice of the world. Friends, when Jesus went to the cross He was judged guilty by the world at that time. But it was God the Father who vindicated Him; it was God who declared Jesus righteous through raising Him from the dead. And when Jesus was resurrected to heaven His return rebuked the unrighteousness of the world. So when Jesus is lifted up by the Holy Spirit the world is convicted of unrighteousness.

Third, the coming of the Holy Spirit will empower the disciples to go out and tell the world that Jesus is Lord and that Satan has been defeated at the cross. On that day that Jesus hung from the cross good and evil were engaged in a vicious battle. And to the onlooker that day it would seem that Satan and evil had won. What changed everything was the resurrection- the resurrection of Jesus brought forth victory out of

the jaws of defeat and death. And the coming of the Holy Spirit would make it clear that the ruler of this world, Satan, is judged and dethroned, even though Satan is still alive and well and working in this world. His final demise will only come when Jesus returns.

Notice what is says in vs. 12- Jesus says, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." These followers of Jesus were just not ready to hear other truths because they were not spiritually ready to receive them. And besides, there were truths that could only be understood and digested after, after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. So it is with the coming of the Holy Spirit as the Teacher that the teachings of Jesus will be illuminated and thereby, understood.

The beautiful thing is that the Holy Spirit comes to each believer to teach us all that is in Christ. And it is when we submit ourselves to the Spirit of Truth, the Holy Spirit, we can grow in spiritual insight, in spiritual wisdom and our faith will mature and grow as we

constantly seek to grow and conform into the image of Jesus Christ. And this is a promise for all believers in Christ. Just going to a Bible college or seminary doesn't make you a spiritual giant or learned person in the things that we are talking about today. Oh, you may have factual information, etc., etc. but not have spiritual knowledge of spiritual truths. I have had the pleasure to be around many people in my time in ministry who might not be technically trained as a Bible scholar but have been able to speak spiritual truths which have come from the Lord as they have been guided and taught by the Holy Spirit. For it is the Holy Spirit who comes to interpret Jesus to those who are followers.

Believers, be open, be listening, be attentive to the Holy Spirit for it says at the end of vs. 13 that the Holy Spirit will, "declare to you the things that are to come." When we accept Jesus Christ we receive the Holy Spirit- that is a fact. Accept Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit will dwell in you always.

So isn't it wonderful that the Holy Spirit will give us discernment and wisdom for every new situation and opportunity that comes along? I mean don't you want discernment and wisdom for the things that are yet to be, for the things that are yet to come? And believe me, there are things that are yet to come- good things and not so good things.

And so we baptize in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We can rest in the knowledge that it is God the Father who takes all things that are the Son's and especially wisdom and truth that are for God's people and God gives them to those same people, through the Holy Spirit, in order that Jesus Christ may be glorified. And we are the recipients of this wisdom and truth.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

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Introduction: Today is "Trinity Sunday" on the church calendar

Elijah John Whetstone's baptism...

One God in three persons- the Trinity

The EGG illustration: the shell, the albumin or the white, and the yolk

The few verses before our passage today...

Vs. 7

What the Holy Spirit will do when He comes...

First, vs. 8 tells us that, "when He comes, he will prove the world wrong about _____ and _____ and _____"

The root of the world's sin is...

Second, the coming of the Holy Spirit will reveal to the world the _____ of Jesus Christ all the while exposing the _____ and _____ justice of the world

Third, the coming of the Holy Spirit will _____ the disciples to go out and tell the world that Jesus is Lord and that Satan has been defeated at the cross

The beautiful thing is that the Holy Spirit comes to each believer to _____ us all that is in Christ

Conclusion: Believer, be open, be listening, be attentive to the Holy Spirit for the Holy Spirit will, "declare to you things that are to come."