

The Triune God
John 3: 1-16
Rev. John Anderson
Bay Presbyterian Church
January 6, 2013

Introduction: **The need and capacity for love**
 The need and capacity for communion/communication
 Find their roots in being made in the image and likeness of God

I. The Essence of the Trinity

a. Historically

- i. "Trinity" never appears in the Bible**
- ii. Tertullian – 155-220 A.D.**
- iii. Augustine studied the Trinity for 19 years. His conclusion? "If you deny the Trinity you lose your soul. If you try to explain the Trinity, you lose your mind."**
- iv. Every Christian denomination is Trinitarian – Trinitarian defines Christianity**
- v. Metaphors are inadequate at best and perhaps misleading**
- vi. H₂O – water, steam, ice**
- vii. Three legged stool**
- viii. Twine with three cords (cf. Eccl 4:12)**

b. The Father is God

- i. John 6:27 – On Him [Jesus] the Father has placed His seal of approval**
- ii. 1 Cor 8:6 – "yet for us there is but one God, the Father . . ."**

c. Jesus is God

- i. John 1:1 – "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."**
- ii. John 1:14 – "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."**
- iii. John 8: 58 – "Before Abraham was born, I AM." At this they picked up stones to stone Him . . ."We are not stoning You for any of the miracles, replied the Jews, "But for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."**

d. The Holy Spirit is God

- i. 2 Cor. 3: 16, 17 – "Now the Lord is the Spirit"**
- ii. Acts 5: 3, 4 – "You have lied to the Holy Spirit. You have not lied to men, but to God."**

e. The Trinity is personal in each of its members and collectively

- i. Not the impersonal "force" of Star Wars.**
- ii. The Trinity (and Holy Spirit) could and should be prayed to**
- iii. Presbyterians can praise the Holy Spirit and the Trinity!**

f. The Trinity appears in the Old Testament

- i. Gen. 1:1; 1:26; 3:22**

II. TAKE AWAY

- a. The Trinitarian life is a life of love, humility, submissiveness and communal**
- b. The Trinity is about reclaiming mankind from the sin of pride and rebellion**