

The Unity of God and Our Identity

Identity

Merriam – Webster Definition:

- Sameness in all that constitutes the objective reality of a thing : ONENESS

Who are you?

The answer is rooted in both
theology and *practice*

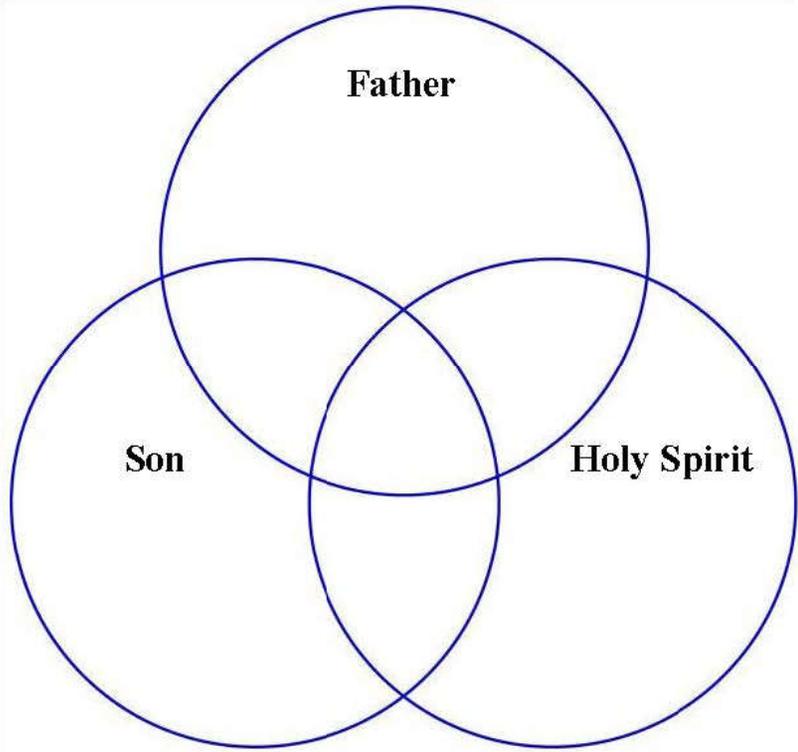
We find our identity in a Holy communion with
God, and with each other.

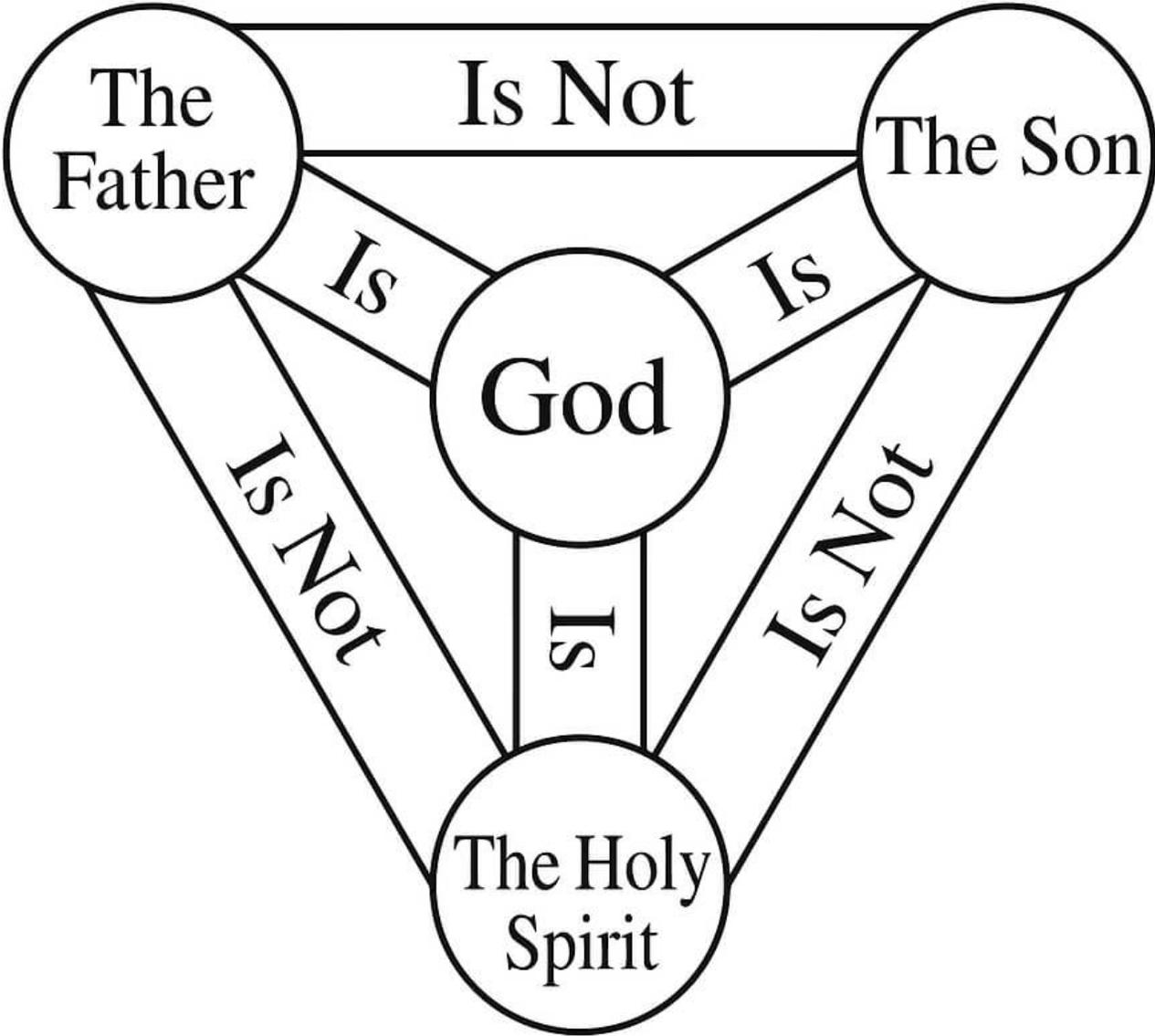
Identity Crisis – Relationship with God

Who is God?

Who am I in relation to who He is?

The Trinity





1 Corinthians 2: 10b-16 (NIV)

...these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.

The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

But we have the mind of Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NASB)

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is One.”

1. Known as the people with only 1 God
2. God was revealing to His people who He is

Hebrew thought vs. Greek

אֶחָד

Echad

- *expresses a compound “oneness”*

Genesis 1:5 – evening and morning = one (echad) day

Genesis 2:24 – man and woman become one (echad) flesh

Ezra 2:64 – whole assembly as one (echad)

Ezekiel 37:15-19, 26-28 (NIV)

¹⁵ The word of the LORD came to me: ¹⁶ “Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, ‘Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.’ Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, ‘Belonging to Joseph (that is, to Ephraim) and all the Israelites associated with him.’”

¹⁷ Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand.¹⁸ “When your people ask you, ‘Won’t you tell us what you mean by this?’ ¹⁹ say to them, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph—which is in Ephraim’s hand—and of the Israelite tribes associated with him and join it to Judah’s stick. I will make them into a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.’”

²⁶ I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and increase their numbers, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever. ²⁷ My dwelling place will be with them; I will be their God, and they will be my people. ²⁸ Then the nations will know that I the LORD make Israel holy, when my sanctuary is among them forever.”

Imago Dei

Image of God

We're made in *His* image

not the other way around

John 1: 12-13 (NASB)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of a man, but of God.

We don't create our own identity; we're given one by God alone.

How we see ourselves matters

1. We are in the image of God
2. We are becoming like the image of God
3. We reflect God

How we see other people matters

Matthew 22: 36-40 (NASB)

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And He said to him, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.’ This is the great and foremost commandment.

The second is like it, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.’ Upon these two commandments hang the whole Law and the Prophets.”

How we see the church matters

- The fully functioning Body of Christ
- God's image reflected in other Christians
- Striving for Unity

John 17: 20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ “I am not asking on behalf of these alone, but also for those who believe in Me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one; just as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

How we see the world matters

Matthew 5:16 (NASB)

Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

We weren't created to be alone.

Tell the World.