



The Westminster Abbey Church

To Connect People To Jesus Christ And To Each Other.

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This month we are going to continue to explore the Catechism of the Global Methodist Church. We are going to do so in the order that it is written and therefore we are going to examine the mystery of the Trinity in this Newsletter.

From the earliest period, Christ-followers perceived that God was uniquely present and at work in Jesus and that "Son" most aptly captured the relationship between the God whom Israel had historically worshipped and the Man who commanded the winds and the waves, who restored life to the dead, and who Himself burst open the gates of death.

God chose this Father-Son relationship as a way to reveal Himself to His chosen people and to the many sons and daughters who would eventually become a part of the family of God.

Also from the earliest period, those who gave their allegiance to Jesus discovered the power and presence of God at work in their midst and even within themselves, which they identified as the "Spirit" of God's own self. They experience the Spirit not as some impersonal force, but as a divine Other who guided, empowered and worked among them.

They experienced God in "three persons": the Father of Jesus who had also adopted them; the Son whom the Father "sent" into the world to reveal God and to redeem human beings; and the Spirit who the Father also "sent" into the world to give human beings a new birth into God's family and to give them assurance of this new birth and power for this new life.

Early Christians were faced with believing in Deuteronomy 6:4 which says, **"The Lord our God, the Lord is one"** and also their understanding that they experienced God the Father and His promises, the gift of salvation they received from Jesus the Son, along with the new found power which came from the Holy Spirit.

These twin convictions pointed them in the direction of recognizing that One God was a Trinity of persons: three persons that were eternally joined together by virtue of sharing a single divine essence.

The mystery of "The Trinity" has existed since Jesus came to dwell among us and the Holy Spirit was given to the disciples on the day of Pentecost. While it is extremely difficult to explain "The Trinity" with any degree of exactness, it is important to try to understand it to the best of our ability. I believe that God chose to reveal Himself in this way so that our human minds could comprehend the many attributes that make up His very essence. While we view God in three different persons, He is still "One God" who is our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Dave

"What comes into a man's mind when he thinks about God is the most important thing about him." John Wesley