

TRINITARIAN LIVING

A fundamental teaching of Christianity is the understanding of God as 'Trinity.' The doctrine of the Trinity means that there is one God who eternally exists as three distinct Persons--the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Stated differently, God is one in essence and three in person. These definitions express three crucial truths: (1) The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct Persons, (2) each Person is fully God, (3) there is only one God.

This teaching flows out of God's self-revelation in Scripture: (Deuteronomy 6:4, Genesis 1:1-3, 26-27, Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

Scripture gives us a picture of the inner life of the Godhead.

John 16:12-15

Spirit receives from God
Spirit gives to Jesus
Jesus gives to the Spirit
Father gives to Jesus
Spirit gives to us

Perichoresis is a term used to describe the inner relationships within the Godhead. (Peri – around, choreo – dance).

"At the center of the universe, self-giving love is the dynamic currency of the Trinitarian life of God. The persons within God exalt each other, commune with each other, defer to one another...When early Christians spoke of *perichoresis* in God, they meant to suggest that each divine person harbors the others at the center of his being. In a constant movement of overture and acceptance, each person envelops and encircles the others." -*Cornelius Plantinga*

"The whole dance, or drama, or pattern of this three-Personal life is to be played out in each one of us." -*C.S. Lewis*

The flow of our lives tainted by sin is inward. I live for me, me, me. I harbor myself at the center of my being. The flow of our lives redeemed in Christ is outward, taking its cue from the nature of God Himself.