

“Communicating the Mystery”

**The Trinity is the great mystery of the church -
was discussed as early as 180 AD and probably earlier.
Formulated at the Council of Nicea in 325**

from the introduction to Writings on the Trinity, Grace, and Faith by Jonathan Edwards,
edited by Sang Hyun Lee

The Christian doctrine of God as the Trinity was originally formulated by the ancient church fathers as a confessional expression of faith, not as a speculative idea. The church fathers believed that the God they experienced in JC by the power of the HS is the same God as the God they knew as the Creator and the Lord of creation. This belief had to be articulated in a doctrinal formula so to make clear the distinctiveness of the identity of the Christian God in relation to various other conceptions of the deity. They had to find some way to affirm that God was one and three. The God of the biblical witness, in other words, is at once one and also distinctively three: the Father, the SON, and the Holy Spirit. (pg 2)

All fine and good, but who are we in relation to the Trinity, as created beings?

We are storytellers, pattern-seekers, and meaning-makers, who are made in the image of God - the One in Three.

STORY TELLERS

God *creates* the Story in Creation
tells the Story in Scripture
continues the Story in Christ

Psalm 29 -- Ascribe - recognize the author of the story. Give the author the credit for the story being told

--We participate in the story God has written, is writing and will write

--We “ascribe”

--Participants in the story God has written and participants in the Trinity

What story will you tell?

What story do we want our church to tell?

PATTERN SEEKERS

Jesus *sets* the pattern for us in his life, death and resurrection
forms the pattern in our daily rising and dying in our baptism
continues the pattern in others through us

*Romans 8 - formed by a spirit of adoption
formed by our shared inheritance with
Christ
--Christ's pattern becomes our pattern
--Love -- God and others
--Forgiveness -- 77 times 7
--Devotion -- "he went off alone
to pray"
--Trust - Matthew 6; "your will
be done"*

What is the pattern of your life?

What is the pattern of our church?

Does it mirror the pattern of Christ's life, as best we can discern in this day and age?

MEANING MAKERS

The Holy Spirit makes meaning in our lives by

helping us remember the past

recreating God's kingdom in our spiritual lives

re-joining (religion) us to the community of faith

*--Meaning derives from the new life we have been given
in Christ -*

*--cf: Matthew 28 - "in the name of the Father, the Son,
and the HS*

vs: 20 -- Teach them to obey everything I have commanded

--What has been commanded?

--Isn't there only one command -

--to love God and love one another?

--What does love mean?

*--For a Christian, this is the meaning-making
we are creating, seeking and learning.*

--What is love?

--The story God is telling

*--The pattern of the life, death and resurrection
of JC*

--The meaning we gain from the Spirit

What is the meaning you have derived from your relationship with God, Christ, and the HS?

What does this relationship we each share with the Trinity mean for us as a church?

How will we communicate that meaning to others?

-- and I am with you always, to the end of the age

- *Gloria Patri*

- *This has always been*

- *God's Story,*

- *Christ's Pattern,*

- *The Holy Spirit's Meaning*

- *A growing progression toward our inclusion*

into the relationship between God, Christ and the Holy Spirit

- *Our time-dependent participation in the eternal relationship of the Trinity is our inheritance and our discipleship.*