

The Holy Spirit: Love in Community

Last week our focus was on the role of the Holy Spirit in creation - past, present and future. The Holy Spirit is with the Father and the Son, active in creating and with Christ, making all things new. This is accomplished in love; because of love.

As challenging as it is to understand the Trinity, it is a tremendous gift because we are given the example of a divine and reciprocal community of love; three in one with each loving the other – and us! God models relationship among the persons of the Trinity.

Think about how much easier this all might have been if we just had one BIG God, dictating, commanding, ordering. But also consider what would be missing!

Love is God's character, and that love is to be shared among the three persons of the Trinity and with all humanity, so that we too might love others.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God, and knows God.... God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only son into the world so that we might live through him.... So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.... We love because God first loved us. (1 John 4:7, 9, 16, 19)

Among the many important things Jesus said to his disciples right before he died was this. *"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Abide in my love."* (John 15:9) This declaration and instruction was for his disciples and for all who would come to believe.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us so we might be empowered to love others as we have and continue to be loved by the triune God. Among the fruit of the Spirit, the first mentioned is love. (Galatians 5:22-23a)

We were made for love, for community and relationships. To be human is not to be autonomous but to be made for communion. The Spirit has been given to us so we might faithfully live out this fellowship of love.