

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, Jesus Christ the Only Son, and from the Holy Spirit who is the love between them, amen.

Happy Holy Trinity Sunday! This day of the Church year is set apart for us to recognize and celebrate the community of the Trinity. The God we worship isn't just a creator God who started the universe like winding a great big watch and then let it go on its own. No, there is also the Son who came into this universe in flesh and blood in order to make right all the things we humans have put asunder. It doesn't stop there. Our God is a living breathing God who is still active in this universe through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. They are three persons, but one God.

The word "God" is translated from the Hebrew word "Elohim" and this Word (Elohim) is plural, which means it refers to more than one person. The correct translation should be "Gods" not "God", but I believe the translators wanted to put more emphasis on the unity of God, they were trying to say these Gods are one God. Thank God, they translated it this way, otherwise we would have come out with the wrong understanding. The unity of the Godhead is also illustrated in Deuteronomy 6:4 which says; Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. This is one of the oldest, if not the oldest confession of faith of the Hebrew people. It's known as the Shama.

Throughout the scriptures, God has revealed himself in three unique persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The three put together are called God, they work together at all times, they are united in purpose, in plans and in deeds. God the Father is the one who does the planning, he is the one who decides what must be done both in heaven and earth, it is his will that must be done by all creation. God the Son (Jesus Christ) works according to the plan of the Father, he doesn't come with his own plans or methods, he does the will of the Father. So, the Father plans. He hands his plans to Jesus. Jesus reads what is planned and executes accordingly. God the Holy Spirit brings to pass the work of Jesus Christ. He is the power that does the work of Jesus Christ.

For example, the Father planned the creation of the world and all creation. Jesus who is also called the Word of God spoke it all into being and the Holy Spirit put the mountains, the soil, the seas in the places they are today, as the Son spoke. John 1:1-3 supports this, In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), the Word(Jesus) was with God and the Word(Jesus) was God, all things were made by him (Jesus) and without him was not anything made that was made. In John 16:13 Jesus talked about the Holy Spirit when he said; He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. So, the Holy Spirit works according to the Word of Jesus Christ. The Father cannot do anything without Jesus, and Jesus cannot do anything without the Father, the Holy Spirit

also cannot do anything without Jesus or the Father and vice versa. So much more to say, but I will leave it here. That's the best I can do to explain the Holy Trinity. I admit and confess I don't fully understand how it all comes together, but I do, through faith, trust that God is what He reveals himself to be through the Holy Scriptures.

This is only the third time this century when Trinity Sunday also falls on Father's Day. It happened in 2000, 2011, and this year, 2019. So, in honor of our Father's I'm going to focus on the Father person of the Trinity this year. I believe much of the trouble we are experiencing in our culture today is a direct result of the diminished honor and respect afforded to the vocation of fatherhood. All you have to do is watch any television sitcom to see what I mean. Fathers are depicted as buffoons. They are usually in the background and never offer anything in the way of leadership for their sitcom imaginary families. Unfortunately, this has become the template for far too many families today. Fathers are either absent altogether or in the back seat, just along for the ride. If you doubt me on this, consider the fact that in the black community 80% of all children are now born into fatherless families.

How can we expect to live as the family of God when we're not following God's plan for the family? Fathers are called to be spiritual leaders in their families. Statistics show that when both the father and mother attend Worship

regularly, their children will continue in the faith when they become adults.

Without the active participation of the father the children are more apt to fall away from the faith and their Church Family. God has assigned husbands and fathers a sacred stewardship that involves responsibility for the spiritual growth and well-being of wives and children. The roles and relationships within the Trinity call us to realize that God intends households to reflect a reality that is true in the Godhead itself. Today, too many young men grow up in a masculine vacuum. We're told that being a male is toxic if you listen to certain political pundits. Far too many children grow up with fathers who are non-nurturing, uncommunicative, or absent most of the time. This leaves them in a literal no-man's land of confusion about what it means to be authentically maleness. Is it any wonder, in this kind of environment, so many men behave in such inappropriate way toward women? I tell you the statistics still show that the best outcomes in rearing children come from families that have both a mother and a father. I'm not bashing gay families or single motherhood. There are many examples of fine adults that have come out of such families, but statistics show the best way to ensure the children are well rounded and have balanced upbringing is to ensure they have both a father figure and a mother in their lives.

As I said about the Trinity, the Father can't do anything without the Son and the Holy Spirit; The Son can't do anything without the Father and the Holy Spirit;

and the Holy Spirit can't do anything without the Father and the Son-I also say about the family. The family functions best with all three parts working together the father, the mother, the child, and the love shared between them. So, on this Father's Day, if you are the greatest father that ever lived, I urge you to become a better father. I encourage you to offer yourself to others who struggle to manifest the male influence in their families. If you're like me, an average father, present some of the time, but silent on too many occasions, especially in the area of spiritual or faith formation in the children, then I urge you to learn from a mentor how to be the spiritual leader of your family. When my father passed away I was only 13 years old. People told me, "You're going to have to be the man of the house now." Let me tell you, at the age of 13 no boy knows how to be the man of the house. Thankfully, God placed a few key adults in my life who were my mentors and helped me mature into a fairly well-adjusted person. They kept me from wondering too far off the beat and path. So, don't succumb to this notion that maleness is toxic to our culture. The fact is our culture needs men to step up and be fathers in the way the Bible depicts fatherhood.

May your family be complete with all things necessary to ensure our children are brought up with a balance of nurturing influences, both male and female. May God our Father continue to be the leading example of fatherhood. May Jesus Christ God's Only Son continue to speak the Words of eternal life for

you and your family. May God, the Holy Spirit continue to guide you and lead you into all truth and keep you in God's love, now and forever, amen.