

Trinity Sunday always follows the Sunday of Pentecost. The word “Trinity” is not a word that Jesus ever spoke. “Trinity” is a religious word that theologians use and try to help us through the ages to understand what it means to believe in One God, and express that as “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” Our Apostles Creed at Baptism, our Nicene Creed, and our Affirmation of Faith all try to express what it means to have Creation, Incarnation, death and Resurrection, and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. To believe in the Trinity is also to believe in the One God. It is hard to explain and our attempts even to express our experience fall short.

What we can express is that our experience of God is relationship, and that relationship brings the power of new life. It is a matter of Life and Death.

Susan+

Converted to the Trinity

Richard Rohr

The genius of the Trinitarian doctrine has the power to rearrange our universe. We know nothing about this being called God, except that this God is perfect giving and perfect receiving. The very nature of this Being we call God is communion, receptivity, and generosity, one hundred percent unhindered dialogue between three. It all begins with three. This isn't just an abstraction; it's the foundational template of reality. Reality is total, continual givenness and perfect, humble receptivity; that is the very form and the shape of being as we know it. It is the very source, the very pattern, and the very goal of reality.

The wonderful thing about living in our time is that scientists like astronomers and physicists say that this is true. Many looking through microscopes or telescopes see this same pattern of utter relationship. They are discovering that if reality is anything, it's absolutely relational. It's something we used to know, something our ancestors knew. But pretty much since the Enlightenment, at least in the West, we've dismissed the possibility. We've been producing individualists who try to save themselves by believing things intellectually. In this view of religion, it's not a mystery of participation. It's not a mystery of surrendering; no surrender is even necessary. Instead, it's a quest to get the right information, which only makes us prouder and more self-centered. It makes community less possible, which is clearly evident from our politics and our international relations. Everyone is put back upon themselves, where the only question we're able to ask is *“How can I get to heaven?”* That's not even a gospel question! It's a question of the ego. It's not the question of the Trinity within us.

The conversion that's needed right now is to this foundational definition of God as relationship. Only people who submit to that conversion can possibly be converted to Jesus and not have their faith distorted. When there isn't a primary understanding of who Jesus is as part of the Trinity, Jesus will be used for our own nationalistic and egocentric purposes, as a means of power and a ticket to heaven. Can we all be converted, not to Jesus (as strange as that must sound) but to the Trinity, where Jesus Christ actually exists? Only inside the mystery of the Trinity can we begin to understand what Jesus is saying, and what the meaning of salvation is, and what the mystery is that he's inviting us into. (*December 26, 2022, Daily Meditation, Center for Action and Contemplation*)