

## RECLAIM THE HOLY TRINITY!

The Trinity is not an optional "extra" to God. It is the nature of God as revealed to us in Scripture. The biblical truth about the Trinity has become a pressing issue for contemporary Christians, simply because we are losing the biblical account of God, apparently without controversy or debate.

We are in danger of shifting the Holy Trinity aside in our practices and worship language, without announcing that we have changed our minds about the nature of the God we profess to follow. Often the Trinity is taught in confirmation class or in Sunday school more as a mathematical problem to be solved, than the living reality of the God we serve, worship and love.

Here are examples:

The Apostle Paul said: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who consoles us in all our affliction, for just as the sufferings of Christ are abundant for us, so our consolation is abundant through Christ, sealed in our hearts through the power and constant presence of the Holy Spirit"* (2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 21-22).

John Calvin said: *"Christ is not only the pledge of our adoption, but God also gives us the Holy Spirit as a witness to this adoption, through whom we may freely cry aloud, 'Abba, Father.' Whenever we are distressed, remember to ask for the presence of the Spirit who will enable us to pray boldly"* (Calvin's Institutes, III.20.37).

But today we often do not say more than: *"Be blessed, for God is always with you."*

This contemporary version is true, but why are we hesitant to name our triune God in biblical language? Why do we not speak, pray and testify with confidence about the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit? It became rare to hear references to all three Persons of the Trinity in an integrated way except at the baptismal font or during the benediction.

We must be careful that we are not becoming practicing Unitarians. Our language about God should be as diverse and varied as is the idiom of the Bible and of our universal Christian tradition. Why do we so often hear folk repetitively referring to "God" in prayers, discussions and devotions? Or someone may address a topic referring only to Jesus. Did Jesus not come to us to show us the Father, and did he not send the Spirit to teach us about his saving grace? Consideration of God as Holy Trinity and replicating the words of Scripture about God, provide us with a more faithful vocabulary that is also richer and more varied than the current practice of many Protestants.

### **Father, Son, Holy Spirit - essential Evangelical testimony**

The language of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, engraved in Scripture and creed, is essential for our efforts to speak faithfully about God. Our reverence and service of the *One-in-Three* and *Three-in-One* bind us together with ancient believers and ancient denominations. Can there be a unity outside of worshipping the Holy Trinity as the only God, Saviour and Comforter we know? And can we claim to speak about God as Bible believing Christians in any other way?

"Father, Son and Holy Spirit" is a root out of which grows the wealth of our vocabulary of praise. We must rather magnify and expand upon the ways of naming the Triune God, rather than simply repeating the word "God" in prayer and liturgy repetitively. Why not refer to God in the language of Scripture to enrich the ways we speak of God and to God.

The language of our prayers, hymns, songs and sermons shapes our faith as surely as it reflects our faith. We must pray and sing to the "one Triune God, the Holy One of Israel, the eternal God of the covenant, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom alone we worship and serve through the graceful work of the Holy Spirit." This is Bible language and therefore should be church language. Our God is also worthy of such worship and praise in our private prayers.

If the ways I address God and speak of him, could just as well have been the words of a Jew, who does not believe in Jesus as God the Son, or a Muslim, who rejects the Trinity too, I am doing something terribly wrong!

Lets learn from the New Testament speakers how to honour our God, and teach one another anew the Trinitarian language of Scripture.

Lets remember to adore our Father with all our heart, soul and strength.

Lets ask from our Father which art in heaven, everything we need.

Lets always pray in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Lets beg for the guidance and inspiration of the Spirit to be able to follow and love Jesus who always will show us the Father, bringing us home to his throne of grace.

Lets worship and serve the only true, triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.