

Distinct and Unified

This morning we are in our second week in our 7-week series on the Trinity and humans being made male and female. For the sake of those who were not here last week, I want to briefly explain why we're doing this series: 1) because of the confusion over God's nature as Triune, and 2) because of the confusion over the nature of human beings created as male and female. And, I believe these two realities are connected. In last week's sermon, we saw how God creating human being in his image in part reflects the communal nature of God. Within God himself, he is communal as Father, Son and Spirit. Therefore, when he created mankind, he made *them* male and female. While we're clearly different than God because we're not communal within ourselves, we ought to clearly see a reflection of God's communal nature in God creating two distinct genders who are together to be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and rule *together*.

Now, each sermon is going to focus on God's Triune nature and show how his nature informs us how we ought to live. As I said last week, Romans 1 teaches us that the suppression of God leads to sin. Therefore, glorying in God leads to greater clarity on how we think and live. In the sermon today, I'm going to focus on our Triune God as both unified and distinct within himself. He is the Three-in-One. And each person of the Trinity carries certain roles while also remaining equally God. The Father is not superior in value to the Son or the Spirit. The Spirit isn't a lower-class god. No, instead, as part of the ancient Nicene Creed says, "we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. . . . with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified." The Father, Son and Spirit are to be worshipped and glorified because they are all the One God! Distinct yet unified.

Why does it matter to know this? I said that in knowing God's nature as Triune that would affect how we live as humans. I firmly believe that's the case, and I believe that our desire for unity as human beings comes from being created in God's image. We long for peace. We don't want to see warfare. We get scared when we see threats from other nations like Iran or North Korea. We long for nations to get along. Not only that. We long for unity with people around us. We don't wish for problems with people. We don't wish for problems with co-workers. That's why many corporations in America hire outside agencies to come in and do trainings on how to get along! They budget and spend big money for this. We don't wish for problems with our children or problems with our parents. How many counselors in America and the world are counseling people through these issues? We don't wish for issues between spouses. Again, that's why there's so much money spent on trying to save marriages.

Yet, when we look at this world, we really see that we humans don't do a great job with unity. I recall a couple of years ago, watching the show *America's Got Talent*, and there was a choir in the competition. As they were interviewed, and videos played to give more information about the choir, the thing that was highlighted about them was that they all came from different backgrounds. *AGT* highlighted this mysterious unity that doesn't often take place in our world. Diversity and unity. And what knit them all together? Music. But even in that, I would have to ask, "How long will singing together maintain unity?" If you talk about a passionate belief of yours, what will another singer say to you? Will the unity be maintained? Yet, as humans, we were made for a unity in the midst of diversity. And, I believe that the only lasting unity can come through Christ by the design of the Father and the power of the Spirit.

Because God is Three Persons, with distinct roles, and yet unified as One Being, there is a longing for us to be unified while recognizing our differences. This is the reality of Genesis 1:27. When God created

man in his own image, he created *them* male and female! Therefore, gender itself is a diversity within the unity of being human. But how do we live together as male and female?

Well, I believe that because God the Father sent the Son, there is hope that humans can live united-while celebrating our distinctions. Therefore, the main idea of the message today is: **God's diversity-within-his-unity creates and fulfills our longing for the same, as male and female.**

With this understanding, let's pray [Dolores Kleinheksel; Emmanuel Free of Spring Lake with Justin Smith].

Today I will not be preaching from one particular text. Instead, we're going to go to many passages to gain more understanding of God's Triune Nature and also the diversity-and-unity God designed for us as men and women. I'm going to state four basic points: 1) God is unified within himself, 2) Humanity was created to be unified, 3) Fallen humanity is disunified, 4) Our Triune God has provided a way back to eternal union with him and others.

1. God is unified within himself.

The term "unity" implies that there are distinctions that comprise a whole. Last week, I told you that when speaking with my children, I'll describe the Trinity as One Being and Three Persons. A human being is one being and one person. God is One Being and Three Persons. While not a perfect illustration, the best one I've heard to describe this is that of a circle. *Think of the circle comprising the Being. But imagine that perfectly over the black circle is a blue circle, and perfectly over the blue circle is a green circle. The Being is the Circle, but there are three distinct circles as well. That's kind of like the Trinity. One Being, Three Persons.*

But you could say, "What's the point of Three Persons? Does the Father, Son and Spirit all act the same and do the exact same things?" Biblically, we see that within the Trinity, there's a diversity. So, when I say that God is unified, I think we have to ask, "What are the distinctions that exist within the Godhead?" Of course, we can say that there is Father, Son and Spirit. And, there's no difference in being. But is there a difference in role, as persons?

I believe there is a difference in role, as persons. I want to read to you from our Church's Core Belief's Statement: **"We believe that God eternally exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. These three are of one essence, yet each executes distinct offices as persons. All three Persons are equal in every divine perfection, and are all equally worthy of glory, majesty, and honor. . ."** Now, I can say this, and you might affirm these words, but *why?* Do you know Bible verses to support this? God is One! Where does the Bible say this?

Deuteronomy 6:4: ⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.¹ First Timothy 1:17 also says: ¹⁷To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."² Then we have the apostles James write, "¹⁹You believe that God is one; you do well."³ Three verses, but they are explicit verses. Every context affirms that the writers meant exactly what we interpret in these verses. God is One. And there is only One God. But what about these distinct offices as

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Dt 6:4.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Ti 1:17.

³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jas 2:18–19.

persons? One of the most boiled down versions of the roles within the Trinity, that I find helpful is this: **The Father plans, the Son executes, the Spirit applies.** We see these roles played out specifically within creation and also within salvation. But, do you know Bible verses that emphasize this? (And, by the way, let me remind us all, if you're thinking, "Why does this matter?" It's because God matters. We should want to know him. And also, in knowing him, we can know how we ought to live.) So, let's continue to look at some more Bible verses. Think of this like uncovering a treasure map. We're cleaning off the map more and more so that we can get the full picture and the full treasure of God, His Word and His ways for us.

So, where does the Scripture teach us that the Father, Son and Spirit act in specific roles? Let's start with the Father.

The Father

Psalms 110:1-2 says, ¹**The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."** ²**The Lord sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter.** ⁴The Lord sends forth from Zion. He's the planner and initiator. The Lord (lower-case) submits to the plan. There's a relationship within the Lord himself. First Corinthians 8:6 states, ⁶**yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.** ⁵This speaks again of both the Father and the Son, but I'm going to emphasize the Father here. All things are *from* the Father. All things are *through* the Son. There is a consistent difference in Scripture between things being from the Father and *through* the Son. This *from* indicates an aspect of leadership within the Trinity. And, that leadership is affirmed in First Corinthians 15:24, where Paul writes, ²⁴**Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.** ⁶Jesus, the Son, delivers the Kingdom to God the Father. I confess I don't know all the ramifications of this statement, but clearly this is again implying that within Creation and also the New Creation, the Father is the One who plans/leads. Finally, Hebrews 10:7 speaks of Jesus' submission to the Father, saying, **"Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.' "** ⁷To do the Father's will means that the Father has a plan. The Son submits to the plan and executes it in perfection.

The Son

We have read only four verses emphasizing the Father's role. But again, they're all clear. Now, let's move on to the role of the Son. Colossians 1 speaks of Jesus as the Creator, and Paul writes this: ¹⁶**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.** ⁸The "by him" refers to "by the means of" him. So, then the Father and the Son are together in creation. The Father leading and planning. The Son executing the plan. Then we get to salvation and we read in Matthew 1:21-23, ²¹**She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.** ²²**All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:** ²³**"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).** ⁹Who will save people from their sins? Jesus. How can Jesus save when the Old Testament, in Isaiah, it says that God is the only Savior? Because Jesus is Immanuel – meaning, God with us. Yet, Jesus and the

⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ps 110:1–2.

⁵ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 8:6.

⁶ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 15:24.

⁷ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Heb 10:7.

⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Col 1:15–16.

⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Mt 1:21–23.

Father are distinct. The Father sent the Son into the world. We went through those passages during the Christmas season. He came. He was sent. By whom? The Father! And the Father saves us *through* the Son. But some seem to think that since the Father sends and the Son executes that the Son was enslaved to the Father. No! The Son is literally One with the Father. While in his humanity, he experiences all the trauma of living in a fallen world with a fallen human body, he still is unified in his divinity with the Father and the Spirit. The Father is not forcing Jesus. Nor does Jesus force the Spirit. While carrying distinct roles, there is perfect harmony and unity. So, Jesus himself executes the will of the Father. And so, in salvation, when Jesus was on this earth, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:3 that “the head of Christ is God.”¹⁰

When you hear all of this, we should never think the Son is of lesser value than the Father. In our world, when someone submits to someone else in the workplace, that means the person higher up is of more value. I mean, in reality, the boss gets paid more. They’re of *more value* to the company. So, those who submit are of less value. But God’s ways are different. Even when Jesus speaks of leadership in the world, he says that the world has a different view of leadership than God does. Whoever wants to be the greatest is the servant of all. And, so even when we see the Father planning and leading, we also see in the Scriptures that the Father magnifies the Son and delights in the Son. This Son is One in whom he is well-pleased. The Spirit and the Father are united as One and the Spirit knows the deep things of God because he himself is Lord. Each member of the Godhead serve one another – even as the Father leads/plans and the Son executes.

The Spirit

Now we move on to the Spirit. Within creation and salvation, the Spirit applies. Think of Genesis 1. God created and the Spirit hovered over the face of the waters. In the new creation, the Spirit hovers over Mary’s womb and gives the Son. He applies the plan. We’re also told that the Father and the Son now have sent the Spirit. There is a real sense that the Spirit shows submission to the Son as well. In John 15:26, Jesus says, **“²⁶ But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.”**¹¹ The Spirit is the helper. But what if the Spirit isn’t God? How can we be guaranteed that we’ll actually grow and learn what we need if the Spirit is a limited creature? Well, Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 3:18 that, **“¹⁸ . . .we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”**¹² We receive our teaching from the Lord – who is the Spirit! And then in Acts 1:8, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the Spirit, saying, **“⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**¹³

The Father leads/plans, the Son executes, the Spirit applies. And in the midst of this, there is perfect unity. Think about how amazing all of this is. We don’t hear the Spirit saying, “Hey, I want more attention over here!” We don’t hear the Son saying, “Forget dying on the cross. That’s too much.” Instead, Jesus prays to the Father for endurance with the plan. This past week, I was struck again by how amazing Jesus’ sacrifice was. I thought about how he was falsely accused, and how I respond when I’m falsely accused. Have you ever been falsely accused? I don’t know about you, but I can quickly want to restore my reputation. I don’t necessarily want revenge, but I’ll get angry and I’ll work quick to let

¹⁰ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 1 Co 11:3.

¹¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Jn 15:26.

¹² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 3:18.

¹³ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ac 1:7–8.

everyone know that the other person is wrong! Yet Jesus opened not his mouth, the Bible says. He took all the accusations against him. And, then on the cross, Colossians tells us that Jesus became the handwriting of ordinances that were written against us – meaning, Jesus became our sin list. Jesus took on himself all our sins. He became sin incarnate on the cross. And, on the cross, he didn't say, "Father, no fair!" Instead, he cried out, "Father, forgive them." And "Into your hands, I commit my spirit." What glory for us – and what unity in the Godhead. The Father glories in the Son, the Son glories in the Father and the Spirit. The Spirit glories in the Son and the Father.

Do you know this God? Have you turned to the Father for forgiveness of your sins through Jesus and Jesus alone? I pray the Spirit opens your eyes to glory in God's glory! But as I say all of this, let's remember that this diversity and unity within God is intended for humanity.

2. Humanity was created to be unified.

I'm going to preach a little more on this tonight in talking about being made male and female, but I'm still going to take some time to show how humanity is distinct but also to be unified.

We read Genesis 1:26-28 last week, but I need to read it again for us today: ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them.¹⁴

In this passage, we have God saying, "Let us make man," giving implications of the Trinity here. Then we have God saying **let us make man (singular) in our (plural) likeness (singular). Then them (plural) have communion. Then, look in verse 27, "So God created man (singular) in his own image (singular), in the image of God (singular) he created him (singular); male and female (plural) he (singular) created them (plural).**

Do you get this unity and diversity in the Godhead and also within humanity? Maleness and femaleness coming together as human beings in this world uniquely and wonderfully display the glory of God in this world. We will miss more of the glory of God if there were only men. We will miss more of the glory of God if there were only women. God blessed *them*.

And, as we saw last week, he blessed them in order to be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and to also rule over the earth. Together, male and females are to rule. But even when we think of rule, we can incorporate ungodly mindsets on rulership. To rule under God's rule means that we are submitting to God together.

Now, some people stop here and say, "Men and women are only to submit to God together. The only difference is biology." However, if within God himself, there are roles, then why shouldn't we expect that within humanity, between male and female? I believe we actually do see this. Now, please be patient with me because as I say this, some people here could get quite bothered. I am not arguing for misogynistic rules, suppression of women, eradication of men. The Bible gives us a better picture: an emphasis on our unity while being diverse. It's a great gift God gives to us as humans. We can highlight differences and be unified.

¹⁴ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ge 1:26–28.

So, what are the most basic differences between men and women. I believe Genesis, and the rest of Scriptures teach us that men are called to lovingly lead and women are called to help. Now, there's a sermon coming that's going to highlight this more in a couple of weeks, so I don't want to steal Devon's thunder when he preaches on this. But let me simply say that leadership is explicit before the Fall into sin. In the ancient culture, to name things signified leadership. Adam both names the animals and his wife. Yet, in the Scripture, leadership is different than how so many describe it. The Father leads and plans, but the Father is of no greater value than the Son and the Spirit. And, the Father delights in the Son and Spirit as the Spirit and Son delight in the Father. So, the leadership of men should look like loving, sacrifice. Jesus wiped the disciples feet – and they all knew he was the leader. Yet, the world would have called that utter foolishness.

I believe women are called to rule with men as helpers. To help implies that even before the Fall, Adam needed help in glorifying God. This doesn't mean Adam had sin, but in order to maximize the Creator's glory and his mandate, the woman was the helper fit for him. To help doesn't mean, "to assist the man to do whatever he wants." No, to help means to assist the man to glorify God as he unifies with humanity.

So, Ventura, think about practical applications of this. Within the local church, we should be a people of men and women serving together, side by side for God's glory – with a godly, servant leadership of men, and women who will serve and speak alongside the men. In this, we help each other maximize the glory of God. I'll talk more on this during a Sunday evening sermon, but let me simply say, I believe God calls men to be elders, and I also believe that men and women should be serving in all other contexts within the church body in order to sharpen each other and grow as a family in Christ.

But in saying this, some could say, "Well, that sounds nice, but it's all messed up." And, I'll agree with you on that. Men and women have messed it all up! We are human beings – male and female – but we've distorted everything through our sinfulness. That's why my next point:

3. Fallen humanity is disunified.

In Genesis 3, after Adam and Eve sinned by taking the fruit from the serpent, we read that not only does creation make it hard for us – the ground will grow thorns, childbirth will be horribly painful – but male/female relationships will be harsh. If male/female relationships are harsh then what does that mean about humanity's ability to maximally display the glory of God?

Genesis 3:16, God declares the curse that takes place between humanity: **"Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."**¹⁵ Of course, God is speaking of the marriage relationship, but I wonder if this principle can apply to male-female relationships in general. And maybe even apply to all relationships. In other words, humans will be self-focused and will hurt one another. If this can't be applied to all humanity, then we at least see this is the case when we move forward in the book of Genesis. In the very next chapter, there's murder. We read of lying, sinful control, polygamy, enslavement of people. Genesis gives us a well-rounded picture of the chaos of relationships between men and women – and also men with men, women with women, parents with children, rulers with citizens.

¹⁵ [The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ge 3:16.

Now, let's go back to male-female relationships. This past week, I was meeting with another church member and they say something that initially startled me. They said, "You know, men haven't been all that good for women in history." There's been a lot of oppression in various ways. Being a man, I want to defend the male race, but I thought about the statement. This statement isn't saying that there has been no good women have received from men. But think about Jesus himself and how he valued women in a society that would never have a Rabbi with female disciples. Jesus' inclusion of women was foreign. Think about time periods when women were not allowed to grow in education and learning because men were the leaders. If you're still feeling like I did a little bit, then let me ask you this, dads. What do you think will be some of your first thoughts when your daughter starts expressing interest in boys and begins dating one? I know mine. I've got a lot of judgment. Why? Because I'm a man!

But, let's get biblical here. Think with me about Genesis 3:15. What does this verse say? The woman will desire the husband and he shall rule over you. This word for "desire" could mean that the woman will literally want her husband's love, but he will take on a sinful leadership. There is nothing wrong with ruling. We're created to rule, but to rule over is a sinful superiority. This word for "desire" could also mean the woman seeks to rule over the man in sinful ways. In the next chapter, God speaks to Cain, who killed his brother Abel. He says that sins "desire is for you, but you should rule over it." The similarity in phraseology leads me to believe that this is what God is saying to Eve in her curse. Her desire will be to sinful manipulate or control men. Yet, men will take the opportunity to rule over women.

What a horrible state humanity is in. We make ourselves rulers and we experience a tearing apart of humanity. And, when we search through the Scriptures and in history, we see the divide between men and women. We don't get beautiful pictures of God's glory displayed in the unity with men and women. We see brokenness. So, what's the answer? Should we just say, "Men over here, women over there?" No. Instead of leaving us in this confusion, God has provided a way.

4. Our Triune God has provided a way back to eternal union with him and others.

I mentioned earlier that I believe we humans have a longing for unity. And, when we look at the beautiful unity and glory in our Triune God, I think we ought to long for greater unity. But how can we have it? Or, can we even have unity?

Yes, we can. There is hope! As we learned last week, God created us in his image – which means we are more like God than anything else in creation. Being created in his image means that we were meant for reconciled relationship with God, and we were meant for good relationships with fellow humanity! Therefore, it's no surprise that Jesus says that the greatest command is to love God and love others. Being in God's Triune image means that we were meant for communion with God and humans.

Our sinfulness has destroyed the relationships between God and mankind. God could have done to us what he did with the angels: subjected them to hell. Yet, even in stating the curses to humanity, he states a blessing, a hope. In Genesis 3:15, when God is speaking to the sinful serpent, who is Satan, he says, **"¹⁵And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."¹⁶**

This Seed will bruise the head of the serpent even though the serpent will bruise the Seed's heel. What is going on here? This is the first prophecy speaking to a day when God the Son, Jesus, will come to

¹⁶ [The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ge 3:15.

reverse the curse. He will lay waste to the destruction that Satan brought through his lies and treason against God.

This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus. He came to this earth, God in the flesh, and lived the perfect life of glorifying God. We watch how Jesus related to people and it's more intriguing than any other life in history. While God, he spent time with the sinners and downcast and poverty-stricken. Even in spending time with the worst of sinners, they were drawn to him. They didn't run from him. He would speak with a woman at the well when that was culturally unacceptable, but she had no fear that he'd abuse her. Instead, he showed a genuine love and care. As I said earlier, Jesus welcomed male as part of the 12. But he had male and female disciples as part of the 70 (or more) disciples that the gospels list.

Truly, Jesus imaged for God's glory because he is God. Colossians 1:15 says, "¹⁵ **He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**"¹⁷ And, as the firstborn, that means he is over all creation as the God-Man. So, the Bible teaches that there is now only one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. This is important because we were made for God. And now we're told Jesus, the God-Man, offers reconciliation with God. He mediates for us so that we can be united in fellowship, communion and unity with God.

But this union with God through Jesus also provides us with union with humanity. In Galatians 3:28, God declares an amazing privilege to all who turn from their sins and trust Jesus to rescue them: "²⁸ **There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.**"¹⁸ All those things that would divide us no longer divide us. This verse is not saying there is literally no more Jews or Greeks. Or that there are literally no more females or males. Otherwise, the New Testament would never speak of those things because they don't exist. But instead, this verse is saying that these things do not divide. We are now united around Jesus.

So, think back to that choir on *America's Got Talent*. They unified around music. How long will that last? At best until people start dying. But in Christ, we can maintain our God-given distinctions and also remain unified. We can work together in our ruling and mirror forth the Trinitarian nature of God. No more do we put each other down or abuse, but we are called to love another. Isn't that what Jesus says regarding his disciples? The world will know we are *his* disciples by our love for one another. Jesus doesn't say the world will know by how we love all people, but they'll see a unique love displayed in the community that has been redeemed by God and is loving each other.

I believe that it's only when we embrace Jesus and know God that we will live reflecting God's glory in our maleness and femaleness. As Paul said, "**And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another.**"¹⁹ We, as image-bearers are being transformed in his image. Well, if in creation, we are told that part of our image-bearing is maleness and femaleness ruling together in distinct ways while being unified, then Jesus has come to bring back the unity that we broke.

If you haven't trusted in Christ, I pray you would. Only in God himself do we find perfect unity and beauty – and only through Christ will we be able to grow in displaying his unity with fellow believers. Ventura, I've seen this. I continue to grow in relationship with men and women here. Whether through

¹⁷ [The New King James Version](#) (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Col 1:15.

¹⁸ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), Ga 3:28.

¹⁹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#) (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016), 2 Co 3:18.

the men's group and elder team or with women who encourage my soul weekly through their service and also mutual edification in the women's systematic theology course I lead, I'm strengthened through men and women seeking God's glory and helping one another pursue Jesus *together*. This is a gift of our Triune God. **Let's continue to meditate on our Triune God and pray for wisdom with how to display his glory together as people, as a church, as married, as single, as young and old. To him be the glory!**