
THE 2011-2012 SERMON SERIES

Life
in the
Son



The Gospel of John

Jesus' High Priestly Prayer: John 17 ...

A Window on Spiritual Reality

Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven,

He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

"This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do. Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:1-5

A window on spiritual reality

1. Spiritual reality is all about relationships.
2. The persons of God are caught up in glorifying one another.
3. Eternal life is experiencing relationship with the “other-glorifying” persons of the Triune God.

A window on spiritual reality

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Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world began.

John 17:5

A window on spiritual reality

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baptizing them in the **NAME** of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

A window on spiritual reality

1. **Spiritual reality is all about relationships.**

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same **Spirit**. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same **Lord**. There are varieties of effects, but the same **God** who works all things in all persons. But to each one is given the manifestation of the **Spirit** for the common good.

I Corinthians 12:4-7

A window on spiritual reality

1. Spiritual reality is all about relationships.

- “The doctrine of the Trinity is the central dogma of Christian theology, the fundamental grammar of our knowledge of God.”
- “The doctrine of the Trinity gives expression to the fact... that God has opened Himself to us.”
- “God draws near to us in such a way as to draw us near to Himself within the circle of His knowing Himself.”

Thomas Torrance, Trinitarian Perspectives

A window on spiritual reality

1. Spiritual reality is all about relationships.

- “God draws near to us in such a way as to draw us near to Himself within the circle of His knowing Himself.”

So we see...

1. the community at the center of the universe draws near to us
2. in such a way as to draw us near to Himself (the US God)
3. within the circle of His knowing Himself.

Thomas Torrance, Trinitarian Perspectives

This is the nature of spiritual reality...Hence we become lovers of God, lovers with God, and lovers in God.

A window on spiritual reality

1. **Spiritual reality is all about relationships.**

Implications:

1. As disciples of Christ we are co-lovers with God of God. (the very heart of the Christian life and the only source of true love, joy and peace. Anything else is merely idolatry.)
2. As disciples of Christ we are co-lovers with God of one another.
3. As disciples of Christ we are co-lovers with God of the world.

Darrell Johnson, Experiencing the Trinity

A window on spiritual reality

1. **Since Spiritual reality is all about relationships...**

Conclusions:

1. The most important thing in life is not managing my existence, but learning to love as God loves within the Trinity.
2. God invites us to learn to love our primary relationships.
3. We are not natural born lovers. Selfless love only comes by God working in us through the gospel.
4. Since LOVE is the greatest commandment, my lack of love is my worst sin.

A window on spiritual reality

2. The persons of God are caught up in glorifying one another.

Jesus prays. "He said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, ... then again in v. 5, Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

A window on spiritual reality

II. The persons of God are caught up in glorifying one another.

John 16:13-14 for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

A window on spiritual reality

II. The persons of God are caught up in glorifying one another.

Our problem is operating out of our glory-void, where we seek to use others for our own filling. This is the very essence of “ungodliness.”

A window on spiritual reality

II. The persons of God are caught up in glorifying one another.

Our joy comes by turning to Christ where we get caught up in glorifying Him along with the other persons of the Trinity.

A window on spiritual reality

- 3. Eternal life is experiencing relationship with the “other-glorifying” persons of the Triune God.**

This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

A window on spiritual reality

3. Eternal life is experiencing relationship with the “other-glorifying” persons of the Triune God.

Misconceptions: eternal life is NOT...

1. an eternal extension of the natural life.

A window on spiritual reality

3. **Eternal life is experiencing relationship with the “other-glorifying” persons of the Triune God.**

Misconceptions: eternal life is NOT...

1. an eternal extension of the natural life.
2. a reward for good behavior.

A window on spiritual reality

3. **Eternal life is experiencing relationship with the “other-glorifying” persons of the Triune God.**

Misconceptions: eternal life is NOT...

1. an eternal extension of the natural life.
2. a reward for good behavior.
3. pie in the sky by and by.

A window on spiritual reality

- 1. Spiritual reality is all about relationships.**
- 2. The persons of God are caught up in glorifying one another.**
- 3. Eternal life is experiencing relationship with the “other-glorifying” persons of the Triune God.**