



From Our Vicar

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Made in the Image of our Relational God

Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17

That God in his essential being should consist of a community of persons, who are different expressions of God, yet are one God, makes incredible sense.

'Incredible' because we cannot get our head around it; 'sense' because how else could God be defined as 'Love' without having a community in which to express that love?

We who were made in God's image are clearly made for relationship. 'It is not good for man to be alone.' Gen 2. We are all socialised from infancy by the primary relationships in our lives. It is where we discover our identity, our worth, and as we grow our lives are forged, for good or ill, by the quality of the relationships we form with extended family, peers, mentors, colleagues and especially through close friendships and marriage.

Just as our sense of self is largely shaped by what we experience from the others in our life, so we were meant to discover our identity through the reflection of ourselves in God's eyes, the God who is essentially relational.

Isaiah learned this in his temple vision of 'the King, the Lord Almighty', despairing of his sinfulness, yet receiving gracious atonement and being authorised by God to go as his messenger.

Romans assures us that the Spirit we have received does not enslave us in fear, but adopts us into the honour and intimacy of sonship to God our Father.

John's gospel furthermore shows the role of the Spirit in giving us new birth to see the kingdom of God. It goes on to speak of the loving sacrifice of God in sending his only son Jesus to save the world, rather than bringing condemnation.

So Father, Son and Holy Spirit each fulfil their unique role and task within a totally unified and loving purpose in full cooperation with each other for our good. Not only so, but they include all who believe on the most intimate terms in this divine relationship of love. Moreover, we are empowered to join them in their gracious project of reconciling the world to God.

God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - be praised and adored forever! Amen.

Wayne