



Luke
18:18-26

New International Version
1984 (NIV1984)

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁹ “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.’^[a]”

²¹ “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said.

²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.”

²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was very wealthy. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ Those who heard this asked, “Who then can be saved?”

✧ **Life is filtered through EXPECTATIONS**

<http://www.ourchurchvideos.com/76102/fumcftw/audios/load/recent/5>

Encounters

LENT 2013

CONFRONTATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP

∞ MASKS ∞

To conceal one's real personality, character, or intentions

✧ How do you see YOURSELF?

“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.” Lk 2:34

“Pride is the mask we make from our faults.”

✧ Masks reinforce our worst FEARS

Jesus confronts the masks we wear with truth.

“You still lack one thing.” v22

✧ Masks don't protect they SUFFOCATE.

“Love takes off masks that we fear we cannot live without and know we cannot live within.” James Baldwin



What is the Trinity?

Christianity, like all monotheistic religions, asserts that there is only one God. We do not believe in three Gods. However, Christianity is unique in our understanding that the one God exist in three eternal and personal distinctions known as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The church as used the word “Trinity” to capture this great mystery. The word “Trinity” is a combination of two words, “tri” and “unity”. The “tri” refers to the three distinctions; the “unity” is to reinforce that we believe in only one God. This is normally expressed by saying that we believe that God is one in essence, but reveals himself through three eternal personal distinctions known as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The purpose of this revelation is primarily to demonstrate the personal, relational nature of God. God is, even apart from creation, eternally personal and relational. As the Puritans once observed, “God is, in himself, a sweet society.” There is a relationship in the very nature of who God is. The whole universe flows forth from the eternal, relational tri-unity, not from a non-relational, solitary figure as taught by Islam.

A person possesses a mind, thoughts and speech. We function as unity despite internal differentiation. The same point could be made about the body, soul and spirit of a person. The fact that God himself has internal differentiation does not contradict his unity. On the contrary, we observe this harmony of plurality and unity in all higher forms of life.

The three distinctions are co-existent, co-eternal, and equal. God decided in his self-revelation that the best way for humans to understand him is to see him as one God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are not three separate modes, or operations, but three eternal relations within the one God, the Trinity.

The Ways to Self-knowledge

"Know yourself" is good advice. But to know ourselves doesn't mean to analyze ourselves. Sometimes we want to know ourselves as if we were machines that could be taken apart and put back together at will. At certain critical times in our lives it might be helpful to explore in some detail the events that led us to our crises, but we make a mistake when we think that we can ever completely understand ourselves and explain the full meaning of our lives to others.

Solitude, silence, and prayer are often the best ways to self-knowledge. Not because they offer solutions for the complexity of our lives but because they bring us in touch with our sacred center, where God dwells. That sacred center may not be analyzed. It is the place of adoration, thanksgiving, and praise.