

Holy Trinity Sunday
June 11/12, 2022

Does not wisdom call? There is this thing we call common sense. In the church we have known it as prudence. There is the commonality in humanity. It is often called the natural or common law. It does not matter the society or age, there is a commonality of the human existence. Every society has certain things in common. How we treat other humans, not murdering, stealing, being honest, seeking to gain by others efforts and not taking what your neighbor has. All of these things are common in the whole in the human experience. Some will argue, but they argue over a matter of degree. It is the common sense which the church has called prudence. Sure, many have violated these principles, but the very ability to say that it is a violation is an appeal to the common sense of humanity.

Some will say, concerning fidelity, that some cultures have allowed two, four, or more wives. But do you not see that no culture has ever allowed any to simply have any other they wanted. There is a common sense. From whence comes this? Another name for the Holy Spirit is wisdom. The wisdom of God has laid the foundation of the human community. Many may not acknowledge that this is from the Lord, but you do. The day is here when the law of God is written in the human heart. All of the protestors of our generation are appealing to some portion (or perversion thereof) of the sense that is common to the whole.

“b'reshit bara elohim” In the beginning, God created. The Spirit of the Lord moved over the void and the deep. The Word of the lord brought forth all that exists. I too have experienced those who want to go into an argument over the time, process, and progression of the creation. The important thing for us to always remember is that the creeds each proclaim the reality that God has created all things. Trinity was there and is spoken of in the biblical account.

Jesus is God in the flesh. Those who deny Jesus deny God. I have heard some say, “I cannot believe in such exclusivity.” If you want to connect with God, you must connect with God. There is no other way for a relationship with God than to have a relationship with God. To pretend otherwise is to live a lie. Many live the lie of this age. We say that God is love, but there are many who seem to be saying that love is god. You have heard the truth and the truth sets you free. Come into the freedom which is yours in Christ.

Jesus, God in the flesh became our propitiation. Simply put, He took our place. He who knew no sin became our sin and we who know sin become His righteousness. He does abide in us and must in order to take our sin from us and upon Himself. We take on His righteousness and must abide in Him in order to live into the godly life which comes through grace. This is how it is done.

The Father calls us to Himself. The lie of this age is that God is some old guy sitting on a throne looking down on us. No one has seen the Father, but Christ has made Him known. Recognize that the deception of this world would have us characterize God and not pay attention to the revelation of His word. Is God white? Yes. He is also black, yellow, red, brown, whatever colors we like to use to describe the skin tones of others. He created us in His image. But the invisible God is not seen which is why He told us not to make a graven image. We do not serve a God made with our hands, but the God who made us with His hands. Those who might chastize us for worshiping a ‘white’ God do not know that the invisible God has revealed to us His glory in the Son. Jesus was Middle-Eastern. That is the noise of our current generation. We are called into the threefold truth of the revelation of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

It is hard to wrap our hands around this, but God is three persons. It is dangerous to make any graven image – which sometimes we do with our words – for this brings the eternal omniscient omnipotent God down to our level. He created everything and apart from the Incarnation, He is above and beyond what He has made. Yet also, all that He made reflects His glory. Just as the painting is not the artist, but one can see the artist through the painting, so also God's handiwork declares His glory, but He is not contained in the creation. The whole idea of salvation is not a matter of bringing God down to our level, but that God raising us up to His level. Perhaps more instruction of some of the heresies which abound in misunderstanding Holy Trinity are necessary.

Some have gone down the trail of thinking that all that we call the physical world is an illusion. In such thinking, we go into our minds for reality. Of course, even after the resurrection, Jesus ate with His disciples. Thomas placed his hands on the body of Christ. We are mind, body, and soul. A variant of this is the thinking that our soul just occupies the body and in death, our souls go to heaven. Job gave the prophetic proclamation that with his own eyes, in the flesh, he shall see God, for He knows that his redeemer lives. We shall be resurrected as Christ was resurrected. We will have heavenly bodies, whatever that may mean.

The wicked one has a thread of lies running through history which denies Jesus. Some say He is a great moral teacher, but that He is not God. We must not make this mistake. No one who said the things Jesus said could be considered a great teacher if what He said of Himself is not true. He said that He is God. If He is not God, then He is either a lunatic, or worse yet, a liar, which would make Him the devil of hell. He did not leave this option open to us. He did not intend to. He is God and He came in the flesh.

Another of the common ways in which God is denied is those who think of God as three distinct people. The problem with this thinking is that we then think of God as divided. Jesus said that a house divided cannot stand. If God is three, who is the greatest? A variant of this are those who say that Jesus and the devil are brothers. That makes Jesus created and not begotten. Scripture makes clear that this is not a viable option. If we dare to think in these terms, then we want to reach the God who is above them. And now you see why Scripture calls us to worship the Most High God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Mystery, yes, but also the revelation of Scripture. Appealing to your common sense, this really does make sense. If God is omniscient and omnipotent, than how could we mere mortals ever grasp the whole reality of God. He is above and beyond us, yet He has come to reveal to us the call to come to Him, on His terms, and in His way. This is why Jesus said, "I am the way, truth, and life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

So, what do we do with these things? As we shall say in a few moments in the words of the Athanasian creed, we are called to believe these things as inviolable and true. To believe is to live our lives knowing that God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has called us through the water of our baptism to abide in Him, through Him, with Him, and He in us as He leads us out of the bondage to sin and death and into the hope and promise through the glorious resurrection of our Savior Christ. We have hope. We have promise. We have the gift of knowing that because Christ lives, we too shall live. Come then and dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of this life, learning how to live in the obedience of grace which is ours through Christ.

Be now and forever in the truth of our good and gracious God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.