

Theological Series—Our Triune God of Love

10:30 am Worship Service: *John 3:31-36; Ephesians 2:18-22, 3:14-19*

Loved with the Fullness of God

*All Three Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit)
are actively securing our redemption.*

1. God the Father Loves Us with an Everlasting Redemptive Love.

- A. *God the Father called us into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus (1Cor 1:9).*
- B. *God the Father sent His Son to redeem us from slavery to adoption in His family (Gal 4:4)*
- C. *God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to assure us of our adoption (Gal 4:6).*
- D. *God the Father treats us as sons by disciplining us (Heb 12:3-11).*
- E. *God the Father strengthens us through the power of the HS (Eph 3:16).*

2. God the Son Demonstrates His Love by Sacrificing Himself.

- A. *God the Son came to secure our access to the Father and the Spirit (Eph 2:18).*
- B. *God the Son lived, died, and rose again to justify us by His blood and reconcile us (Rom 5:6-9).*
- C. *God the Son joyfully endured the cross to rescue us from death and shame (Hebrews 12:2).*
- D. *God the Son ascended to the right hand of the Father to intercede for us as we mature (Eph 4:8-16).*
- E. *God the Son will return for us as He promised to take us home forever (John 14:1-3; 1Thess 4:16).*

3. God the Spirit Applies the Love of the Trinity to Us.

- A. *God the Spirit gives us new life (Ezekiel 36:26-27; 37:14; John 3:3-6).*
- B. *God the Spirit is building us up as a dwelling place for the Father (Eph 2:22).*
- C. *God the Spirit is working in us to sanctify us and conform us to the image of Christ (Titus 3:5-6).*

4. Having Been So Greatly Loved, Let Us Love God and One Another.

- A. *What are ways that you need to trust God that His love for you is real?*
- B. *How does this biblical knowledge of the combined love of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit comfort you?*
- C. *In what ways does it challenge you?*
- D. *How are you (we) loving in a way that reflects this lavish, generous, self-sacrificial love?*

Conclusion: God is eternally loving. The Scripture teaches us that all three persons of the Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in their love for all who are found in Christ Jesus. If that is you, demonstrate that love by faith in Jesus Christ.

John 3:31-36

³¹ He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³² He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³ Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶ Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Ephesians 2:18-22

For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Together in Salvation

Richard Phillips, *Chairman of the Philadelphia Conference of Reformed Theology*

One of the most important insights of Reformed theology is the *unity* of the works of the Trinity. Calvinists believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit **are united in the work of redeeming lost mankind**. We do not believe that they act against one another or even on one another, but *with* one another in our salvation. For instance, Jesus did not die to convince the Father to change His attitude toward us from enmity to love. Rather, Jesus died on the cross because of the Father's love for us, as John 3:16 says: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." The Father and Son are united in their work for the salvation of those who believe: the Father electing and sending His Son; the Son atoning for the sins of those chosen and given to Him by the Father (John 6:37–40). The same harmony exists between the Son and the Spirit. Jesus did not die for the sins of all people, only to have the Holy Spirit apply the benefits of His work merely to some. Rather, the Holy Spirit regenerates precisely the people for whom Jesus offered His atoning death, so that the work of the second and third persons of the Trinity harmonizes perfectly.