

Batman and the Trinity

The Riddler: “Ahhaa ha haaa, Batman, you have fallen into my trap. You are doomed to die. You will be burnt to a crisp by fire. Then dropped into hot, boiling water. Then you will be ground into little fine pieces of dust. Thank you for falling into my trap. You have once chance, Batman, answer this riddle: ‘When in one three and three one?’ Ahhaa ha haaa!”

Batman: “Riddler, you are crazy. One is one and three is three. There is no way that one can be three and three one!”

Robin: “Batman, I know the answer!”

Batman: “Quiet, Robin, I have to think.”

Robin: “But Batman, I know the answer!”

Riddler: “You’ll never get the answer, Batman. You’ll never get the answer, because I’m the Riddler and this is my best riddle! When in one three and three one?”

Batman: “It’s impossible. I guess this is it, Robin. We are going to die.”

Robin: “But I know the answer, Batman!”

Batman: “OK, Robin, tell the Riddler the answer.”

Robin: “When is one three and three one? It’s the Holy Trinity: One God in three Divine Persons, three Divine Persons in One God.”

Riddler: “Ohhh Drat! Crazy Robin, this little boy got the right answer. I have to let you go.”

Batman: “Good job, Robin, good job.”

The Trinity: One God in three Divine Persons, three Divine Persons in One God. Consider three streams named “Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” These three streams are all made of the same thing: divinity. These three streams converge into a river named “God.” Here we have an analogy, a comparison, a metaphor, not a definition of the Trinity.

Here is your definition: The Father reflects upon himself, this reflection is perfect; it is a person; it is the Son, or the “self” of the Father. The Father loves the Son perfectly, the Son loves the Father perfectly, that perfect “Love” is the “Holy Spirit.” This dynamic between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has been going on for all eternity! There was never a time when the Son of God, or the Holy Spirit, was not. Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit at the Last Supper: **“I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.”** (Jn 16.12-14) Jesus, the Son of God, is the truth and the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. The Son of God only spoke the words that the Father gave him to speak. Likewise, the Holy Spirit only reveals the truth that the Son of God gives him to reveal. Isn’t it fascinating that each person is God, yet within the Trinity itself there is obedience and deference of each person to the other. God himself is humble, wow!

When we want to communicate to another person, we have thoughts that can come from our mind, or from our hearts. We think of what we want to say, we formulate the words we want to speak, then we speak them and hope the other person understands what we are communicating from within ourselves to them.

God is always thinking. The Son of God is the communication of God's thoughts. **"I only say what the Father tells me to say."** The Holy Spirit is the breath which breathes out the Word from the mouth of God. "God said, 'Let there be light.' And there was light. Jesus was the Word God spoke, the Holy Spirit's power made the light. God thought of a way to redeem you. He sent his Son, his Word, born of the Virgin Mary, to be the payment for the wages of sin. One died for all, so all died. Jesus Christ represents all of humanity. Our response to the Paschal Mystery is faith and gratitude for God's love and mercy towards us. ***"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in hope of the glory of God."*** (Rom 5) The Holy Spirit is the grace and glory of God! God has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is the Good News, the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the last Supper, Jesus said **"the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth."** Since, Pentecost, the Holy Spirit has been our teacher and guide. The Dogma of the Trinity is the work of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth.

God is a family: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and within that family is a human being named Jesus Christ. God invites us all to live within himself by faith in Jesus and obedience to him. We live in Jesus and in God. The Holy Spirit is given to believers to bring God within us and us within God. ***"In God we live and move and have our being."*** (Acts) And God lives and moves and has his being in us. Isn't this exciting?! There are two ways we can approach the Trinity: First, we talk to God: "Hello God. Good morning God. Thank you for another day," Second, we have a relationship with each person. We speak to the Father as father. We speak to Jesus as our redeemer and savior. We speak to the Holy Spirit as our inspiration and giver of Love. We relate to each person in the Trinity differently and that is by God's design.

One other thing to keep in mind as our minds wrestle with "One is Three" and "Three is One," God exists on his own and completely within himself. God is not bound by our human logic and reason, by our space, our time, our dimensions. We cannot put God in a box or a mathematical formula. We cannot know God totally as he is, because he is so far beyond us and above us. ***God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are God's ways above our ways.*** But God in his mercy gives us faith to aid our reason. He has revealed himself as Trinity. There is only one God and we are baptized in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen