

## Trinity & Family

### I. God's Self-Revelation

The Mystery of God's Nature – We can only know what is revealed.

A. God reveals Himself in Three Persons. (relational)

Father, Son & Holy Spirit. The terms Father and Son make a *family relationship*.

B. God reveals Himself as Creator (creative)

The Nicene Creed Starts out this way: {slide 1}

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty;  
Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and  
invisible.* {slide 2}

That's Truly Remarkable. He's the *Good, Good Father* of Whom and to Whom we joyfully sing.

C. **The Father** — Source of All; Lover of Mankind

**From** Whom are All Things, **To** Whom are All Things

John 3:16 NKJV For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

D. A Father must have Offspring. The Son **through** Whom are All Things

The Creed Continues {slide 3}

*And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of  
God,  
Begotten of the Father before all ages;  
Light of Light, Very God of Very God,  
Begotten, not made,*

***Being of one substance with the Father;  
By whom all things were made; {slide 4}***

Gen 1.1 ***In the beginning, God created*** the heavens and the earth.

Ps 33.6 ***By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,***

John 1.1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and ***the Word was God.*** 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 ***All things were made through him,*** and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Rom 11.36 For ***from him*** and ***through him*** and ***to him*** are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

**“If you wish to build a universe,** you will need to gather up everything there is ...and squeeze it into a spot so ... compact that it has no dimensions at all. It is known as a **singularity**.

“Then, get ready for a really big bang. Naturally, you will wish to retire to a safe place to observe the spectacle. Unfortunately, there is nowhere to go to because outside the singularity there is no **where**. When the universe begins to expand, it won't be spreading out to fill a larger emptiness. The only space that exists is the space it creates as it goes.

“It is natural but wrong to visualize the **singularity** as a kind of pregnant dot hanging in a dark, boundless void. But there is no space, no darkness. The singularity has no **around** around it. There is **no space** for it to occupy, **no place** for it to be. We can't even ask **how long** it has been there—whether it has just lately popped into being, like a good idea, or whether it has been there for ever, quietly awaiting the right moment. **Time doesn't exist**. There is no past for it to emerge from.

**And so, from nothing, our universe begins.**

**In a single blinding pulse, a moment of glory much too swift and expansive for any form of words, the singularity assumes heavenly dimensions, space beyond conception.**

The first lively second ... produces **gravity** and the other forces that govern physics. **In less than a minute the universe is a million**

**billion miles across and growing fast. There is a lot of heat now, ten billion degrees of it, enough to begin the nuclear reactions that create the lighter elements... In three minutes, 98 per cent of all the matter there is or will ever be has been produced. We have a universe.** It is a place of the most wondrous ...possibility, and beautiful, too. And it was all done in about the time it takes to make a sandwich.

According to one theory, at one ten-millionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a trillionth of a second, **gravity** emerged. After another ludicrously brief interval it was joined by **electromagnetism** and the strong and weak nuclear forces—the stuff of physics. These were joined an instant later by shoals of elementary **particles** — the stuff of stuff. **From nothing at all**, suddenly there were swarms of photons, protons, electrons, neutrons and much else —.

**...In a single cracking instant we were endowed with a universe that was vast**—at least a hundred billion light years across, ...— and perfectly arrayed for the creation of stars, galaxies and other complex systems.

What is extraordinary ... is **how well it turned out** for us. If the universe had formed just a tiny bit differently—... Had gravity been a trifle stronger, the universe itself might have collapsed... Had it been weaker... nothing would have coalesced. The universe would have remained forever a dull, scattered void."

"There is a great deal that we don't know— not least what the universe is made of. When scientists calculate the amount of matter needed to hold things together, they always come up desperately short. **It appears that at least 90 per cent of the universe, and perhaps as much as 99 per cent, is composed of ... "dark matter"—stuff that is by its nature invisible to us.** It is slightly galling to think that we live in a universe that for the most part we can't even see, but there you are."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bill Bryson. "A Short History of Nearly Everything; © 2003, 2005 by Bill Bryson; published Broadway Books, NY,NY

(worship break!)

## II. God's Revelation in Creation, Human Beings

Gen 1.26 Then God said, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.** And let them have dominion over ... the earth."

27 So **God created man in his own image,**  
in **the image of God he created him;**  
**male and female he created them.**

**Image & Likeness** — Man is the visible, corporeal representative of the invisible, non-corporeal God.

In Will, Perception & Moral Nature (God is love, God is light)

28 And God **blessed** them. And God said to them, "Be **fruitful** and **multiply** and **fill** the earth and **subdue** it, and have **dominion...**"

**The Image of Love; Perfect Relationship (Righteousness);  
Wisdom. Binary Gender. Two Options**

Let Us make... in Our image, Our likeness — Trinitarian

**Family Nature of Human Life** Image of the Trinity

Gen 2.18 Then the LORD God said, "It is **not good** that the man should be alone; I will make him **a helper fit\*** for him."

*\*corresponding to or comparable to*

23 Then the man said,  
"This at last is **bone of my bones**  
and **flesh of my flesh;**  
she shall be called Woman,  
because she was taken out of Man."

24 Therefore a **man (ish) shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife (isha) , and they shall become one flesh.**

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Pure Generosity, delight. No self-conscious shame or disordered desires.

Then, disobedience, sin, death, slavery. We retain the **image**, although marred.

The work of the Salvation in our lives, restores the **likeness**

### III. God's Self-Revelation through Incarnation

*Who, for us men and for our salvation,  
Came down from heaven,  
And was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary,  
And was made man; {slide 5}*

#### A. INCARNATION

John 1:14 NKJ And the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us,  
.....

**He Became what we are** (son of Man), **so that by grace we might become what he is by nature** — sons of God.

He became flesh, which sanctifies for all ages the human body!

God the Son, **was born again**, becoming son of Man so that we could be BORN AGAIN as Children of God.

#### B. NEW CREATION – RESTORED FAMILY – RETURNING

John 6.44 **No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.** And I will raise him up on the last day.

John 14.6 Jesus said to him, ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.***

Col 1.19 NKJ For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to **reconcile all things to Himself**, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having **made peace through the blood of His cross.**

{slide 6}

***And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;  
He suffered and was buried;  
And the third day he rose again,  
According to the Scriptures;***

*And ascended into heaven,  
And sits on the right hand of the Father;  
And he shall come again, with glory,  
To judge both the living and the dead;  
Whose kingdom shall have no end.*

2 Cor 5.17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, **he is a new creation**.  
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

## IV. God's Self-Revelation through Communion

### Restoration of Family Ties

1 John 1.1 That which was **from the beginning**, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you **the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us**— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may **have fellowship with us**; and indeed **our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ**. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

### Communion – Participation –Eternal Life

1 Cor 10.16 The **cup of blessing** that we bless, is it not a **participation in the blood** of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a **participation in the body** of Christ? 17 Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

1 Cor 11.23 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed **took bread**,

24 and when he had given **thanks**, he broke it, and said, "**This is my body** which is **for you**. Do this in remembrance of me."

25 In the same way also he **took the cup**, after supper, saying, "**This cup is the new covenant in my blood**. Do this, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance** of me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you **proclaim the Lord's death** until he comes.

## The Ultimate Communion – Family of Heaven and Earth

Rev 19.6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

"Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,  
for **the marriage of the Lamb has come**,  
and **his Bride** has made herself ready;

8 it was granted her to clothe herself  
with fine linen, bright and pure"—  
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

**First Fruits!**