

Danae: Welcome to Cell Life Church's newest discussion series, 'Building a Firm Foundation'. When constructing any building, you want to make sure that your foundation is firm and sound. You take many measurements and use just the right materials so that the building will stand against any storm of unsettling of the earth. Much like a building, our lives must also be built on a firm foundation, principles that can withstand the test of time and the storms of society. Now Jesus concludes the sermon on the mounts in Mathew Chapter 7 with this concept of having a foundation built on the rock which is Jesus Christ.

Today, we will be discussing an important element of a firm foundation for our lives; the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Now this is a deep subject and it's one of the many mysteries of the nature of God. Today's topic of the Trinity is heady and it's okay to have more questions following this discussion. We will not fully comprehend the mysteries of God until Heaven and this is just one of them.

Kelly: Absolutely.

Danae: Now there is a handout available on our website with discussion questions, scripture references and other information. The discussion questions will also be displayed on the screen at the conclusion of this video. Now we believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We know this can sound confusing so let's break this into its components.

Kelly: Well, okay so breaking this down. The first element of what we believe about the trinity is God is Eternally Existent as God the Father, so what does that mean exactly; Eternally Existent? Well, let's look in Luke Chapter 3:21-22 and we'll learn a little bit about this. It says, "When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; and you I am well pleased."

We're seeing all three parts of the trinity in just this passage of Scripture. We see the Holy Spirit is in the form of this dove that descends upon the son. And then in addition to that, we see God, who is speaking from heaven. And I've thought about these verses before and you wonder about the people who had gathered there on the side of the river to see Jesus be baptized.

We learn that John the Baptist was preparing the way for the Lord. And so people were coming from everywhere to be baptized and he was baptizing people and pointing them to Jesus, and he would say, "There is somebody coming after me. A Messiah is coming after me, and I do not have the ability to forgive sins, but the one coming after me."

Well, here it is, Jesus is coming and he is being baptized and in this God is there. God is there, not only is God there in the form of Jesus, but then He's there in the form of Holy Spirit, and then to hear God's audible voice from Heaven, "This is my Son whom I am well pleased." How beautiful is that? God is calling himself the Father, and He is acknowledging Jesus as His Son. So, even right there people know Jesus is walking – this is Jesus and then to have God say, "Yes, this is My Son."

And it's so interesting to see that, because this is in the beginning of Jesus' Ministry. And we learn later on that so many people denied Him being His Son and it makes you wonder what happened as far as those people who were there, because John the Baptist gathered many, many crowds, but here God says, "Yes you are My Son."

Danae: Amen!

Kelly: Amen!

Danae: Amen! Now we see another interaction between Jesus and God in the Bible and that is found in Matthew Chapter 11 verse 27, and it says, "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal himself." Now we look at this verse and here it is Jesus talking about His relationship with God and others finding their relationship with God through Him. What's it saying? That we cannot know one without the other.

Kelly: Right.

Danae: God and Jesus are interconnected along with the Holy Spirit, but what does that mean? It means well Jesus through His actions points us to God. So, we in order to know the Father, we first need to know Jesus which is why He came to this earth, so that we may have that connection.

Kelly: And you can't have one without the other.

Danae: Exactly.

Kelly: Because they're completely intertwined.

Danae: They are.

Kelly: They're absolutely intertwined.

Danae: Exactly. Like we said they are three parts of the same, we can't acknowledge one without acknowledging the other two and that's what this verse means. You cannot know me without knowing my Father and you cannot know my Father and not know me, you have to know us both.

Kelly: Right, exactly.

Danae: And now the second element of the Trinity is God the Son. Here we talked about before the connection between God the Father and God the Son. Now God the Son came to earth in the form of Jesus to show His love to all mankind. He performed miracles, spoke truth and brought eternal life. Now in John Chapter 10 versus 37 through 38, it says, "Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in my Father." Now

these are powerful words. It shows right here that He came to perform these miracles and spoke these truths at God's command, Jesus was sent here to do these works so that we might know the Father more through Jesus.

Kelly: Right, because Jesus is God, and so Jesus is God's personality on earth, because everything God is, is in the form of Christ performing these miracles and doing these things that cannot be separated, it's God on earth, God incarnate, it's beautiful.

Danae: It is beautiful. It's kind of confusing when we talk about this you know Jesus and God, that's why we said the subject is so heady and deep, because our human minds cannot fully comprehend it, but in the Bible you see it that they are separate and yet they are the same. They are so interconnected, they are so linked together that they are the same. Through Jesus we learn God's heart for us, we learn of His love. And through God and Him sending His Son down to earth to sacrifice Himself, we learn Jesus willingness to give up everything in order to save us.

Kelly: Right. And because God wanted to bridge that gap, because our sinful nature separated us from God, that sin separated us from God so the only way to bring that reconciliation is to come down to earth, bridge that gap and he did that as Jesus, as the Son so that we could have that relationship with God once again.

Danae: Amen! Amen! And so what we learn here is that Jesus was sent here to be the hands and feet of the Father, so that we may be able to see the Father through the Son's actions, so that we may be able to see God through Jesus. And it's this amazing thing when learn this balance and knowing that they work together in order to show us Their love for us, their eternal acceptance and forgiveness of us is amazing. I mean you look at how Jesus explains to Phillip the connection between himself and God the Father in John Chapter 14: 8-11.

Kelly: Yeah. Well, let's read that. And it says, Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered, "Don't you know me Philip? Even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say show us the Father? Don't you believe that I am the Father and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, rather, it is the Father living in me who is doing his doing. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves." As long as we know God the Son, then we know God the Father. That's exactly what Jesus is saying.

"The Father is in me. I am in the Father. We are one. We are one. There is no separate and if you don't believe that concept, believe the works that I'm doing. If you believe the works that I'm doing, then you will see that God is a compassionate God. God has mercy on you. God loves you." And when we see Jesus and we read the stories of Jesus, we see that time and time again, Jesus, He touched the lepers when nobody else would touch them. He went to those who were unclean and He'd comfort them. He went to a tax collector's house, which was totally against anything sane to do, because tax collectors were thieves. They robbed people.

So if Jesus were to walk the earth today it'd be similar to walking into a bar, hanging out with people, going to the streets and helping the people that maybe society has turned their back on.

That's what Jesus did. And so in those verses the Jesus was talking to Philip he said, "Hey, this is the Father in me doing this." And sometimes I think we think of God as just this untouchable God. That's he's so far out there and He's just standing back there and saying, "Oh that's wrong I'm going to punish you for that. You messed up there." And we think of this of this God with a brow that's furrowed and He's just angry and that's not God at all. We see Jesus is compassionate and loving, but God is in Jesus. Jesus is loving. God is loving. Jesus is caring. God is caring because they are one.

Danae: Yep, exactly.

Kelly: They're not separated. And so Jesus came to earth and did good works at His father's command. So we need to realize that it's because of what God said to Him that allowed Him and that's why he performed miracles. That's why he loved on us in flesh.

Danae: Exactly. He came here at his Father's will. What did Jesus say? "Let your will be done." He says that because he realizes he is there willingly at His Father's command, for His Father's work. This was God's plan for Jesus to come to earth and show God's good will. And like you said I think sometimes people kind of forget that. We focus so much on Jesus' works and what he did on earth that we forget that it was God behind the entire thing. It's a great thing to remember and to be reminded.

Kelly: Absolutely.

Danae: Now the third element of the Trinity is God the Holy Spirit. Now, earlier we saw that the Trinity is all illustrated in the same place in Luke chapter three, verse 22 when Jesus was being baptized. He came down to earth in the form of a dove when Jesus was being baptized and God was giving His blessing, and like we said earlier, we just love that verse because it shows all three of them interacting together in this one moment and it had to be an amazing thing to witness all those people. And what we see with the Holy Spirit is Jesus in that moment was doing the work. He was obeying God's command.

And because He was obeying it, God was giving His blessing to Jesus for being obedient and the Holy Spirit was there testifying in the form of the dove and that is huge.

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: As a part of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit is here to testify the truth of Jesus. He's here to testify the truth of Jesus works and what he came here for earth to do. And he is here to testify the goodness of God who is in heaven. That is the Holy Spirit's point. It's to testify –

Kelly: And then He gives us the ability and the power to testify what Jesus has accomplished and who God is.

Danae: Exactly. I mean, you think of the Spiritual gifts that people talk about. Speaking in tongues and going out and preaching the word. It's giving us the ability to go out and spread and testify the truth of Jesus and God, and that's where we find is in the strength and the abundance

of the Holy Spirit. And that is an amazing thing. When you are overflowing in the Holy Spirit and the Spirit comes forth and speaks through you, you see I'm not speaking here; this is God speaking through me in the form of the Holy Spirit. It is an amazing experience and such a blessing to witness. And we see in another example of the Holy Spirit testifying the truth in 1st John chapter five, five through seven, and it says, "Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the son of God. This is the one who came by water and blood - Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood and it is the Spirit who testifies because the spirit is the truth. For there are three that testify."

Kelly: Amen.

Danae: This is amazing because again, the Holy Spirit, it says here that the Holy Spirit testifies the truth of the work of God through Jesus Christ and it just goes to show how the three testify together. They are in completely different forms in the sense and how they testify, but they are testifying the same thing. They are testifying as one. They are like-minded, because they are as one, but how they go about it is different but it's still amazing because when we believe in the Son of God, His truth will be within us through the Holy Spirit.

Kelly: Amen. And when we talk about testifying, the Holy Spirit's testifying to the redemption of man, to bring us to salvation, to have that reconciliation with God. And so as we've looked at this, the Trinity is made up of three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Now, it's really important that we have balance in these three relationships because they are one. And I think of tripod; you have a tripod and its holding a camera or a tripod that's holding something else. I can only think of a camera, and if you've ever - a lot of them have a lot of adjustments, they have like two adjustments on each leg and so if you lower one, but then you keep the other two strong it's going to be lopsided. And then maybe you bring one all the way up and then you have one halfway down, but then one all the way -I mean, its not going to sit -.

Danae: It's not going to work.

Kelly: They've all got to be the same length, is same with our relationship with the Trinity. There are people that maybe so focused on God the Father that they've got all this head knowledge and this disconnect and so it brings us out of a balance and its almost as if there's this legalism there and I have to do this and I've got to do this, and if I don't, I'm going to be punished for this and I better not sin before I die or God's going to send me to hell and its just this idea is out of balance. But then there's also folks that could be too focused on the Son of miracles and actions and this idea that I need to obey Jesus so that I'm good enough to go to heaven.

And then there could be too much focus on the Holy Spirit where it's all about me. The Holy Spirit's going to make me feel good and He's going to show me signs and wonders and miracles and make me feel good and that's wrong. That's not even biblical. And so it's so important to know and to stay in balance; have all three of those legs; the right length, the right size of that tripod because when we keep everything in balance, that's when our relationship grows deeply in the Lord.

And it's important for us to pray and ask God, "Lord," maybe you don't see that – maybe you're looking at God in the wrong light saying, "God, I think of you as an authoritarian. I think of you as somebody who punishes, but help me to see you as good. Your words says that you are good. Your word says that you are loving; help me to see you in that way."

Or maybe it's the issue of issues with Jesus, pray about those things. Look to see what the Bible says about Jesus' personality, who He is. Maybe it's the issues with the Holy Spirit., "The Holy Spirit something of the Bible and it's not for today." The Holy Spirit is not at work in the lives of believers today. Read the Bible, find that out. The Holy Spirit is alive and active. Jesus said, "I need to go so that the Holy Spirit can come upon you." And so we've got to have these in balance and boy, having balance in your relationship with the Lord is just absolutely amazing. God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, they are one. They belong together and so our relationship with Jesus and God and the Holy Spirit is one and it's so important to keep that in balance.

We want to thank you so much for joining us today. We want to encourage you to contact us if you have any questions or comments. I'm sure this discussion has probably spurred some thoughts like Danae said in the beginning; this is just exploring the mystery of God. God is so beautiful. He's so mysterious. He doesn't want us to think we've got it all figured out. He's God. We don't need to have it all figured out. He wants us to be completely reliant upon Him.

And so God's mystery is beautiful and one day we will discover it when we get to heaven and it's time for it to be revealed to us. But please take a moment, visit our website, visit our Facebook page, or our YouTube channel, and you can also follow us on Twitter, iTunes, and Stitcher. And so we would like to ask that you join us next time as we discuss in more detail the role of Jesus Christ, until next time, goodbye.