

Mark 1:9-13 9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. 11 Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in

whom I am well pleased."12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness. 13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

The Gospel according to Mark. - Incredible opening to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. · Mark said Jesus is the Son of God (Mark 1:1). · The prophets said Jesus is LORD (Mark 1:2-3). · John the Baptist said Jesus was the One after me who is mightier than I (Mark 1:7-8).

Know how the doctrine of the trinity shows us that the essence of God for all eternity is love, that we are made for that love, and that Jesus demonstrates the love of God toward us, by coming and unconditionally to restore us into His love, so we can love others like Him.

9 It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

Matt 3:14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.

Baptism of John was one of repentance - Baptism of Jesus - In submitting to John's baptism Jesus is showing himself to be the good and obedient Son who does God's will perfectly. Jesus was baptized as a sign of his wholehearted obedience. Foreshadow of death, burial, and resurrection.

10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

Immediately: Greek = euthus - used more than 40 times in Mark

One place in Judaism where the Spirit of God is ever likened to a dove it is in the Targum, the Aramaic translation of the Hebrew Bible.

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

The Spirit hovered over the face of the water, the Hebrew verb hovered is the word flutter. It says the Spirit fluttered across the face of the water.

The Targums, wrote this down for Genesis 1:2: "And the earth was without form, and empty. And darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God fluttered above the face of the waters like a dove. And God spoke, 'Let there be light.' "

Rabbi Rashi - 1000ad- And the spirit of God was hovering: The Throne of Glory was standing in the air and floating over the face of the waters by the breath of the mouth of the Holy One, blessed be He, and his pronouncement - like a dove hovering over a nest

Mark is bringing us back to creation by a triune God, and recreation by a triune God.

11 Then a voice came from heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

When this voice of God the Father spoke from heaven, everyone knew that Jesus was not just another man being baptized. They knew Jesus was the perfect (in whom I am well pleased) Son of God.

God the Father said Jesus is the Beloved Son of God - add to our list so far

12 Immediately the Spirit drove Him into the wilderness.

"Mark has used a strange word. 'The Spirit driveth Him forth'; quite literally, 'the Spirit casteth Him forth.' It is the very work afterward employed of the casting out of demons by Christ." G Campbell Morgan

Without delay - Throw out, cast out, with force - apple core - to place of suffering and temptation.

13 And He was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered to Him.

Forty is a number that often shows a time of testing or judgment. In Noah's flood, it rained for 40 days and 40 nights. Israel was in the wilderness 40 years. Moses kept sheep in the wilderness for 40 years. This is Jesus' time of testing.

Wilderness was the place marked by death - ravens, vultures, rocks

Told options pleasing to human flesh - contrary to God's will

At peace with the beasts instead of killing and eating the beasts. In Roma at the time this was written, Christians being fed to the wild beasts.

Hebrews 4:15 reminds us, For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

After the time of testing the Father sent His angels to minister to His Son.

Creation and redemption are the projects of a triune God, a trinity? One God, three persons. The Christian teaching about the Trinity is very difficult. Circuit breakers

The doctrine of the Trinity is God is one God, eternally existent in three persons.

Tritheism = three gods who stick together a lot and like each other.

Unipersonalism= one god that changes form.

Trinitarianism is there's one God in three persons who know one another and love one another. God is fundamentally three and fundamentally one always.

The trinity is far more glorious and life changing than three close friend gods or one shape shifting god.

When the Father gives Jesus adoration, and the Spirit gives Jesus power, we get glimpse into what has been going on for all eternity. There is a synergy of glory.

John 17 tells us how the Father, Son and Spirit glorify one another. This gives us insight and depth of meaning to 1 John 4:16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

At the very heart of reality, the very meaning of life, the very essence of the universe is love, existent within God himself, made possible by being a trinity.

C.S. Lewis "In Christianity, God is not an impersonal thing or a static thing. He's not even just one person, but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, a drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance."

Cornelius Plantinga "See, the Bible says the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit glorify one another. That means the persons within God exalt, commune with, and defer to one another. Each harbors the others at the center of his being. In constant movement of overture and acceptance, each person envelops and encircles the others. God's interior light, therefore, overflows with self-giving love for others."

Love without self-centeredness is fundamental to a flourishing life. We are created in God's image, and this is what we observe and learn about God at the core of His being.

A self centered life wants everything to orbit around them. Christianity is a life that enters into the divine dance of selfless love. All adoration and serving is not a means to an end, but just because of who they are.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are characterized in their very essence by mutually self-giving love. They do not insist any of the others revolve around them, but rather they center on one another. They glorify one another. They adore one another. They serve one another. They defer to one another. They put the interests of the other over their own interests, which means every one of them voluntarily goes out to circle and to orbit around the others.

A witness to the world is when the church is a dance. Everyone living in community, loving one another. Masterpiece theater dance vs junior high dance (not really a dance - self centered bunch)

BTW - the doctrine of the trinity is an apologetic to the truth of Christianity - who would make this up.

Relationships and love are what your life is all about.

If there is no God, you're just here because you evolved, then love is just brain chemistry and there is nothing in us that isn't here strictly and totally because it helped our ancestors pass on their genetic code better than others.

If God is unipersonal - then love didn't exist for all eternity and is not at the heart of who God is. But God being a trinity puts love at the center of His being for all eternity, therefore ultimate reality is a

community of persons knowing and loving one another, then that means ultimate reality is about love relationships.

Humans flourish, grow, mature, develop when they put love relationships at the core of their being. When they make love the meaning of life. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul and strength. Enter into His dance through Jesus Christ. Then you will also have success at loving your neighbor as yourself. Marriages thrive, families thrive, communities, churches, thrive when people live one another.

If you put anything over relationships, in the end you're going to crash and burn because love is ultimate reality.

When Jesus said you have to lose yourself to find yourself, he's only telling you what the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have been doing from all eternity. You're never going to get a self, you're never going to get a sense of self by standing still and making everything orbit around your interests.

Unless you are willing to experience the loss of options, the restrictions and limitations that come from being in committed, deep relationships you will be out of touch with reality. Money, Time, Career

Creation has the fingerprint of the divine dance all over it. Heavens, atoms, biological, eco-systems

We all need to enter into the divine dance of God. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are always glorifying one another. In God there is abundant joy and happiness because of this dance of love. We need to enter into the practice of glorifying God, and glorifying others, loving God and loving others.

Enter into the dance - by being in Christ - see His beauty - see His love - see His value and worth - express it with praise and adoration, and follow through with serving Him unconditionally.

Lose yourself and find yourself in Christ - serve others not to be somebody - you get to stop using people to give you value and worth - you have that in Jesus - therefore you adore and serve purely for their sake. In this there is great joy and happiness.

God didn't love us to be loved, to be worshipped, to be adored. He already is love, God doesn't seek His own glory. This is why Jesus came to serve, not to be served and give His life a ransom for many. (Theme verse of Mark) This is how God makes us new creations.

Mark is showing us how God initiated the new creation. Jesus is known as the second Adam. Now, Mark was bringing us back to the creation account and how the Trinity was the creator of all things back in Genesis 1, and the ultimate creation is humanity, made in God's image. That perfect man was Adam.

What happened in Genesis 2 Eve! Genesis 3 - Temptation - Satan - In the garden - obey - don't partake of the fruit of this one tree and you will live - disobeyed and exited the dance. Made ourselves the center. Crashing and burning ever since.

Jesus wasn't in a garden - He was thrust into the wilderness with wild animals and tempted by Satan.

The second Adam had an infinitely harder probation, an infinitely harder test, an infinitely harder path to trod than the first Adam.

Jesus is assaulted by Satan for his entire ministry. In the Garden of Gethsemane - If there be any other way? Ultimately obey, and you will partake of the death of a tree and you will be crushed.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay for our sins, what was he getting out of it? Because God is a trinity - He is not short on love, worship, adoration, glory. He doesn't have a need to fulfill. He's not lonely, He's not empty without us.

You see He is loving us, glorifying us, adoring us, unconditionally by going to the cross for us. He's orbiting around us. He's dancing around us, even when we don't want to dance. He's saying I love you because you are you, and I want you to dance with me. Start orbiting me, center on me, make me what your life is all about, surrender self and come to life.

Repentance and belief, followed by commitment and obedience is saying to God - I want to dance with you for all eternity. Make me able to dance, teach me to dance! Enter into the Joy of the Lord! He delights in you! You're precious to him. You're as beautiful to him as a gorgeous bride to her groom.

Bride is the church community/family - we orbit God together with unconditional praise and service.