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Trinity Sunday  
Sermons  
June 19, 2011

## GENESIS 1:1 - 2:3 - "WHO IS GOD?"

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Think about. How is it that one person gets to know another person? Through conversation, through speaking and listening. One person speaks and the very act of speaking reveals things to the person listening. Both the content and the manner of speaking reveals things about the person speaking. For example all of you here have come to know me and I you through conversation with each other. Whether here or in another context I have said to you, "Hi, I am Pastor Josh. What is your name?" And from there I have asked you questions about yourselves and your families and in kind I have shared with you about myself and my family. In short order most people come to find out that I love interacting with people, that I laugh loudly, that I enjoy drinking coffee and beer, that I have a fascination for History, the Lord of the Rings, and Star Wars, and that I am a Green Bay Packer fan. But more importantly what you and others who converse with me long enough find out is that I love proclaiming God's love in Christ for sinners like you and me; this is in fact the central message that I preach Sunday after Sunday and speak about day after day.

But just who is this God who loves us in Christ? How do know who God is? How do we get to know Him?

It shouldn't really surprise us that we come to know who God is in the same way that we get to know other people, after all God is a living being, a person, who created us. God reveals Himself to us through His Word; He speaks, He converses with us and through His Word we come to know God. Both what God says and the way He says things reveal to us who God is. For example God has spoken to each of you in your Baptism. God has placed His name upon you through water and the Word as He baptized you in the name that Jesus gave, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In this name God has promised you forgiveness of your sins, life, and salvation. In this name spoken to us and placed upon us we have come to know God as our merciful and gracious Savior. In this name we have been united to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us.

In Christ Jesus, God's Word made flesh, we know that God is Triune in nature, three persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet one God. In Christ Jesus we know that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are God's written Word; God speaks to us in the Scriptures and tells us all that we need to know of concerning Him, concerning the world He made, and concerning His works for our salvation. So let us

listen to God's Word and hear what God has spoken concerning the origin or beginning of all things. Let us be reminded again who God is and who we are in relation to Him by hearing God's Word from Genesis:

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 Now the earth was formless and void and darkness was upon the face of the deep and Spirit of God hovered over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. 4 And God saw the light that it was good. And God made distinction between the light and between the darkness. 5 And God called the light day and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. 6 And God said, "Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters and let there be distinction between the waters which are below the expanse and between the waters which are above the expanse." And it was so. 8 And God called the expanse the heavens. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day. 9 And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered to one place and let dry land appear." And it was so. 10 And God called the dry land, earth and the gathered waters He called seas and God saw that it was good. 11 And God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants sowing seed, trees of fruit, producing fruit according to its kind that its seed is in it upon the earth." And it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth vegetation, plants sowing seed according to its kind and trees producing fruit that its fruit is in it according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, the third day. 14 And God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to distinguish between the day and between the night and to be for signs and appointed times and for days and years." 15 And they will be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth." And it was so. 16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to have dominion over the day and the lesser light to have dominion over the night and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the heavens for light upon the earth; 18 and to rule in the day and in the night; and to make distinction between the light and between the darkness. And God saw that it was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day. 20 And God said, "Let the seas swarm with swarms of living creatures and let there be birds flying above the earth upon the face of the expanse of the heavens." 21 And God created the great sea creatures and every living creature which moves, swarming in the seas according to their kinds and every winged bird according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. 22 And God blessed them saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the water in the seas and let the birds multiply on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day. 24 And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living life according to its kind; beasts and creeping things and animals of the earth according to their kind." And it was so. 25 And God made the animals of the earth according to their kind and the beasts according to their kind and every creeping thing of the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. 26 And God said, "Let us make man in our image, our likeness. And let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the sea and over all the earth and over all the creeping things which creep upon the earth." 27 And God created the man in His likeness, in the likeness of God He created him. Male and female He created them. 28 And God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. And rule over the fish of the seas and the birds of the heavens and over all living things creeping upon the earth." 29 And God said, "Behold! I have given to you every plant sowing seed which is upon the face of all the earth and every tree which in it is fruit of the tree sowing seed, to you it will be for food. 30 And to all the animals of the earth and to all the birds of the heavens and to all the creeping things upon the face of the earth which has living life in it, every green plant for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw all that He made and behold it was very good! And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. 1 Now all the heavens and the earth were completed and all their hosts. 2 And God completed on the seventh day His work which He made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He made. 3 And God blessed the seventh day and He made it holy for on it He rested from all His work which God created to do.

God is the Creator of all things. He is holy, completely separate, and unique from all that is created. God is uncreated; He is the source from which all else that exists in the universe comes from. We are God's creation, plants, trees, insects, animals, the sun, moon, and stars, and all the universe; we have beginning, but God has no beginning. God is the beginning the Creator of all things.

God created all things through His Word. God spoke and that which He spoke then came into being. God's Word does what God says; God's Word creates reality

and maintains it. God speaking all things into being not only reveals God's almighty power, but that God is a relational. God creates with His Word and then orders that which He created by continuing to speak to His creation; God names the things He creates; He looks at His creation and He calls it good. Further God takes deliberate time in creating all things in six days. God could have created all things in one moment (He is God after all), yet He took the time to speak each day and created something new.

On the sixth day just before God creates mankind, God has a conversation within Himself, between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Notice the plural nouns in **verse 26**: 26 And God said, "Let us make man in our image, our likeness. And let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the heavens and the beasts of the sea and over all the earth and over all the creeping things which creep upon the earth."

Here in Genesis we get a hint of the truth of God that is fully revealed to us through Jesus Christ, the Word of God made flesh, that God is One in three persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But we also hear how important we, human beings are to God. God takes time to have a conversation within Himself before He creates us. And when God creates us, He creates us in His image. God creates us to be relational beings and persons. God created us to live in a relationship with Him; He created us to hear the Word He speaks, to trust in that Word, and to respond to God's Word thanking God for all He provides us. God gave us the place of authority, rule, and dominion over all that He created; we were created to order, care for, and enjoy all the other things that God created.

But why is it that we and other people today have trouble knowing who God is and what He is like? That answer can be found in God's Word as well, in Genesis chapter 3. There we hear how the serpent, the devil, deceived our first parents by twisting God's Word and lying to them about God and His Word. Sadly our first parents stopped hearing God's Word and did not trust in it, but they listened and believed the lie that God was holding out on them and not providing for all their needs through His Word. This original sin of Adam and Eve brought sin and death to all God's good creation, even to us.

We have inherited this original sin from our first parents, passed down from generation to generation. Like them before us we don't want to hear God's Word or trust in it. Instead we listen to the lies of the devil or our own thoughts and inclinations. We often think that listening to God's Word is a waste of time, that we have much better things to do with our time. We have bills to pay, work to do, and things to see. We think we know how to better order our lives than God.

We all struggle with this problem. Even us, who have been redeemed by Christ Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, we too often think that we have better things to do than hearing God's Word. We often ignore what God expressly says and do our own thing. We doubt that God's Word can do what it says.

What we have ruined by turning away from God's Word, God has redeemed and restored through Jesus, the Word of God made flesh. God became one with His

creation in Jesus to die for our sin, to die for our distrust of God's Word, to die for our refusal to hear God's Word. In His resurrection Jesus has begun to make all things new, to make you and me new creations through the Word of forgiveness that He speaks. The authority, rule, and dominion that God gave to man before the fall has been renewed in Christ Jesus. Jesus has all authority in heaven and upon the earth and Jesus has spoken that all sinners from the nations be made into His disciples by baptizing them in the name of God, the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Hear the Word of Jesus, the Word of God made flesh for He reveals who God to us a compassionate, merciful, loving, and gracious. You are forgiven! You are God's adopted children! You have the promise of eternal life! Because Jesus who died and rose for you has given you the name of God your Baptism, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.