

EXPERIENCING, ENJOYING, AND EXPRESSING CHRIST (3)

Message Six The Church in the Triune God

RK *Hymns*: 612, 608

Scripture Reading: 1 Thes. 1:1, 3-6, 10; 1 John 1:5; 2:27; 4:16; 5:11-12

- 1 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- 1 Thes 1:3 Remembering unceasingly your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;
- 1 Thes 1:4 Knowing, brothers, beloved of God, your selection;
- 1 Thes 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, even as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
- 1 Thes 1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit,
- 1 Thes 1:10 And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.
- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- 1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.
- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

I. The Triune God is the structure of the New Testament—Matt. 12:28; 28:19; John 15:26; Acts 2:33; Rom. 8:11; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 3:16-17; 4:4-6; Heb. 9:14; 1 Pet. 1:2; Rev. 1:4-5.

- Matt 12:28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- Acts 2:33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father, He has poured out this which you both see and hear.
- Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, that you, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
- Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
- Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Heb 9:14 How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God?
- 1 Pet 1:2 Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father in the sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience and the sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace be

- multiplied.
- Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
- Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood

II. We come to know the Triune God by experiencing Him and enjoying Him—1 John 1:5; 2:27; 4:16; 5:11-12:

- 1 John 1:5 And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- 1 John 4:16 And we know and have believed the love which God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God and God abides in him.
- 1 John 5:11 And this is the testimony, that God gave to us eternal life and this life is in His Son.
- 1 John 5:12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.
- A. The Triune God is not merely the object of our faith; He is dwelling in us as our life and life supply for our experience and enjoyment—4:13-15.
- 1 John 4:13 In this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, that He has given to us of His Spirit.
- 1 John 4:14 And we have beheld and testify that the Father has sent the Son as the Savior of the world.
- 1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him and he in God.
- B. We need to know the Triune God experientially through the inner enjoyment of the subjective God—2:27; 4:4.
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- 1 John 4:4 You are of God, little children; and you have overcome them because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.
- C. If we would know the Triune God, we must be in the line of life and in the process of the growth in life; the more we grow in life, the more we will be concerned with the Divine Trinity—2:13-18.
- 1 John 2:13 I write to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, young children, because you know the Father.
- 1 John 2:14 I have written to you, fathers, because you know Him who is from the beginning. I have written to you, young men, because you are strong and the word of God abides in you and you have overcome the evil one.
- 1 John 2:15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him;
- 1 John 2:16 Because all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the vainglory of life, is not of the Father but is of the world.
- 1 John 2:17 And the world is passing away, and its lust, but he who does the will of God abides forever.
- 1 John 2:18 Young children, it is the last hour; and even as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come; whereby we know that it is the last hour.

III. When the Triune God becomes our experience and enjoyment, He is not only the One on the throne who is universally vast, but He is also the One in our heart—Rev. 4:2-3; 5:6; 1 John 3:19-21:

- Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and upon the throne there was One sitting;

- Rev 4:3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance, and there was a rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance.
- Rev 5:6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as having just been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.
- 1 John 3:19 And in this we will know that we are of the truth, and we will persuade our heart before Him,
- 1 John 3:20 Because if our heart blames us, it is because God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
- 1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not blame us, we have boldness toward God;
- A. We know the Triune God not in the vastness of the universe but in the personal realm of our heart—Heb. 8:10-11.
- Heb 8:10 For this is the covenant which I will covenant with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws into their mind, and on their hearts I will inscribe them; and I will be God to them, and they will be a people to Me.
- Heb 8:11 And they shall by no means each teach his fellow citizen and each his brother, saying, Know the Lord; for all will know Me from the little one to the great one among them.
- B. The concern of the New Testament is that we know the Triune God who has come to dwell in our being—the One who dwells in our spirit and desires to spread into all the inward parts of our heart—Eph. 3:14-17a; 1 John 3:19-21.
- Eph 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father,
- Eph 3:15 Of whom every family in the heavens and on earth is named,
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit into the inner man,
- Eph 3:17a That Christ may make His home in your hearts through faith, ...
- 1 John 3:19 And in this we will know that we are of the truth, and we will persuade our heart before Him,
- 1 John 3:20 Because if our heart blames us, it is because God is greater than our heart and knows all things.
- 1 John 3:21 Beloved, if our heart does not blame us, we have boldness toward God;
- C. The New Testament way for us to know the Triune God is personal, detailed, and experiential—2:20, 27; Heb. 10:16.
- 1 John 2:20 And you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know.
- 1 John 2:27 And as for you, the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone teach you; but as His anointing teaches you concerning all things and is true and is not a lie, and even as it has taught you, abide in Him.
- Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant which I will covenant with them after those days, says the Lord: I will impart My laws upon their hearts, and upon their mind I will inscribe them,"
- D. How precious is this experiential way of knowing the Triune God!

IV. The New Testament, like the Bible as a whole, is fully composed of and structured with the Divine Trinity—Matt. 28:19; Rev. 1:4-5; 22:1-2:

- Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is coming, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
- Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the Firstborn of the dead, and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has released us from our sins by His blood
- Rev 22:1 And he showed me a river of water of life, bright as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb in the middle of its street.
- Rev 22:2 And on this side and on that side of the river was the tree of life, producing twelve fruits, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.
- A. The entire New Testament is related to the Triune God; the Triune God is the element for the construction of the New Testament—Eph. 3:16; 4:4-6.
- Eph 3:16 That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with

- power through His Spirit into the inner man,
 Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- B. The Bible presents us a picture of the move of the Divine Trinity for the accomplishment of His economy—Luke 15:3-32; Eph. 2:18.
- Luke 15:3 And He told them this parable, saying,
 Luke 15:4 Which man of you, who has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?
 Luke 15:5 And when he finds it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.
 Luke 15:6 And when he comes into his house, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.
 Luke 15:7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner repenting than over ninety-nine righteous persons who have no need of repentance.
 Luke 15:8 Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one silver coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek carefully until she finds it?
 Luke 15:9 And when she finds it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin which I lost.
 Luke 15:10 In the same way, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner repenting.
 Luke 15:11 And He said, A certain man had two sons.
 Luke 15:12 And the younger of them said to the father, Father, give me the share of the estate that falls to me. And he distributed to them his living.
 Luke 15:13 And not many days after, the younger son, having gathered everything together, went abroad to a distant country and there squandered his estate by living dissolutely.
 Luke 15:14 And when he had spent all, a severe famine occurred throughout that country, and he began to be in want.
 Luke 15:15 And he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed hogs.
 Luke 15:16 And he longed to be satisfied with the carob pods which the hogs were eating, and no one gave him anything.
 Luke 15:17 But when he came to himself, he said, How many of my father's hired servants abound in bread, but I am perishing here in famine!
 Luke 15:18 I will rise up and go to my father, and I will say to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
 Luke 15:19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.
 Luke 15:20 And he rose up and came to his own father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion, and he ran and fell on his neck and kissed him affectionately.
 Luke 15:21 And the son said to him, Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.
 Luke 15:22 But the father said to his slaves, Bring out quickly the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet.
 Luke 15:23 And bring the fattened calf; slaughter it, and let us eat and be merry,
 Luke 15:24 Because this son of mine was dead and lives again; he was lost and has been found. And they began to be merry.
 Luke 15:25 Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing,
 Luke 15:26 And calling to him one of the servants, he inquired what these things might be.
 Luke 15:27 And he said to him, Your brother has come, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has received him back healthy.
 Luke 15:28 But he became angry and was not willing to enter. And his father came out and entreated him.
 Luke 15:29 But he answered and said to his father, Behold, so many years I have been slaving for you and have never neglected a command of yours, and you have never given me a goat that I might be merry with my friends;
 Luke 15:30 But when this son of yours came, who devoured your living with harlots, you slaughtered for him the fattened calf.

- Luke 15:31 And he said to him, Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
- Luke 15:32 But we had to be merry and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life, and he was lost and has been found.
- Eph 2:18 For through Him we both have access in one Spirit unto the Father.
- C. The Bible was written according to the governing principle of the Triune God wrought into His chosen and redeemed people as their enjoyment, their drink, and their fountain of life and light—Psa. 36:8-9.
- Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, / And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; / In Your light we see light.
- D. The revelation concerning the Triune God in the Word of God is for the dispensing of God in His Divine Trinity into His chosen and redeemed people for their experience and enjoyment so that they might become His corporate expression for eternity—Eph. 1:3-23; 4:16; Rev. 21:2, 10-11.
- Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,
- Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,
- Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
- Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;
- Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
- Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,
- Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,
- Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,
- Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
- Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
- Eph 1:15 Therefore I also, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you and your love to all the saints,
- Eph 1:16 Do not cease giving thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers,
- Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him,
- Eph 1:18 The eyes of your heart having been enlightened, that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- Eph 1:19 And what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the operation of the might of His strength,
- Eph 1:20 Which He caused to operate in Christ in raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenlies,
- Eph 1:21 Far above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name that is named not only in this age but also in that which is to come;
- Eph 1:22 And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,
- Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.
- Eph 4:16 Out from whom all the Body, being joined together and being knit together through every joint of the rich supply and through the operation in the measure of each one part, causes the growth of the Body unto the building up of itself in love.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
- Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the

Rev 21:11 holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone,
as clear as crystal.

V. The Epistle of 1 Thessalonians is addressed to “the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”—1:1:

- A. On the one hand, the church in Thessalonica was of the Thessalonians; on the other hand, this church was in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- Such a church is born of God the Father with His life and nature and is organically united with the Lord Jesus Christ in all that He is and has done—John 1:12-13; 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:17.
John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name,
John 1:13 Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became wisdom to us from God: both righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
1 Cor 6:17 But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.
 - We need to see that the church is composed of human beings who are in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ, those who have the life of God and who are in the organic union with Christ—John 3:15; 15:1, 5.
John 3:15 That everyone who believes into Him may have eternal life.
John 15:1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman.
John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
- B. When Paul speaks of the church in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, he actually means that the church is in the Triune God—1 Thes. 1:1; 1 Cor. 1:2; 12:4-6:
- 1 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
- 1 Cor 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, who is theirs and ours:
- 1 Cor 12:4 But there are distinctions of gifts, but the same Spirit;
1 Cor 12:5 And there are distinctions of ministries, yet the same Lord;
1 Cor 12:6 And there are distinctions of operations, but the same God, who operates all things in all.
- The expressions *God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ* both imply the Spirit; therefore, in 1 Thessalonians 1:1 the Spirit is implied and understood, and we may speak of the church being in the Triune God.
1 Thes 1:1 Paul and Silvanus and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.
 - Because the three of the Divine Trinity are inseparable, whenever we have the first, the Father, we also have the second, the Son, and the third, the Spirit—Matt. 12:28; Rom. 8:11; Gal. 4:4-6.
Matt 12:28 But if I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
Rom 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under law,
Gal 4:5 That He might redeem those under law that we might receive the sonship.
Gal 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba, Father!
 - The Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one God, not three; They are distinct but not

separate—2 Cor. 13:14:

2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

- a. We cannot separate the Son from the Father, or the Father and the Son from the Spirit, because all three coexist and coinhere—John 14:10-11.

John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the works themselves.

- b. In Their eternal coexistence the three of the Godhead are distinct, but Their eternal coinherence makes Them one.

- 4. In the divine economy the three of the Divine Trinity work and are manifested respectively in three consecutive stages—Eph. 1:3-14:

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,

Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.

- a. The Father is the One who plans, originates, and initiates—vv. 3-6.

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ,

Eph 1:4 Even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blemish before Him in love,

Eph 1:5 Predestinating us unto sonship through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, with which He graced us in the Beloved;

- b. The Son accomplishes everything that the Father has planned, originated, and initiated—vv. 7-12.

Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses, according to the riches of His grace,

Eph 1:8 Which He caused to abound to us in all wisdom and prudence,

Eph 1:9 Making known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Himself,

Eph 1:10 Unto the economy of the fullness of the times, to head up all things in Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;

Eph 1:11 In whom also we were designated as an inheritance, having been predestinated according to the purpose of the One who works all things

- according to the counsel of His will,
 Eph 1:12 That we would be to the praise of His glory who have first hoped in Christ,
- c. The Spirit executes and applies what the Father has planned and what the Son has accomplished—vv. 13-14.
 Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the word of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of the promise,
 Eph 1:14 Who is the pledge of our inheritance unto the redemption of the acquired possession, to the praise of His glory.
- d. Selection is of the Father, deliverance is of the Son, and imparting, or propagating, is of the Spirit—1 Thes. 1:3-6, 10.
 1 Thes 1:3 Remembering unceasingly your work of faith and labor of love and endurance of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father;
 1 Thes 1:4 Knowing, brothers, beloved of God, your selection;
 1 Thes 1:5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, even as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.
 1 Thes 1:6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction with joy of the Holy Spirit,
 1 Thes 1:10 And await His Son from the heavens, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath which is coming.
5. When the Son comes, He comes with the Father and by the Spirit; the Son is realized as the Spirit, and the Spirit comes as the Son with the Father—John 14:26; 15:26.
 John 14:26 But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things and remind you of all the things which I have said to you.
 John 15:26 But when the Comforter comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of reality, who proceeds from the Father, He will testify concerning Me;
- C. For the church to be in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ means that the church is in the processed Triune God—Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:4-6:
 Matt 28:19 Go therefore and disciple all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 Eph 4:4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;
 Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;
 Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
1. According to the Bible, there is no such thing as the church being merely in God; rather, the church is in the processed Triune God—2 Cor. 13:14.
 2 Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
2. In Genesis 1 God was the unprocessed God, but in the New Testament He has become the processed Triune God—John 7:37-39; Phil. 1:19.
 Gen 1 be omitted.
 John 7:37 Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.
 John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.
 John 7:39 But this He said concerning the Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for the Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.
 Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
3. *Processed* refers to the crucial steps through which the Triune God has passed in the divine economy: incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection:
 a. In crucifixion the Lord accomplished redemption, the termination of the old creation, and the destruction of Satan and death—Eph. 1:7; Rom. 6:6; Heb. 2:14.
 Eph 1:7 In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of

- offenses, according to the riches of His grace,
Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man has been crucified with Him in order that the
body of sin might be annulled, that we should no longer serve sin as slaves;
Heb 2:14 Since therefore the children have shared in blood and flesh, He also
Himself in like manner partook of the same, that through death He might
destroy him who has the might of death, that is, the devil,
- b. In resurrection He germinated the new creation—2 Cor. 5:17.
2 Cor 5:17 So then if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old things have
passed away; behold, they have become new.
 - c. Now He is the life-giving Spirit as the ultimate consummation of the processed
Triune God—1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17a.
1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
2 Cor 3:17a And the Lord is the Spirit; ...
4. The church in the processed Triune God is the church in the One who has become the
life-giving Spirit with the Father and the Son—John 14:20:
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.
- a. The processed Triune God reaches us, contacts us, and is applied to us in our
experience as the life-giving Spirit—1 Cor. 15:45b.
1 Cor 15:45b ... the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit.
 - b. The Father is in the Son, and the Son is now the life-giving Spirit dwelling in
us—John 14:10-11, 16-17, 20.
John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? The
words that I say to you I do not speak from Myself, but the Father who
abides in Me does His works.
John 14:11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not,
believe because of the works themselves.
John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He
may be with you forever,
John 14:17 Even the Spirit of reality, whom the world cannot receive, because it
does not behold Him or know Him; but you know Him, because He
abides with you and shall be in you.
John 14:20 In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in
you.
 - c. When we are in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, we are in the Spirit;
thus, we are the church in the processed Triune God.
- D. If we see the vision of the church in the Triune God, this vision will control our thinking,
our activities, and our entire life—Prov. 29:18a; Acts 26:19.
Prov 29:18a Where there is no vision, the people cast off restraint; ...
Acts 26:19 Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,