

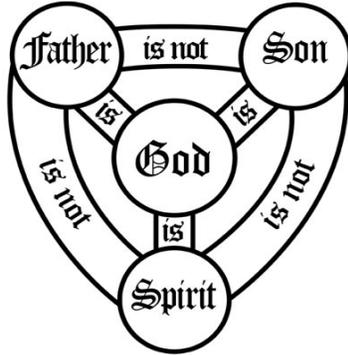


GOD THE SON – WORTHY OF PRAISE (6)

START HERE:

Jesus himself is God. But in some mysterious way, he also interacts with God his Father. They are one. But they are distinct. And if that’s not mysterious enough, the Holy Spirit is God, too, and also interacts with God the Father and God the Son.

Throughout the centuries, people have tried to make sense of our three-in-one God — known as the Trinity — with this visual image:



The Father is God.
The Son is God.
The Spirit is God.

The Father is not the Son.
The Father is not the Spirit.

The Son is not the Father.
The Son is not the Spirit.

The Spirit is not the Father.
The Spirit is not the Son.

In these verses from Paul’s letter to the Philippians, you’ll read about Jesus both being God himself and also obeying God the Father. You’ll read about Jesus humbling himself as a human and also being elevated to the place of highest honor. You’ll read about Jesus who is love and also Lord. You’ll read about Jesus who is Savior and also King.

This is the Jesus we follow. This is the Jesus we love and learn from.
This is the Jesus whose revolutionary humility we are told to imitate.

READ THIS: Philippians 2:6-11

THINK ABOUT:

In a journal, list everything these verses say about Jesus.

Most people want to rule their own lives. We cling to “divine privileges” that aren’t even ours to begin with. Jesus — the only human being who actually deserved to cling to divine privileges since he was in fact God — gave up his rightful privilege of self-rule in order to save and serve us.

What kinds of self-rule do you cling to?

What is so difficult about letting them go?

In what areas of life do you need to pursue more humble obedience to God?

Read verses 1-5. How do they relate to verses 6-11?

AM: Ask the Lord to help you live humbly today, thinking of others before yourself. Do this as an act of praise to God.

PM: How did Jesus’ example of humble and obedient living shape your own attitudes and actions today?

Dear Lord - Thank you for the example of Jesus’ life, for the reminder that the One who was worthy of praise chose to humble himself in obedience to you. Lord, shape me into someone who lives humbly, putting others before myself as Jesus did. Shape me into someone who does not seek praise for myself but finds joy in imitating and praising your Son. Amen.

EXTRA THINGS

Many scholars believe that Phil. 2:6-11 is one of the earliest church hymns. It’s sometimes called the “Kenosis Hymn” because the word for ‘he emptied’ (in v. 7) is *ekenosen*.

The shield image at the right was also drawn as an upright triangle with God at the top and the Son and Spirit in the lower corners. During the Middle Ages, artists began drawing it in the shape of a shield. Some medieval books include illustrations of knights carrying a Trinity shield.

EXTRA VERSES

Revelation 5 is a vision of the both humble and reigning Jesus.

EXTRA STUFF

Listen to Amena Brown’s spoken word “He is Here” about Jesus being present here as himself and within the Trinity.

Listen to Andrew Peterson’s “Is He Worthy?” about Jesus Christ being worthy of our praise.