

MARCH 7, 2021

THE NATURE OF GOD

John 14:8-11

God has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christians can embrace and trust the truth that God is one in essence but exists in three distinct Persons. Theologians call this truth the doctrine of the Trinity. We can enjoy a relationship with God by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, even if we don't fully understand God's nature. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and said, "For as heaven is higher than earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9).

In John 13, John tells of Jesus' last night with the disciples. John tells of Jesus' washing His disciple's feet (vv.3-11), informing the disciples of His imminent betrayal (vv.34-35), and in John 14:3, announcing he would return to His Father but then return for them. Sensing something was different, Thomas confessed he could not understand what Jesus was saying. Jesus then said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (14:6). In John 14:8-11, Phillip said, "Lord show us the Father, and that's enough for us." Jesus told him "the one who has seen me has seen the father" (v. 9). Jesus reminded His followers that He and the Father were one. They were - and are - co-equal in every sense of the word. Jesus had been among the disciples for three years. God had lived among them every day, and they had seen His works and heard His preaching. They knew God because they knew Christ. Jesus affirmed this by noting "anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." Jesus called on His followers to evaluate their hearts and to believe He and the Father are one - even if they could not physically see the Father with their eyes. John's message throughout his Gospel is that believing is seeing - not the other way around. Faith produces clarity and conviction to know Jesus and God.

In John 14:16-20, we learn that when Jesus, the Son of God, is in your life, the Holy Spirit is in your life, the Holy Spirit is in your life. In these verses, Jesus teaches the disciples about the third Person of the Trinity. Jesus said that He would ask the Father to "give you another Counselor." This refers to the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is a different Person from Jesus, but He serves the same ministry role as Christ on behalf of believers. Jesus promised to be with His followers to the "end of the age." The Counselor was coming so that the disciples wouldn't be left "as orphans." Jesus wanted them to know that His physical absence didn't mean that the Father had left them on their own. The

Counselor was coming so that they could still have access to God, just as they had access to God when they talked with Jesus face-to-face.

In John 14:23-26, the disciple Judas (not Iscariot) the son of James asked Jesus how He would reveal Himself to His disciples (v. 22). In verse 23, Jesus answered him "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Jesus promised His presence. Jesus said both He and the Father would make their home with those who love and obey Him. The disciples had secured a dwelling place in eternity (14:2). The proof was the Godhead's (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit) dwelling with them on earth. The Spirit's presence provides evidence Jesus is still active in the lives of His followers. The Holy Spirit would **teach** the disciples. The Spirit would reveal insights to fully equip the disciples for their mission. The Spirit's prime role is to **remind** disciples about what they already know or to show them how to apply those truths effectively. God the Son (Jesus Christ) came to accomplish God the Father's will. God the Holy Spirit will enable us to live the lives God intends for us.

Linda Mitchell