

## How Can Three Go Into One?

Sermon preached on 7/6/20 by Revd Doug Hiza  
Trinity Sunday

*May I speak in the name of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen*

Today is Trinity Sunday. Trinity means ‘three-ness’ or ‘three-in-one. Mathematically speaking that is impossible. You can’t divide three into one and come out with one! Our understanding of the trinity is based **solely** on what you see **God has done & is doing in the world.** God the Father, created the world and everything in it; God the Son, Jesus the Christ, lived and died as one of us here on earth; and God the Holy Spirit is at the forefront, **equipping – enabling – guiding and empowering you in your life!** If you and I fully understood the trinity it would make you as great as God!

There is a lovely legend about St. Augustine who was walking on the beach one day trying to figure out how God can be One and yet Three at the same time. Then Augustine saw a child carrying water in a cup to a small hole dug in the sand. “What are you doing?” asked Augustine. The child replied, “I’m trying to pour the ocean into this hole.” Augustine laughed and said, “But that’s impossible.” The child looked up into Augustine’s eyes and said, “It’s no more impossible than for you to put Almighty God into your small mind.” And then the child vanished.

Instead of trying the impossible, I would like to focus today on just one of the three persons of the Trinity – the Holy Spirit. Last week was Pentecost in which the Holy Spirit, which Jesus had promised, would come after his resurrection and Ascension, touched the lives of those who **believed and changed and transformed** their lives forever. They began to speak with **one voice** – something the Church has never managed to do since that day – and especially during this coronavirus episode!

But the Holy Spirit is still capable of transforming and changing lives today. It takes broken people and restores them to wholeness again. Human beings are complex and fragile creatures – capable of great love & compassion or acts of incredible hatred & violence. And we are witnessing this every day on our radio & TV’s as the violence increases daily in the USA over the tragic death of a black human being.

And what about the reaction of people like you and me? What sense are you making out of all this? When you see how the army may be called in the US like the Chinese in Hong Kong! When you see the IS beheading human beings in Syria how does it affect you spiritually? It’s horrible,

unthinkable events like these that **only** spiritual healing can ever reach people if **anything** ever does. Without spiritual healing the hurt goes on for years and years and slowly destroys your life like a cancer slowly eating away at you day by day.

God always heals what needs to be healed – not what you or I want nor ask for. Let me give you an example:

Roger – was a 41 year old Australian who found God, peace and wholeness...I met Roger on the Oncology Ward in 1980. Roger had just moved back from Australia with his 13 year old son after his marriage collapsed only to discover that he had a life-threatening form of cancer.

One day Roger called me over to his bed. He said he had been observing me for several weeks and that there was something about my life, a sense of peace and calm, that he had never had in his life. Would I share that with him? We talked for weeks before he died. Our lives were very similar: we were both 41 and had been divorced – raising a teenager son. He said if I had ever spoken about God or offered to pray with him, he would have told me to sling my hook. As it was, we met as one human being to another human being. I shared what my faith and belief in an all loving God and Father meant to me and how it enabled me to live my life and to get through each day.

When Roger died I did his funeral. His mother came up to me after the service & asked what I had done to her son? “He died at peace with himself for the first time in his life,” she told me. He at last had found peace, wholeness and healing!

Today we celebrate the awakening of the Christian church to its God-given power and mission:

**To heal the sick;**

**To bind up the broken hearted;**

**To offer people, healing, wholeness and hope.**

Let me encourage you to think **deeply & seriously** about the Trinity. As followers of Jesus the Christ, you are **loved** by the Father; **led** by the Holy Spirit and made **new again** by the Son. All three persons are at work in your life, as they were in Roger’s life, – in your world and in Church’s throughout the world right now.

***Thank you Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen.***

