

When I was a child I needed a variety of support systems in my life...

- Sometimes I needed my Dad: he was strong and very gifted with all things mechanical, and all forms of carpentry.
 - Sometimes I needed my Mom: she was understanding and accepting, yet also good at giving me boundaries.
 - Sometimes I needed Trixie; Trixie was my dog. She was good at... Well, let the dog owners among us understand.
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When I was playing trumpet in band in high school I needed a variety of support systems...

- Sometimes I needed Mr. Tentis, the band director. He gave us the music and taught the lessons.
 - Sometimes I needed Dick Leorch. Dick was three years older than me, and looked like the Leorch in the Adams Family TV show. He was a great trumpet player, and gave me on the spot instructions. .
 - Sometimes I needed Stan Kenton's Band. Stan was a big band leader, had great trumpets in his band, and after hearing them play I was inspired!
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In my life right now as a pastor and as a member of a family I need a variety of support systems...

- I need my wife to tell me when my sermons are too long – she has been doing that a lot lately!
- I need my kids to remind me that the years are quickly passing by and I am getting older – which they do with great regularity! Emily is wondering if it is time to take away my car keys yet.
- I need my cats to sit on me as a long week comes to an end and purr in my ear and let me know that life is satisfying – which they do regularly!

We need all sorts of support systems in life. And as a child of God we need a variety of spiritual support systems. On this Trinity Sunday we will review these marvelous support systems that God has placed in and around our lives.

One of the words we often hear on Trinity Sunday is that the Trinity is a great mystery. For years I have been trying to understand how God's revealing of himself to us in three persons is a mystery.

I probably am using the wrong definition of the word: mystery. But my definition has to be with mystery books. Mystery authors hide certain facts from us. Mystery writers leave us struggling for clues and guessing at the right answer. I fail to see how the Trinity is a mystery in that way.

God is not a mystery hider. God is a grace revealer. In bold and wonderful ways God has revealed himself to us. God has chosen to step forth into this world as the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer.

These are the support systems which God gives to all of his children.

- **God reveals himself as the Creator. This makes me think of omniscience. Sometimes we need God's gift of omniscience.**

To be omniscient means to be fully aware and to have full insight. If you are a Columbo fan, or a Monk fan, or a CSI fan – omniscience is what happens in the last two minutes of every show when everything comes together and makes sense.

The Bible declares the God who created us is omniscient. Everything the Creator makes is for a purpose and makes sense.

- This God created us with a word and with his breath. He knows our thoughts before they are think; he knows our days before they are lived; he knows our needs before they have become needs. That is God's omniscience.
- This God prepared Noah to build an ark long before the floods came; and he prepared Abraham to go on a long journey long before Abraham dreamed of the journey. He prepared Pharaoh to lift up Joseph to serve him when Joseph was still in a prison cell. That is God's omniscience.

This Creator God works in our lives in sometimes remarkable ways. Sometimes our God brings things together in what we call a "Divine Coincidence."

I would like to invite Roy Sander to come and share with us a Divine Coincidence story that shows how God brings things together...

This is the Creator God, who is omniscient.

- **God reveals himself to us as the Redeemer. This makes me think of omnipotence. Sometimes we need God's gift of omnipotence.**

To be omnipotent means to have unlimited authority.

- The authority of Jesus is seen in how he cursed a fig tree for not bearing fruit, and it died.
 - The authority of Jesus is seen in how demons were cast out of people, and the people became free.
 - The authority of Jesus is seen in how Jesus spoke to raging seas and howling winds and they obeyed his word to be at peace.
 - The authority of Jesus is seen in how people heard the words Jesus spoke and they said over and over again, "*He speaks with authority.*" [Matthew 7:29, et. al.]
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An Anglican Preacher said long ago: "It is impossible to despair when one remembers that our Helper is omnipotent." [Jeremy Taylor] Read that sentence out loud with me: "It is impossible to despair when one remembers that our Helper is omnipotent."

The question is: Can we see what right before us? Can we see that Jesus is here?

Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson went on a camping trip... They lay down for the night, and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes asked, "What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Theologically, I can see that God is omnipotent and that we are small and insignificant.

Holmes looked at his friend with exasperation. "Watson," Holmes finally said. "You missed the obvious. Someone has stolen our tent."

On this Trinity Sunday we should not miss the obvious truth about Jesus.

- He has authority to forgive the things we did last week which caused God sadness and caused us guilt. Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you."
- Jesus has the authority to give us the opportunity to make amends. Jesus said, "Go, and sin no more."
- Jesus has the authority to bring us home at the end of our days. Jesus said, "Today, you will be with me in Paradise."

God is omniscient: he creates and understands all things. God is omnipotent: he has the final authority in all things. Sometimes we need the Father and the sometimes we need the Son. And sometimes...

- **God reveals himself to us as the Sustainer. This makes me think of omnipresence. Sometimes we need God's gift of omnipresence.**

To be omnipresent means to be present in all places at all times.

There was a time when the ancient Greeks were just mesmerized to even think of such a thing being possible. How could one be in Athens and Sparta at the same time? Such an impossible thing! We take it for granted.

- One day last week I had the TV on and I was by the power of TV live in Iraq.

- And I had the radio on and I was live in New York.
- And the phone rang and I was talking live to my son in Mankato.
- And my computer beeped and I had a real-time email from my brother in CA.
- And the cellphone rang I had a text message from Fargo.
- And my wife walked in the door and said, "You doing anything?"

We take it for granted that by technology we can be anywhere.

But what we cannot do is what God's Spirit does: hear the prayers, comfort the lonely, encourage the discouraged, heal the broken. The Spirit does this in all places and at all times. Sometimes we need the omnipresence of God.

In summary, it is true that it is a mystery how God can be three-in-one. But God does not ask us to figure out that little mystery.

What God wants is for us to live in the threefold support system he provides for his children.

- Look at your hands – you are created by an omniscient Father.
- Look into your heart – you are loved and forgiven by an omnipotent friend named Jesus.
- Look into your spirit – your spirit is never alone, for the omnipresent Spirit of God is there for you.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen!