



Bible Study for March 4, 2020

The text begins by saying “No one has seen God at any time.”

The little who was in deep concentration over her drawing. Her mother asked her what she was drawing and received the curt reply, “God.” Her mother protested, “But no one knows what God looks like!” The little girl replied, “They will now!”

No one has seen God in his unveiled essence, glory, and majesty. We are incapable as finite sinful creatures of looking on God. All the manifestations of God in the Old Testament were theophanies, manifestations of God’s glory or God in disguise. But they were all God veiled to some degree. If we were to see God in His unveiled glory in our finite bodies, it would destroy us. We would be instantly vaporized. Just as God told Moses in Exodus 33:20, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live” (face = unveiled essence).

But there is a sense in which God can be seen today. God’s love is seen in our lives when we love one another. This is true because when we love one another we show that God is abiding in us (v. 12b).

I believe what we see in this text is a glimpse at the Trinity at work in the life of the believer.

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. **13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. **14** And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. **15** Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. **16** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

The Trinity is the shorthand way of saying “the doctrine that God eternally exists as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and each person is fully God, and there is one God.”

Before the foundation of the world, God was completely satisfied in His love which was shared and reciprocated by all three members of the Trinity.

The bond of love within the Trinity motivated the Father in sending His Son and is applied to our lives by the Spirit which in turn shows itself by our love for one another.

God the Father: The Source of Love, vv. 12b, 16.

God’s love is shown in his fatherly love over creation. See Matthew 6:25-34. Here you can see the Father is God.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? **26** Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? **27** Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? **28** And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: **29** And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. **30** Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? **31** Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? **32** (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. **33** But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. **34** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesday at two times (11:30-12 and 12-12:30). Both in Capitol Annex 436 or, if occupied, the 4th floor lounge (404).

God the Father is described in Scripture as the member of the Trinity who planned and initiated the plan of Redemption. See vv. 12b and 16.

God the Son: The Manifestation of Love, vv. 14-15.

The texts below demonstrate the deity of the Son.

John 1:1, 14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Heb. 1:8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

God the Son is described in Scripture as the member of the Trinity who accomplished redemption by dying on the cross. See Rom. 5:8; Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 3:16; 4:9-10. Also, see vv. 14-15 and 16a of our text.

God the Holy Spirit: The Application of Love, v. 13.

The texts below demonstrate the deity of the Holy Spirit. Unlike what many think, there is not a hierarchy in the Trinity.

Matt:28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,"

Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? "While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."

God the Holy Spirit is described in Scripture as the member of the Trinity who applies the work of redemption to the individual.

The way God dwells in us is by His Spirit.

Rom. 5:5 the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

"He hath given us of His Spirit" v. 13

In John 17:20-26 we get a glimpse of the inter-trinitarian love shown between the members of the Trinity.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; **21** That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. **22** And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: **23** I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me. **24** Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. **25** O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. **26** And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Conclusion:

God's love is trinitarian. It flows from the Father, is manifested in the Son, and is applied by the Holy Spirit.

What's the application for us? Examine yourself! Do you love your brothers and sisters? If not, you don't have the Holy Spirit, you haven't trusted in Christ, and you don't know God!