

Trinity Sunday. The church puts forth one week to talk about the way we have experienced God.

And it all began at the beginning. That's pretty obvious, right?

The bible story we follow throughout what we call the Old Testament was all about God and the Israelites. We have books written about God forming this particular people throughout history. We learn about God through their lens on history, and their history was very black and white. There were Hebrews and there were Gentiles. There were People of the Hebraic faith and there were all the rest. Their name for "all the rest"? Gentiles.

To the Jew --you were either one of the good people (the Jews), or you weren't (the Gentiles).

This sort of dualism has been around for centuries. Two different perspectives. If you are a Hebrew you view the Gentiles as bad. If you are a Gentile-- I'll bet your perspective is a bit different. But there are only two sides of the coin.

Think of all the dualisms in our lives. No go ahead. I'll wait. I know there are a lot of them. (name some)

But no matter how much we find ourselves getting caught up in dualisms: is life really a coin with only two sides?

And then there is Trinity.

We see trinities in many forms all around us: water, steam, ice. Mind, body spirit.

And we have experienced God in three ways: as creator of all that is, in the form of the human being Jesus of Nazareth, and as the Spirit that animates all life.

Trinity
Trinity Sunday,

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June 16, 2019

Trinities don't reveal opposite sides of something, trinities speak about different facets of the same thing. Different revelations. The Trinity for me, is like a spinning crystal. It's something we can catch a flash of-- something constantly in motion and revealing different parts of itself.

Seeing God and Spirit through the lens of Jesus' life is to reorder life. Life will never again be only either/or. The Trinity changed all that.

When Jesus was born the Word became flesh-- God had become enfleshed, into Human BE-ing. Flesh became holy. Whole.

But we Christians, we keep trying to push that enfleshment back into words-- who was this Jesus, let's discuss this. What is Christ's relationship with God, what is the Trinity about, how does it work--- all ideas-- words. It's all very cerebral. It's all about our head.

But the Word was enfleshed, made flesh, which makes sense because God is a Verb.

I didn't make that up, God did. God says I AM. God does not say, "I am like....." God IS. God is dynamic, God is communion, God is relationship, God is the ground of all being.

Trinity is the mystery of being.

Trinity speaks to the relationship between God/Humanity/ and Spirit.

Perhaps living relationally-- with each other--- is more important than whether our words about living together are right or wrong. Maybe Jesus was trying to show us that life is about learning about ourselves as we learn to live with each other, rather than living with our concepts of each other.

(she's good, he's bad/ she's something—she's something else)

But life is to be lived, not debated. We only learn from doing, not from thinking about doing. Talking about doing. Nope—only from doing.

This brings me to a Russian woman, Tatyana Sapunova, 27 years old. A few years ago reports stated that she was driving with her mother near Moscow when she saw a sign planted by the road. "Death to Yids, " it said. Yids—in chase you don't know, is a slang—and pejorative term for Jewish people. She stopped the car and attempted to tear down the sign.

That's when the explosive device rigged to the sign exploded. The blast tore through her hands, face and legs, and she lost the sight in one eye. Sapunova, for the record, is not Jewish. She is Christian. And when she stopped that day, she wasn't just thinking in her head that gosh—that sign is awful, no- instead she got out of the car to remove this hate filled sign. She was living her faith of loving all people. She was putting into practice of realizing that the world is not just *us vs. them*. She didn't see just two sides of a coin, but a multifaceted universe.

We only learn to live with each other in love-- by loving all who live.

Living with each other is an action, not a concept. Life in God is all about getting out of our heads, with its limiting understanding of black/white, either/or--and into our multi-faceted beings.

Trinitarian life—our life in God-- sees humanity and God bound together in the medium of the spirit. All humanity.

Dualism misses the mark.

I believe that Trinity is the next evolutionary step in our consciousness of being. Amen.