

Three's Company

As we continue our series on what we believe, let's examine the second of the 22 tenets in the Foursquare Declaration of Faith:

The Eternal Godhead. We believe God is Triune, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the Three are coexistent, coeternal, and equal in divine perfection.

The doctrine of the Trinity separates the Christian faith from man-made religions. Religious systems were created to help mankind get closer to God but they all fall short. The distance between us is just too great. The Bible, unlike any other book, reveals a Triune God who has bridged that gap. God, the Father, who lives in a heavenly dimension, reached down to our level. He showed us how much He loves us by sending God, the Son, to be with us, walking and talking among us on this planet. By taking on Himself our well-deserved punishment and dying in our place, He made it possible for us to be restored to the most intimate of relationships with him. Now God, the Holy Spirit, can live inside of us. The "mystery" is solved – it's "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1).

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
1 Corinthians 13:14

1. The Love of our Father, the God Out There

The Trinity is evident and equally active from the beginning of creation (Genesis 1:1,2; John 1:1-3; Genesis 1:26) proving that they were coexistent, coeternal, and equal. God was in intimate relationship with mankind, whom He created in His image, until Adam and Eve chose to turn against their Creator (Genesis 3:8; 22-24). From that point on, God is most often portrayed in the Old Testament (Covenant) as the "God out there." While there are frequent references to Jesus (Christophanies) and the Spirit, most of what we perceive of God from the OT authors is a God who meets with and speaks to certain chosen individuals (priests and prophets) who pass His messages on to others.

It is not a bad thing to have a God who is beyond us. He provides us with an objective, outside source of help with a promise of something bigger and better to come.

2. The Grace of Jesus, God With Us

The sending of Jesus (aka. Immanuel – "God with us"), spanned the wide gulf between God and man. Now we could see what the "God out there" was really like as Jesus revealed His heart of love for the lost

3. The Fellowship of the Spirit, Christ In Us