

Trinity: Ways We Relate to the Father

There is one, and only one, true God whose eternal being has been revealed to us as a tri-unity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct, yet inseparable, Persons possessing one and the same divine nature.

The Father Adopting

- Ephesians 1:4-6 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ”

- 1 John 3:1 “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!”

See also: Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-6

- The Father planned our adoption
- The Son redeemed us and secured our adoption.
- The Father adopted us.
- The indwelling Spirit assures us of our adoption.

So, What Does That Make Jesus?

- Hebrews 2:11, NCV “Jesus, who makes people holy, and those who are made holy are from the same family. So he is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters.”
- Romans 8:29, NLT “For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.”

The Father Hearing Our Prayers:

- Matthew 6:9 “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven...’”

See also: Eph. 3:14; Matt. 6:8; Jn. 16:26-27

- Prayers in the NT don’t begin, “Dear Jesus”
- We address our prayers to the Father because he is the Person of the Trinity who plans and initiates. He makes things happen!
- We pray through Jesus, in his name, “charging it to His account.”
- We pray in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- But if Prayer isn’t to the Father, what’s the point of intercession by the Son and Spirit?

See: Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:26

But, is it wrong to pray to the Son or Spirit?

It’s OK, particularly in light of the Person’s mission. Like asking the Holy Spirit to empower our witness or Jesus to build up his church.

The Father Ruling in His Kingdom

Spoken of in Two Ways – As the Father’s:

- Matthew 6:8-9 “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come...”

cp. Matthew 13:43

The Second Way — As the Son’s:

- Matthew 13:41–42 “The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers, and throw them into the fiery furnace...” (Cp. Luke 1:33)

Jesus Will Deliver the Kingdom to the Father:

1 Corinthians 15:24–25 “Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father...”

The Father Correcting His Children

- Hebrews 12:5-13, especially vs. 9 “We have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?”

