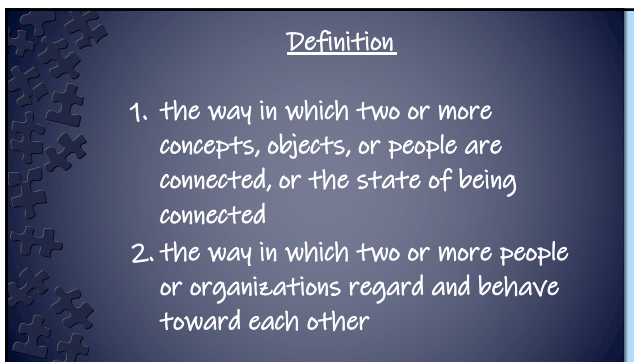
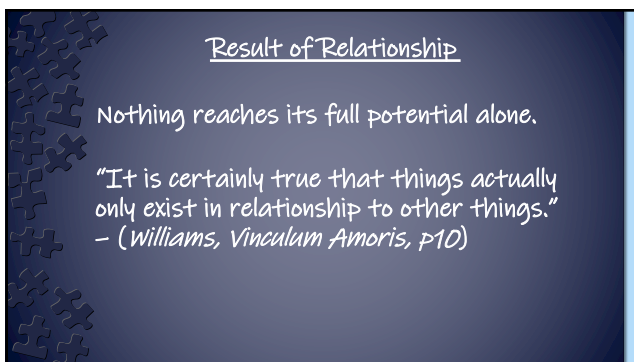


1



2



3

Example

On the smallest scale:

- Protons, Neutrons, Electrons
- All these particles are in relationship with each other. Otherwise, the atom doesn't exist. If atoms don't exist, "bigger" things don't exist.

4

Example

On an every-day scale:

- Heart, brain, lungs, circulatory system, nervous system, etc.
- no organ alone makes the body functional; not the heart, nor the brain, nor the lungs.
- All these organs are in relationship to each other. Otherwise, the body doesn't function.

5

Example

On the largest scale

- The earth and other planets are in relationship with the sun.
- The earth and moon are in relationship with each other.
- If the earth, moon, and sun are not in the proper relationship, life ceases to exist.

6

These examples are easily understood and clearly reveal that relationships are fundamental to existence.

Relationships imply roles

7

Based on our knowledge (so far) of the Godhead, let's examine some familiar passages to see what we can learn about their relationship and roles that are seen.

Keep in mind that the Godhead exists in 3 co-equal Persons.

8

- > Jesus teaching disciples how to pray (Luke 11.2; Matt 6.9):
"Father in heaven..."
- > Jesus on the cross (Luke 23.46)
"... Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit."
- > Jesus to Nicodemus (John 3.16):
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."
- > Jesus to his disciples (John 4.34):
"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work"

9

➤ Jesus to the Jews (John. 5.17, 19):
 "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."
 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son does in like manner."

10

➤ Jesus speaking (John 5.43):
 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me..."
 ➤ Jesus speaking (John 6.38):
 "For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me."
 ➤ Jesus speaking (John 8.28):
 "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."

11

➤ Jesus speaking (John 10.25):
 "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me."
 ➤ Jesus speaking (John 10.29):
 "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."

12

➤ Jesus speaking (John 12.49):
 "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

➤ Jesus speaking to Judas (not Iscariot) (John 14.26):
 "But the Helper (Comforter), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things..."

13

➤ Jesus speaking (John 14.29):
 "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I."

➤ Jesus speaking to the apostles (Luke 24.49):
 "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father (Holy Spirit) upon you; but tarry in the city until you are endued with power from on high."

14

Quick Review:

The Godhead is comprised of the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Spirit. All three are called "God" and all three are called "Jehovah". They are "one"; they do not work separately.

Each appears to have a specific role based on our examination of Jesus' multiple statements in the Gospel of John.

Father – Authority, Originator of "Will"

Word (Son) – Speaks and does what the Father has taught (given) to Him

Holy Spirit – Helper, Comforter, Source of power (action)

15

1 Creation – Universe (Genesis 1.1-3)

What do we see?

- God (Father, word (from John 1.1), Spirit)
- The creation of heaven and earth and bringing order to a formless, empty earth.
 - Reference: Psalm 33.8-9
- The Spirit hovering; brooding (sitting); moving
- God speaking, "Let there be light."
- A beginning: the physical universe

16

2 Creation - Man (Gen 1.26-27; Gen 2.7)

What do we see?

- God (Father, word (Son), Spirit)
- God speaking, "Let Us make man..."
- Creation of the first human being and his being made alive (breath into the creation)
 - Reference: in Job 33.4 - Elihu says, "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."
- A beginning: a living human being

17

3 The Tabernacle and its Furnishings (Exodus 31.1-11; Exodus 35.30-35)

What do we see?

- The LORD (Jehovah) speaking
- Bezalel and Oholiab filled with the Spirit
- Given the ability to design and build the Tabernacle and its furniture
- A beginning: the first physical "building" where God will meet with the people.

18

4 The Conception (Luke 1.26-35)
 What do we see?

- Gabriel speaking to Mary
- The Holy Spirit will come (descend and operate) upon Mary
- The power of the Highest (i.e., the Father) will overshadow Mary (symbolizing His immediate presence and power)
- The One to be born (Jesus) is to be called the Son of the Highest
- A beginning: Salvation (the Word coming in human form)

19

5 Jesus' Baptism (Matthew 3.13-17)
 What do we see?

- Jesus (and John)
- The Holy Spirit descending as a dove (recall Creation and Day of Pentecost events)
- The Father speaking, expressing approval in His Son
- A beginning: Jesus' earthly ministry

20

6 The Great Commission (Matthew 28.19-20)
 What do we see?

- Jesus commissions the eleven to teach (i.e., make disciples), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- A strong argument for equality among the Godhead
- "in the name of" (singular, binding, authority)
- A declaration of baptism's connection to all members of the Godhead.
- A beginning: growth/expansion of Christianity (wrt number and location)

21

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20)

Three (of many) things to consider when one becomes a baptized believer (disciple); a "beginning" of a child of God

1. They have become heirs of the promise. (See Hebrews 9:15 and 1 John 2:25)
2. They have become part of God's elect (chosen).
3. They have been reconciled (brought to) God, eliminating the separation caused by sin.

22

Made Heirs of the Promise (Titus 3:4-7)

Q.1 What do we see?

- > The kindness and mercy of God (specifically, the Father; see 1 Peter 1:3 "Father's abundant mercy") poured out through Jesus, saves believers.
- > A renewing (renovation; complete change for the better) of believers by the Spirit
 - > This thought is connected to Jesus/Nicodemus conversation
 - > "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation..." - 2 Corinthians 5:17
 - > "For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation." - Galatians 6:15
- > Believers justified by Father's grace.
- > Believers become heirs according to the hope (expectation) of eternal life (see Hebrews 1:14 - "heirs of salvation"; Romans 8:16-17 - joint heirs with Christ; Galatians 3:28 - "heirs according to the promise")

23

Becoming one of the "Elect" and Sanctification (1 Peter 1:2)

Q.2 What do we see?

- > Believers become one of the chosen; they are "elect"
- > Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father
 - > "... just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world ..." - Ephesians 1:4
 - > Reference Isaiah 43:1-7
- > The blood of Jesus provides the way for salvation.
- > Believers are sanctified (purified) by the Spirit

24

6.3 Reconciliation (1 Peter 3.18)

What do we see?

- > Christ suffered (i.e., died) to bring man to God.
- > Recall, God (i.e., the Godhead (Father, Word, Spirit), operating integrally), created man (Genesis 1.26; 2.7). Therefore, reconciliation occurs between God (Father, Word, Spirit) and man.
 - > "Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ..." - 2 Corinthians 5.18
 - > "... that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them..." - 2 Corinthians 5.19
- > Christ was "made alive" by the Spirit
 - > "Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him." - Romans 6.8-9

25

There are other passages we could investigate but these give us a good sense of what happens when the Godhead is involved in a particular event.

26

In general, here's what we see from our examination:

1. Involvement of all 3 Persons of the Godhead
2. Beginnings (and continuance)
 - a) Physical universe (heaven and earth)
 - b) Man
 - c) Tabernacle (initial place of worship for Israel)
 - d) Jesus' earthly existence
 - e) Jesus' earthly ministry
 - f) Spread of Jesus' teaching (and the specifics of the implication of baptism)
 - g) Believers' becoming children of God

27

What roles are implied by the relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

28

When creating (or causing something to have a beginning), there are 3 things to consider:

- An 'a priori' thought, idea, concept, plan, or will (Father)
 - existing in the mind prior to and independent of experience, as a faculty trait or character trait
- An expression of the thought, idea, concept, or plan (Word/Son (i.e., Jesus))
- An inspiration (impetus) for initiating and continuing the thought, idea, concept, or plan (Spirit)

29

Summary

1. The concept of "relationship" comes from God. It is an eternally inherent quality within the Godhead.
2. Nothing/no one is successful on its own. Relationships are absolutely essential.
3. Relationships imply roles.
4. The Persons of the Godhead are in perfect relationship with each other and thus, carry out their roles flawlessly. They are successful together.

30

Summary

- 5. In many instances, the Godhead is a visible participant in significant "beginnings".
- 6. The "creation" of a child of God involves the entire Godhead.
- 7. In general, the Father is associated with thought (will) and authority, the Word (Son) is associated with expression (verbal and non-verbal), and the Spirit is associated with inspiration (action).
