

## Worship by Design: Created for Worship Ephesians 1:3-14

### INTRODUCTION

- Why this subject? Why now?
- Several choices had to be made for such a brief address.
- Essentially, I want us to get a glimpse of the glorious object of our worship, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to see how believers have been purchased in Christ to live out worship as a people. Today we'll see that we are Created (and re-created) for Worship.

### 1) Created for Worship

#### a. Creator: Triune God

- i. Elohim (the triune, plural, monotheistic God)
  1. Three Persons, One God
    - a. "Trinity" as a word is not found in the Bible
    - b. Revealed as true in the scriptures
      - i. **Genesis 1:26**, "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.'"
      - ii. **Genesis 3:22**, "Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of us...'"
      - iii. **Genesis 11:7**, "Come, let us go down and there confuse their language..."
      - iv. **Isaiah 6:8**, "And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?'...." (connection with worship – singular and plural usage)
  2. Each one all God (Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology* aided this)
    - a. All have all the attributes
    - b. **Hebrews 1:8**, "But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.'"

- c. **Ephesians 4:4-6**, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."
- d. **1 Peter 1:1-2**, "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, **2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you."
- e. **Jude 20-21**, "**20** But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, **21** keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."

#### ii. The Father

1. **Gen.1:1**, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
2. Primary function in creation: Speak the Word
3. Primary function in redemption: Planned and Sent Christ

#### iii. The Son

1. **John 1:1-4**, "**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men."
2. **Heb.1:3**, "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for

*sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high...*

3. Primary function in creation: Carried out Creation
  4. Primary function in redemption: Carry out redemption as the Sent One
- iv. The Holy Spirit
1. **Matt.28:19**, *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”*
  2. **1 Cor.2:10-11**, *“10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.”*
  3. Primary function in creation: Sustain and manifest (**Gen.1:2**, *“And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”*)
  4. Primary function in redemption: Sustain and manifest Christ's work
- v. Any attempt at analogy will fall short and, perhaps, leads to heresy
- vi. The Triune God is the object of our worship
1. *“The practical importance of the doctrine of the Trinity is that it requires us to pay equal attention, and give equal honor, to all three persons in the unity of their gracious ministry to us. That ministry is the subject matter of the gospel, which, as Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus shows, cannot be stated without bringing in their distinct roles in God's plan of grace (John 3:1-15)” – J.I. Packer Concise Theology*
  2. *“Within the triune Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), God has been uppermost in His own affections for all eternity. Therefore, God has been supremely happy*

*in the fellowship of the trinity.” - John Piper Desiring God pg. 33*

3. *“Another part of God's fullness which he communicates, is his happiness. This happiness consists in enjoying and rejoicing in himself; and so does also the creature's happiness. It is a participation of what is in God; and God and his glory are the objective ground of it. The happiness of the creature consists in rejoicing in God; by which also God is magnified and exalted.” - Jonathan Edwards “A Dissertation Concerning the End for which God Created the World”*

#### b. Creation: Chief End

- i. God's glory spread (not given or giving)
  1. The Trinity is infinitely happy within itself
  2. He needs no thing, even glory, yet creates to spread the glory that is shared within the Trinity
  3. **John 17:22-24**, *“22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. 24 Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.”*
- ii. God's glory spread in Creation
  1. **Isa. 43:6-7**, *“6 I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”*

2. **Acts 17:24-25**, *“24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.”*
3. **Col. 1:15-20**, *“15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

- c. **Re-Creation: God’s Glory spread in the Gospel (Ephesians 1:3-14)** – NOT a full treatment, but to see that the HOW and WHY of creation is the HOW and WHY of re-creation (new birth)
- i. Saved by God the Father (**vv.3-6**)
  - ii. Saved through God the Son (**vv.7-12**)
  - iii. Sustained by God the Holy Spirit (**vv.13-14**)
  - iv. Saved for Worship
    1. To the praise of His glorious grace
      - a. Grace is all of God
      - b. Man is the gracious recipient of God’s saving work and must believe
      - c. **Eph.2:8-9**, *“8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”*

2. Worship is a blessing to God’s people (**v.3**)
3. Our Worship is informed by this TRUTH
  - a. From God
  - b. By Believers in Christ, sealed by the Holy Spirit
  - c. For God (now and then fully realized – **v.14**) – THAT HE IS BLESSWORTHY – The future adoption as sons is in full view here

## 2) Application

- a. The object of our worship is other than us: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. One God in three persons.
- b. The purpose of creation is worship
- c. The purpose of re-creation is worship
  - i. If you do not know Christ you cannot worship Him (Rom.3:23)
  - ii. Self-serving, uninvolved believers are oxymoron at best, illegitimate at worst.
- d. This must impact our perspective of the weeks to come:
  - i. The context of worship
  - ii. The elements of worship
  - iii. The expressions of worship