**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | What Child Is This? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | John 1:1-4 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2492 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There is no greater question a person could ask than, “Who is Jesus Christ?”
      1. Answer it wrong and all else will be wrong.
      2. Your eternal destiny hangs on that question.
      3. There is one right answer and many wrong answers.
         1. “He was a great man.”
            1. This compares Jesus to other men; but Jesus is more than a man.
            2. H.G. Wells listed Jesus at the top of his list of the greatest men in history.

This is not good because Jesus does not belong on anyone’s list.

He is Jesus, the one and only.

* + - 1. “He was a great moral teacher.”
         1. C.S. Lewis said, “Any mere man who taught what Jesus taught would not be considered a good teacher. He would be either a lunatic or the devil.”
         2. C.S. Lewis said, “You must make your choice: either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a mad man or something worse.”
         3. C.S. Lewis said, “You can show Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and call Him a demon or else you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let none of us come away with any patronizing nonsense about Him being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us.”
         4. He must be a liar, a lunatic or Lord; and we understand that He is Lord.
      2. “He was a great messenger.”
         1. Islam believes Jesus is a messenger of God; one prophet of many.
         2. But we know Jesus was not a teacher come from God; He was God come to teach.
      3. “He is a mystic medium.”
         1. New Age idealists believe was a channel through which we can reach other worlds and our “inner world.”

He is not the way to reach other worlds; He is the way to reach God.

* + 1. There is one right answer.
       1. Jesus was and is the Son of God.
       2. Jesus was and is God the Son.
  1. John 1:1-4
  2. How can Jesus be God and the Son of God at the same time?
     1. We find this in what is called the doctrine of the Trinity.
        1. The Bible teaches of the Holy Trinity.
           1. To negate this doctrine is the source of heresy.
        2. Islam does not believe in the Trinitarian God.
        3. Some think that because Islam, Judaism and Christianity believe in one God, that we worship the same God.
           1. If they do not believe in the Trinitarian God then they do not believe in the same God.
        4. Things that are different are not the same.
           1. Islam does not believe in the Trinitarian God.
           2. Jehovah’s Witnesses do not believe in the Trinitarian God.
           3. Mormons do not believe in the Trinitarian God.
           4. Judaism does not believe in the Trinitarian God.
  3. We worship one God Who has revealed Himself in three Persons.
     1. God the Father is God, God the Son is God and God the Holy Spirit is God.
     2. God the Son is the one who created everything.
        1. In Exodus 3:14, God reveals Himself to Moses as, “I AM.”
           1. Not “I was” or “I will be,” He is the great “I AM.”
           2. He never had a beginning or ending.
           3. He is the uncreated and self-existent God.
        2. In John chapter 8, Jesus is speaking with the Pharisees, who accuse Him of being born out of fornication.
           1. In verses 56-58, Jesus tells them that Abraham saw His day and was glad.
           2. When Jesus says “Verily, verily” He is telling them to listen closely.
           3. Jesus then calls Himself “I AM;” the most sacred name for God to the Jews.
           4. The Pharisees tried to stone Him because to them, this was blasphemous.
     3. God the Spirit is God.
        1. The Holy Spirit is not merely an influence from God; He is God Himself.
        2. Acts 5:3-4
           1. Ananias and Sapphira lied to the church about some property they had sold.
           2. Peter accuses them of lying to the Holy Ghost.
           3. Then in verse 4, Peter says they lied unto God.

The Holy Spirit is God.

* + 1. These are Three in One, co-equal and co-eternal.

1. THE SACRED MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY
   1. John 1:1
   2. We know that Jesus is God because God told us so.
      1. How this is possible is a sacred mystery.
      2. We only know of the Holy Trinity by divine revelation.
      3. We do not understand the Trinity by: logic, investigation, philosophy or mathematics.
      4. Therefore, we must lay our intellectual pride in the dust and understand that this is a sacred mystery.
   3. How are we going to understand God, He being infinite and we being finite?
      1. 1 Timothy 3:16
   4. There are many things we believe without having to understand it.
      1. Infinity
         1. Things that go on and on without any sort of end.
         2. Our mind cannot begin to conceive of infinity; we just believe it.
      2. Eternity
         1. Everything we know of has a beginning and an end.
         2. But we know that time cannot cease to exist.
      3. God’s omnipresence
         1. God is everywhere at the same time.
         2. This is contrary to human logic.
         3. God is a presence whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere.
   5. We cannot illustrate the Holy Trinity.
      1. Some will try to say that God is like this or that; God is not like anything.
         1. He is God.
         2. Isaiah 40:18
            1. One musician can be compared to another musician, one chair can be compared to another chair, one light bulb can be compared to another light bulb.
            2. God is God; the one and only and He cannot be compared.
   6. We see reflections, not proofs or illustrations, of the Trinity in our lives.
      1. Time: past, present and future
         1. There is one thing that we call “time.”
         2. The past is not the present, the present is not the future and the future is not the past.
         3. All three are part of the same thing (time) but all three are distinct.
         4. You cannot have a past without a present, you cannot have a present without a future and you cannot have a future without a past.
      2. Space: height, width and depth
         1. You cannot have height without width, you cannot have width without depth and you cannot have depth without height.
         2. All three are part of the same thing (space) but all three are distinct.
   7. The Triune God is not three gods; that would be polytheism.
      1. The Holy Trinity is not 1 + 1 + 1 = 3, it is 1 x 1 x 1 = 1.
   8. Not understanding the Trinity shouldn’t bother us; instead, it should give us comfort.
      1. We would not have any confidence in a god that we could understand.
      2. God is bigger than our logic and bigger than our understanding.
2. THE SOVEREIGN MAJESTY OF THE TRINITY
   1. God the Father is God, God the Son is God, and God the Holy Spirit is God.
      1. All are sovereign.
   2. John 1:2-3
      1. Did Jesus create the world or did God the Father? Yes!
   3. The Trinity is evident in the creation story.
      1. In John 1:2-3, John mentions the creation story in reference to Jesus Christ.
      2. In Genesis 1:1, the word “God” is the Hebrew word “Elohim,” which is a plural noun, but in this passage, it takes a singular verb.
         1. “Elohim” could be translated as “Gods.”
      3. Genesis 1:26, “God,” singular, said, “*Let Us make man in Our own image*.”
         1. God is speaking of Himself.
   4. The Trinity is evident in the great commandment.
      1. The Trinity is not solely a New Testament doctrine.
      2. Deuteronomy 6:4-5 is the great commandment to the Jews.
      3. The word for “one” in this passage is “echad,” which is a plural word.
         1. In this passage, “one Lord” does not speak of a singular “one,” but a plural “one.”
         2. Examples of plural “one”:
            1. One bunch of grapes

Genesis 2:24

* + - * 1. Husband and wife are one flesh

Genesis 11:6

* + - * 1. The people is one
        2. Numbers 13:23
      1. “One Lord” refers to one Lord who is a unity; a unity one.
  1. The Trinity is evident in the eternal fatherhood of God.
     1. God did not become Father when Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
     2. Jesus was not the Son of God because He was born of a virgin; He was born of a virgin because He was the Son of God.
     3. The Son of God is revealed in the Old Testament.
        1. Daniel 3:25
           1. Three Hebrew were cast into a fiery furnace because they did not bow down and worship an idol.
           2. In Daniel 3:25, Jesus is identified as the fourth man in the fiery furnace.
        2. In Proverbs 30:4, Solomon speaks of the Great Creator and His Son.
        3. In Psalm 2:6-7, God refers to His Son when He speaks of His purpose in this world.
        4. In Isaiah 9:6, the Son is called “Mighty God.”
        5. In Isaiah 10:20-21, Jehovah is called “the Mighty God.”
  2. The Trinity is also evident in the Christmas story.
     1. In Matthew 1:20-23
        1. The angel of the Lord tells Mary that her Son shall be called “Emmanuel,” which means, “God with us.”
        2. The Holy Spirit, the Son and the Father are all mentioned.
  3. The Trinity is also evident in the great commission.
     + 1. In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus tells His disciples to baptize, “*In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost*.”
          1. It would be sheer blasphemy for Jesus to be equated to God the Father if He was not equal to God the Father.

1. THE SAVING MINISTRY OF THE TRINITY
   1. Our destiny depends upon the Holy Trinity.
   2. Ephesians 1:3-5
      1. We were selected by God the Father.
         1. Before God swung this world into space, God selected, God shoes us.
            1. If God had not first chosen us, we would have never chosen Him.
         2. God looked through the corridors of time and chose us. God knew from all eternity that we would receive Him and trust Him.
      2. We are saved by God the Son.
         1. Ephesians 1:6-7
            1. In verse 6, “Beloved” refers to Jesus.
         2. Jesus Christ has redeemed us.
         3. Apart from the precious blood of Jesus Christ, no one is saved.
      3. We are sealed by God the Spirit.
         1. Ephesians 1:13-14
         2. Once we’ve trusted in the Lord Jesus, it is the dear Holy Spirit who seals us unto the day of redemption.
         3. The Holy Spirit is our, “down-payment.”
            1. This is why we can believe in eternal security.
         4. The biblical definition of a “seal” is a finished transaction, a transfer of ownership.
            1. It speaks of protection.
            2. We are protected by the Trinity, because the Holy Spirit has sealed us with the blood of Jesus Christ.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Jesus is the Son of God and God the Son. The Holy Trinity is a sacred mystery that we should try to understand. God is bigger than us; the only way we can understand Him is if He reveals it to us Himself.
   2. We are selected by the Father, saved by the Son and sealed by the Spirit.
   3. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   4. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16