

# The Most Holy Trinity – June 10&11, 2017 – Reflection

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Every year on the Sunday following the Feast of Pentecost, the Church celebrates Trinity Sunday, that most unfathomable of Christian doctrines that God is one in three persons. If ever there were a mystery whose depths could and should not be plumbed, this is it. And yet, each year we poor, limited preachers are asked to brilliantly unravel the unexplainable, to clarify the hidden, to reveal the secret. And, every year as we open our mouths, we give people who already think we don't know what we're talking about the proof they've been waiting for!!

This year as I grapple with presenting our God, one in Being, triune in Majesty, I thought I'd try a little cooking experiment. Our recipe simply calls for only one ingredient, an EGG. As you look at this object, I think you would have to agree that it is indeed ONE object that, by convention, we call an EGG. Now let me do a little something: I'm going to crack the EGG. Now, in the halves of the shell, I'm going to separate the YOLK from the WHITES. Now I'll put the YOLK in one cup, the WHITES in another cup, and the SHELLS in a third cup.

So, what did we start with? One EGG, right? And, what do we have now? Three cups with stuff that came from the one EGG, but stuff that we call three separate names: YOLK, WHITES, and SHELLS. Could you rightly say as I held one of the cups before your eyes and asked you to identify the contents, EGG? I suppose you could. But it

would be clearer and more precise if you identified each according to its own special manifestation: YOLK; WHITES; SHELLS.

Now, *God* is not an EGG, though *God* is the beginning and source of all life. If we look at the YOLK, we can see it is bright like light, the center, the core ... like *God* the FATHER. If we look at the WHITES, it's clear, almost invisible, a force that feeds life ... like *God* the HOLY SPIRIT. If we look at the SHELLS, we can see it: solid but fragile; something that can be touched ... like the Word made Flesh, the incarnate SON OF GOD, JESUS CHRIST.

So, our recipe started with one EGG with three vital parts.

Our faith starts with one *God* in a dance of three vital Persons.

How to put this mystery into words? St. John might've done it best: "God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God and God in them." So, love *God* then. And where do you look to find *God*? Look only as far as your neighbor. Love them and you'll love *God*, find them and you'll find *God*.

One great mystery. Try to explain it as I have, and, sadly, the YOLK'S ON YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!