

People of the Spirit

Part 2 - JESUS - Trinity // Pastor Jordan Biel // Rock of Grace // 09.19.21

One of our core beliefs at Rock of Grace is that of the Trinity.

When we say “the Trinity” we are indicating the Godhead - that God is Father, Son & Holy Spirit, three-in-one.

Last week we celebrated that ... We are people of the Spirit because the FATHER in Heaven has given us His Spirit which causes us to know that we are His children, unconditionally loved and chosen to bear His name!

Today, we're looking at the the second person of the trinity, JESUS, the Son of God!

LETS PRAY>

I hope you are enjoying the book we gave out last week “Experiencing The Trinity”

If you didn't get a book, will you raise your hand now and our ushers will bring one to you. The author Joe Thorn, mentions that he wrote this little book after going through a very difficult season. In that season, he had to write down what he knew to be true even though he wasn't feeling it in the midst of his pain. I imagine most of us have been there before. This book came out of that painful experience and it is SO good and so accessible. Please raise your hand if you didn't get one because I want every family to have one. Please go through this book with a friend, neighbor or co-worker and discuss the goodness and grace of God together.

I've separated my sermon into three segments and like any good pastor, I'll give you three words that start with the same later. Why? I don't know. It's just what we do - ok =) We want to make it easy to remember I suppose.

Before I give you those three adjectives about Jesus I want to first give you some nouns in the sense of Jesus' identity.

Jesus is Powerful above all.

Jesus is Patient with us.

Jesus is Poised (meek - gentle and brave)

Jesus is Powerful above all.

Colossians

Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus is at work in Creation. He existed before you existed.

He is supreme ...

Jesus announced His ability to save ...

When asked “are you the Messiah” he said “I AM”

When pressed by the Pharisees, he said “My Father in Heaven sent me and you don't know Him.”

When pressed a little later, He said “Someone greater than Abraham is here and you don’t recognize it” Calling himself greater than Abraham - that really flipped their lid!

Jesus KNEW who HE was. That’s a central idea today so be sure to hear it. JESUS knew who He was.

Jesus is powerful to save! He gives us a better hope - a hope of eternal life with Him!

Colossians 1:13. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

People are longing for THE LIGHT - the unwavering and unchanging truth in a changing world.

Look, people KNOW there’s darkness and evil in the world.

Larry Nassar, the olympic coach was allowed to sexually abuse these athletes for YEARS.

FBI was told in detail by these Olympians in 2015!

Yet he continued to not only coach but abuse MANY girls.

Why?

Why could that go on?

Greed, Power, Prestige, Having a winning team from OUR country!

Protecting a friend - maybe money....

All kinds of sin are at play and we can see in the world around us the effects and damages of sin.

Maybe in your own life, you’ve seen sin - something that caused you to be selfish and prideful and it hurt or broke a relationship.

Maybe you remember stealing or lying - whatever the case - most people - if they’re honest will tell you that they KNOW they are far from perfect.

Most however compare themselves to the Larry Nassars in the world and deem themselves “good” but the Bible says that ALL are guilty of sin and yet JESUS came to remedy that!

John 3:16-22

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

¹⁹ And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. ²⁰ For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. ²¹ But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God.”

Jesus offers us forgiveness and how is possible that He can offer that to us? That means HE has to be perfect and without sin in order to make such a claim.

He is without sin, perfect, holy, blameless and yet He dies in our place and HIS BLOOD has the POWER to cleans you and I from ALL our sin and mistakes and FREE US of all our guilt and regret!

WOW. JESUS is POWERFUL!

God is powerful to save!

Listen to the way God describes Himself and His ability to save us and protect us if we would only repent of our sin and turn to Him.

Ps 81:7-16

- 8 Hear, O my people, while I admonish you!
O Israel, if you would but listen to me!⁹ There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not bow down to a foreign god. ¹⁰ I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill
it. ¹¹“But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.
¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.
¹³ Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!
¹⁴ I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.
¹⁵ Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever.
¹⁶ But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I
would satisfy you.”

Now, you may not see JESUS in this but you have to realize that while this was written, JESUS the son of God was in Heaven seated at the right hand of the Father.

This is one of many moments when God is calling out to people “Just trust Me! Just repent of your sin and let me take care of you! I will protect you from your enemies. I will feed you with the best food and satisfy you completely!”

GOD is powerful to save us from our sin, save us from our selfish, destructive habits and save us from ourselves!

Jesus is Patient with us.

Psalms 86:15

Jesus patiently forgives us.

He is not a high priest who hears us and hears about our sin and problems and grows tired of it. He doesn't get worn down by your prayer request and constant need of Him.

He KNOWS you need Him and he knows who He is as the one who goes to the Father to patiently intercede on your behalf, making YOU righteous as YOU repent and call upon His name.

I love this passage from Hebrews 6:19 then into chapter 7.

¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, ²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek

7 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, ² and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. ³ He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

Expound ...

Jesus is able to be incredibly patient with us because He became human so He could suffer alongside us! He is what the prophet Isaiah calls a “suffering servant.”

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

Do you know who JESUS is as a man?

Yes, He is God and FULLY God but did you know that He is also fully man?

It's almost uncomfortable to say, right? But Scripture says that He came as a baby - we'll celebrate that in just a few months at Christmas right?

Jesus was fully human and in that humanity, we see this beautiful humility. He experienced adversity, abandonment, pain and turmoil, poverty and hunger and even betrayal.

The Son of God took on flesh and bone to experience all that we experience so that He could empathize with us truly and so that we would see that He was truly coming to become to the new human, the example to which we can look - the human/Creator God that would die for ALL humanity to redeem us!

In order to die in the place of all humanity, he had to become human. Heb 2:17 and 1 Tim 2:5 make that clear - that only a perfect human could pay for the sins of humanity according to the law.

To really see His beauty, you have to take in both His deity and his humanity. His perfection and his human frailty. This shows you the beauty of his humility. He's not only our Savior in this way but also our example. He shows us the way - what it means to become godly and a servant - a son - a child of God.

Titus 2:13-14

Jesus, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

The tyranny of sin will always take you further than you wanted to go, make you pay more than you wanted to pay and make you stay longer than you intended to stay.

I was in a Foster care class on Wed evening and hearing yet again stories of men and women doing things they deeply regret and hearing the mess they get themselves into sometimes after just a few drinks too many or experimenting with a new drug and then their inhibitions are lowered and ability to think straight and next thing you know, they've done something they deeply regret - something that causes their kids to be taken away for a while.

It's so sad, really.

Then there's the

Jesus came to destroy all that sin - to fix that mess.

The issue isn't that God CANT fix the problems in the world, it's that people would rather have their problems then surrender to God and admit their need for Him.

I do think we have a part to play - as Christians.

I think, in large part, Christians have not done a great job in demonstrating who Jesus is to the world and inviting them into His family. Some do. I don't doubt that. And actually I see it often here at Rock of Grace.

But there are countless Christians who don't mirror Jesus and reflect His loving, gracious and truthful image. They believe in a works-based religion - a performance based religion and honestly would rather see many people "pay" for their sin instead of being forgiven of their sin.

Many Christians have forgotten that they too were once very broken, sinful, greedy, selfish people. We have to remember that without Christ, we are broken, sinful, greedy, selfish, people.

When we realize our sin and confess it to Him, in that MOMENT, Jesus forgives us and the Creator has not only saved you but is saving you!

He teaches us to walk in HIS ways and corrects us when we're wrong - how? By His Spirit!

We are people fo the Spirit!

His Spirit has come into our mortal bodies and made us His temple.

Ezekiel 36:22-32 You know it's one of my favorite passages - GOD writes His law upon our heart!

When I was writing a song with Daulton Reese, an Innovate Records artist a few months ago, I loved the line at the end of his chorus "Your write your love upon my heart." I asked him "Can we add 'You write your law upon my heart'"

That way we include this doctrine - this theology that not only do we realize how loved we are by God but we realize that we *now* begin to even love his law - like David loved His law. We begin to LOVE His ways and His law - why - our HEARTS are NEW.

Now, we actually WANT to only do what's right, not what's convenient.

We are people of the Spirit and as people of the Spirit, we are compelled now to do what pleases Him and we enjoy doing what pleases God and puts a smile on His face! (Ez. 36:22; 1 Co. 3)

JESUS is POWERFUL, PATIENT and lastly...

Jesus is Poised (meek - gentle and brave)

There's no one like Jesus!

There's no one that has ever lived that was as confident and humble as Jesus.

He knew who He was yet humbled Himself to be known by us, befriended by us, suffer alongside us.

Jesus is poised. We'll get to this more in a moment. Turn to 1 Peter 5.

1 Peter 5:1-11

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but

eagerly; ³ not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹ To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

You know the most Christ-like character trait you can develop is humility. I didn't say weakness. I say humility.

The problem is that meekness rhymes with weakness so we tend to think they are the same but they certainly are not.

Meekness and humility isn't thinking less of yourself. It's thinking of yourself, less.

It's putting someone else's dignity above your own - why?

You have nothing to prove!

When you are poised like Jesus was, you don't NEED accolades or praise to make you happy. You are content and poised, unshaken, because you know who you are as God's child, perfectly known, perfectly loved, totally forgiven.

Paul says in Philippians “Consider others more highly than yourself!”

Think about this. This is what JESUS DID.

John 8:1-11

The woman caught in adultery

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. ³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. ⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.”

⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. ¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

The law actually had great juris produce. Better than our system in America actually. In America you can convict someone with simply having one eye witness and as long as there's beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law, you can be convicted of a crime - even murder.

Not in ancient Israel. Not with the Torah.

I was listening to the Bible Project podcast this week and they were teaching about the Torah. In Deut 7 and 13 we're told about adultery and even in Leviticus and what was required to convict someone of adultery was two witnesses and you had to have the man AND the woman caught.

So in this moment with this woman, where's the man!?

Where is the man she slept with?

And who is the second witness.

These pharisees felt “Aha, we've trapped Jesus! If he knows the law, he's compelled to agree that this woman deserves to die therefor, if he ignores that, He disobeys the Law and can't be the Messiah, sent from God.

If He does agree with us and chooses to stone her to death, then everyone will know ... He's not this compassionate, empathic person!

What will be his message ... “come to me you who are heavy burden and I will... stone you to death!”

You see the Pharisees felt WE HAVE HIM TRAPPED

If He obeys the law and kills her, he is not as merciful and compassionate as He claims.

If He forgives her, then He

Others may have been trapped by this. But not Jesus. Not Jesus. Jesus fulfills the law. Jesus knew that they were actually missing both the man who slept with her AND the two people who caught them in the act. He knew they were simply trying to look better than him and trap him. Jesus wasn't shaken by the drama.

Jesus was poised. He wasn't shaken by the crowd of Pharisees who were circled around him, stones in the air.

Guys, Jesus, if he wasn't poised, he could've been afraid that He too would be stoned to death.

Jesus forgave her but he also said “Go and sin no more”

He didn't ignore her sin. He forgave it THEN instructed her to go and sin no more.

By the way, the order of His two statements matter.

I love what Tim Keller says about this moment in Jesus' ministry.

The order of Jesus comments matter a great deal. It's the Gospel.

Jesus say “Where are your accusers? Neither do I accuse you. Now go, and sin no more.”

The reason the order of his words are important is because THAT is what the Gospel is.

JESUS removes the accusation. Even HE doesn't accuse us. Why? HE takes on the accusation. He steps between US and our accuser.

We talked about this earlier in our passage from Hebrews. He's the great priest - the the one who goes between.

Stones are raised, ready to be thrown at us for we are guilty but JESUS steps in and takes them for us.

“Where are your accusers? Neither do I accuse you.”

In the movie “Jesus Film” the directors take a bit of creative license which I loved and they had Jesus drop the stone at his own feet. As if to say “throw them at me” I’ll take the blame.

Then what does he say “Go and sin no more.”

Jesus doesn’t want you to keep singing as if He is fine with it and he’ll just keep forgiving you. NO. He knows that your sin causes you and others pain.

He knows that your sin and my sin causes us to be separated from God - a perfect, holy God. He teaches us “GO and sin no more.”

The powerful truth you need to remember is that “going and sinning no more” IS POSSIBLE because He sent His Spirit to come into us making us a new creation that desires to please Him. Like we said earlier, He writes His law upon our heart.

Jesus isn’t shaken in this moment. Surrounded by people with rocks in the air - ready to throw. He’s not afraid of people being mad at him or not liking him.

**When you are poised, you are not afraid of people disagreeing with you or attacking you.
When you are poised like Jesus, you are not in need of everyone liking you.**

If you need everyone to like you then you haven’t yet taken on the identity of Jesus or stepped into all that He has for you.

If you need everyone to agree with you - if not, you start an argument - then you have yet to take on the posture of Jesus - the identity of Jesus. When you are poised, you don’t need everyone to agree with you or like you.

You know who you are and what you stand for. Period.

Jesus was poised with compassion and dignity, confidence and humility.

He knew he was “HIGHER” than the woman caught in adultery but He lowered himself. He didn’t say He was less; He acted less. He acted lower - to come to her level - to get eye to eye with her.

Jesus, in the sense that He was God, was the wealthiest person ever!

He had streets of gold, pearl gates and all that you could ask for in Heaven but He left it all ... for THIS WOMAN - FOR YOU!

We are the harlot, caught in adultery. We are the sinful ones Jesus came for.

Oldest to Youngest

Notice vs 9 of our story.

They dropped their stones after Jesus’ comment “You without sin cast the first stone.” They dropped them beginning with the oldest. Why? They knew they too were sinners. Some of them even adulterers. It’s possibly by the way, that one of them could’ve slept with this very woman. Why did the oldest drop their stone first? Because often, in youth, there is a pride that doesn’t want to admit when we’re wrong.

Often, as you get older if you let the Holy Spirit mature you, you realize that you have A LOT to learn and that you have been forgiven of A LOT. Often when someone is younger, especially if they’ve grown up in religion they can falsely believe that they really aren’t a sinner and really are right about just about everything.

Jesus saw them realize their own depravity when he asked them “You who are without sin, throw the first stone.”

2 Corinthians 8:9

For you know the grace of our lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake, became poor, so that you by his poverty, might become rich. (It's a mouthful so read it again)

Romans 12

The reason I put this point - Jesus is POISED - as the last point and this story as our last passage is because this is WHY JESUS came.
To forgive us and show us how gracious God is.

This idea of

“Humility is the earth in which all the graces of Christian godliness grow.” Alistair Begg

“God gives grace to the humble...”

Most the religious leaders were too afraid to confess their need for God publicly bc their pride kept them wanting mans approval - even needing it.

One of the ways you can tell if you are poised like Jesus is by evaluating how to you respond to three things.

1. Criticism Do you have to be liked by everyone? Are you able to receive feedback?
2. Praise Do you crave it. If you hear it are you just fine with saying “thank you”
- 3.

“Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.”

John 12:42-43 ESV

Humility wants Gods approval and knows that it's only possible by admitting our need for God's renewal.

Johnathan Edwards teaches something remarkable that theologians and philosophers are still studying called the difference between moral reformation and transformation. Do you see a moral affirmation the prideful and selfish inclinations of the heart are restrained. Someone who has been morally refined morally reformed will suppress the pride and selfishness and greed in their heart to become generous to appear generous to appear kind but it's different with in moral transformation because it's not that the sin is repressed sometimes for the sake of selfish gain but rather in moral transformation the selfishness is eradicated it's gone God has melted a heart and truly changed it.

Galations 5 talks about the fruit of the spirit

One of them is gentleness. The original language actually connotes “humility”

When someone isn't gentle. When someone is easily irritated and ready to accuse and make someone feel guilty it's bc of pride in the heart - a lack of humility. A lack of the spirit doing the work of forming Jesus in them.

Back to our story of this woman

The law DID say to stone her.
The same law indicates that we too are sinners who deserved to die.
But JESUS paid our price by dying on the cross for us.

Do you know this JESUS?

**Have you let His Spirit come in to your heart making you a brother or sister,
a child of God?**

Jesus averted their attempt to trap Him.

Jesus is so wise here because he doesn't ignore the sin. He does say "go and sin no more" but first He ensures that she is covered by grace. He's knelt down. He's met her on HER level.

He's humbled himself. He is showing meekness (knowing you have strength /dignity ...) but lowered Himself to meet her in her pain.

He's drawing in the sandy dirt.

You don't draw unless you're poised. He's not worried. He's not flustered. He's not afraid.

He is poised. Why? He knows who He is.

Tim Keller, an excellent preacher of the Word, says of this moment "Jesus knows who He is.

He even makes many bold claims such as "I am the Messiah" or "I am greater than Abraham"

or "Your sins are forgiven" implying he IS the messiah and able to forgive sins. So meekness and humility is not SAYING that you're less than you are. Jesus KNEW who He was and stated it. But it's ACTING like less than you are. That's meekness. That's humility. That's being poised."

Sermon on the Mount

I am meek and humble ...