

C S Lewis on the Trinity (from *Mere Christianity*)

- "God is a Being which contains three Persons while remaining one Being....The First Person is called the Father and the Second the Son. We say the First begets or produces the Second; we call it begetting, not making, because what He produces is of the same kind as Himself.... The Son exists because the Father exists: but there was never a time before the Father produced the Son....(He is always), so to speak, streaming forth from the Father, like light from a lamp... or thoughts from a mind. He is the self-expression of the Father – what the Father has to say. And there was never a time when He was not saying it....Much the most important thing to know is that it is a relationship of love. The Father delights in the Son; the Son looks up to His Father....What the Christians mean by the statement "God is love" (1 John 4:8) ... is that the living, dynamic activity of love has been going on in God forever and has created everything else....In Christianity God is not a static thing... but a dynamic, pulsating activity, a life, almost a kind of drama. Almost, if you will not think me irreverent, a kind of dance" (pages 172-175).
- The union between the Father and the Son is such a live concrete thing that this union itself is also a Person. I know this is almost inconceivable, but look at thus. You know that among human beings, when they get together in a family, or a club, or a trade union, people talk about the 'spirit' of that family, or club, or trade union. They talk about it's 'spirit' because the individual members, when they are together, do really develop particular ways of talking and behaving which they would not have if they were apart. It is as if a sort of communal personality came into existence. Of course, it is not a real person: it is only rather like a person. But that is just one of the differences between God and us. What grows out of the joint life of the Father and the Son is a real Person, is in fact the Third of the three Persons who are God.... This third Person is called, in technical language, the Holy Ghost or the 'spirit' of God. Do not be worried or surprised if you find it (or Him) rather vaguer or more shadowy in your mind than the other two. I think there is a reason why that must be so. In the Christian life you are not usually looking at Him. He is always acting through you. If you think of the Father as something 'out there', in front of you, and of the Son as someone standing at your side, helping you to pray, trying to turn you into another son, then you have to think of the third Person as something inside you, or behind you. Perhaps some people might find it easier to begin with the third Person and work backwards: God is love, and that love works through men – especially through the whole community of Christians. But this spirit of love, from all eternity, is a love going on between the Father and the Son" (Pages 175–176).
- Spiritual (relational) Formation implications: As the Holy Spirit catches us up into "Their dance", it makes sense that the way we relate to each other begins to approximate the way "They" relate:
 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).
 - Being filled w the Spirit as the prerequisite for Christian marital and family = *relational* life (Ephesians 5:18 - 6:9).
 - "I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph. 4:1-3).
 - "I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as you loved Me" (John 17:23).