

## Sermon – The Trinity; “The Son” John 1:1-18; Galatians 3:26-4:7

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Sermon audio and text can be downloaded from [www.waitara.anglican.asn.au](http://www.waitara.anglican.asn.au)

### INTRO – We CAN know God

**III** – How many people here have ever been on a plane? Have you ever met the pilot of your plane?

I’ve been on a plane 8 times. And I’ve **never** met the pilot. Yet for some reason I trust them to get me to my destination safely. I trust that they can fly the plane.

It’s just not always possible to check the qualifications of the pilot, or my train driver, or bus driver, or even my dentist or doctor or hairdresser or butcher or our kid’s teachers before I start trusting them with important parts of my life.

And some people think becoming a Christian is a bit like that. That you have to just trust God without really knowing him. Like the pilot of a plane or the new doctor you have to see. Some people believe that you just have to trust God and see how it goes. Because many people see God as some distant and abstract idea. Not as someone you can really know. In many religions, God is very distant and impersonal and unable to be known. But what the Bible says is that the one true God actually wants us to know him and he does that in the most personal way – by becoming human in the person of Jesus.

Last week we talked about God as Father, and how God wants to relate to us as our heavenly, perfect and eternal Father. God wants us to know that we are his children.

Today, we’re going to talk about God as the Son, Jesus. We relate to God as Father, but we can also relate to God as human, and even as a brother. So today we’ll look at 2 things:

- 1. That Jesus was fully God, and
- 2. That Jesus was fully human

And we’ll look at what that means for the way we relate to God.

### • 1. Jesus – Fully God

Let’s turn back to our first reading today from John. John 1:1 says:

- *“In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”*

Who is this Word? Let’s go down to verse 14:

- *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”*

The WORD is Jesus. John doesn’t start his gospel with the story of the **birth** of Jesus. John takes us back to the **beginning of the creation** and tells us that Jesus was there from the very beginning. That he was **with** God and that he **is** God. And that’s the first very important thing to know about Jesus: Jesus was not created, because he is God and he was there from the very beginning. In fact, as verse 3 says:

- *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

**III** – About 35 years ago in Binghamton General Hospital (in England?) several babies in the maternity ward died suddenly of unknown causes. Later it was found out that when they were mixing the formulas for the babies' food, the sugar had been replaced with salt. The mixture looked exactly the same, but it caused the death of several babies.

Sometimes when people talk about Jesus, it all sounds the same – he's a good guy, he lived on earth, he did miracles, he died, he rose. Some say Jesus *is* God, but some say that Jesus is NOT God – that he's just a prophet, or a teacher, or a miracle worker. Even in some churches throughout the world, there are people teaching that Jesus was not God, and that it doesn't really matter.

But if we don't believe that Jesus is God, it's a matter of life and death, like the difference between salt and sugar. The difference comes down to this: If Jesus is not God, then he's a liar. And we can't trust anything a liar says. But it also means that what he claimed to do, in dealing with sin, is also a lie. If Jesus is NOT God himself, then he can't pay for our sin by dying for us because he wasn't perfect.

Jesus was *there* at creation and Jesus *is* the creator. That's who Jesus is. Jesus, God the Son, is fully *God*. BUT, he is also fully *man*.

## • 2. Jesus – fully human

Why did God come to earth as a human? Why did he have to die? What was the point? Why do we need "God the son" to be human? It's important to know the answer to these questions, because it's a matter of life and death.

Turn with me to our second reading: Galatians 4.

**III** – Have you ever met anyone who had a trust fund? I knew a girl who had a trust fund. Her parents put aside a few million dollars for her, but it was under the control of a guardian. So even though she had this inheritance, she was still a "slave" to those who control the trust fund. The inheritance was under their control. She couldn't have her inheritance until certain conditions were met.

What Galatians tells us is that we have an inheritance from God. And let me warn you – this is a complex idea to understand from Paul's letter to the Galatians. God placed his law as a *guardian* of this inheritance – his kingdom. The law is the guardian of the trust fund. The law is the guardian of God's kingdom. And the law will not allow us to have our inheritance unless we perfectly obey God's law. But we haven't! BECAUSE we're human, we've all sinned! And because of that, the law won't let us have the inheritance. So we are slaves to the law.

Now look down at Galatians 4:4 –

- *"But when the time had fully come, God sent his son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights as sons."*

That's why Jesus came as a human. He came as a human so he could come as one under the law. Jesus was completely obedient to the law and so he satisfied all of the law's requirements. When he did that, **he removed the law as guardian**. Now *Jesus* has become the guardian of the inheritance of God's kingdom. And he wants to give that inheritance to us – as verse 4 says – he wants us to receive the *full rights* as sons.

So how does he do that? As a human, He takes the punishment for all of our sin by his death on the cross. And then he rises from the dead to show he has power over death.

**III** – I was speaking to a lawyer the other week who deals with people's wills when they die. And he said he sees a lot of arguments among families. He said sometimes a parent leaves all their wealth to one of the children who looked

after them, and the other children get nothing. And the other children don't think it's fair and they want a share of the inheritance. Even though they might not deserve it.

And that's what it's like for us. Jesus has been the good son. The perfect son. Jesus was completely obedient to the law. And Jesus then even took the punishment **we** deserve for all the wrong things we've done. Jesus deserves the inheritance, **but** He wants to share it with us and make us **real children of God with him**. He wants to make us his real brothers and sisters.

That's what Galatians 4:5 says. That God sent his Son...

*"to redeem those under the law."*

Jesus **redeems** us. That means he **buys us back**, by dying FOR US. We don't **deserve** to be sons and daughters of God, we don't **deserve** to be a brother of Jesus, we don't **deserve** the inheritance. But Jesus wants us to have it all. So how do we have it all? Let me go back to just one verse – John 1:12

- *"Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."*

**Only** those who receive Jesus, **only** those who believe in him name, will receive the inheritance of God's kingdom.

Let me conclude today by just coming back to the Trinity as a whole.

- **III** – I got these 3D glasses the other day when I went to the movies with the kids to see a 3D movie. They let you see the movie in 3D so it feels like you can really grab hold of the picture right in front of you.

I want us to think about the Trinity like that – God in 3D. God wants us to know him... really well. God doesn't want us to have a 2 dimensional understanding of him. He wants us to have a real 3 dimensional high definition relationship with him that we really grab on to. So we can't separate the Trinity. They are 3 distinct persons, but they are one. You can look at one dimension, God the Father, or God the Son or God the Spirit.

- But we need to keep coming back to God in 3 dimensions. Father, Son and Spirit.

God wants to relate to us as a Father and for us to come to him as his children.

God wants to relate to us as the Son – as a human, and as a brother, he wants us to share in the full inheritance of God's kingdom with him.

And God wants to relate to us as Spirit – but that's for next week!

- The Trinity in our life.

But knowing all this about the Trinity is useless unless we apply it to our life...

If we know God as the Father, then we need to live a life that trusts him as Father.

And if we know God as the Son, as the one who sets us free from the slavery to the law and offers us the inheritance of God's eternal kingdom, then that needs to impact the way we live. I want us to finish today must thinking about what the book of Galatians says in verse 9:

- Think about who we WERE: We WERE slaves. But because of our brother Jesus, we ARE children of God, sharing in the inheritance of God's kingdom with him. We WERE slaves. We ARE children of the inheritance. So then, how will we live?

Let's pray.