

Our Weighty Foundation to Bounce Well

Let's begin with a high-level, big-picture view, like viewing the earth from space. These *three essential* questions go a long way to point to how we can re-calibrate our inner compass as we lay a *weighty spiritual base*.

1. **“What is God like?”** He is like no other! God is relational Trinity, Father, Son and Spirit, with belongingness and oneness at His core. Read the creation account in Genesis 1. What He created reflects who God is. God is *good* (expressed ever day), *great* (He spoke and it happened), and *generous* (note the vast variety in His creation).

Reread the expression of how this God intimately relates to us in this seminal passage, Ephesians 1:3-14. The **Father** is the Living God. It's His good pleasure to bless and to adopt us blameless in His sight. The **Son** sacrificed His life to ransom us from the clutches of our enemies. He also chooses to include us with Him in His epic adventure to restore our world to the Father's heart. The **Spirit** permanently includes us in Christ as the seal and deposit guaranteeing our unending life. He empowers His people in every aspect of our spiritual life.

An accurate grasp of the Bible begins with the relational Trinity and the incarnation of Jesus. Both of which fry my mental circuits. Everything flows from this living, personal God. All things work through Him and will ultimately return praise and honor to Him. This world is the theater of God's splendor. God's handiwork is alive with the life and presence of the Father, Son and Spirit.

“In the confession of the Trinity throbs the heart of the Christian religion.” (Herman Bavinck).

“There is scarcely an error in teaching or in our practical walk with Christ that is not ultimately traceable back to an immature or improper view of God”
(A. W. Tozer).

2. **“How does this God see and know me?”** First, take a quick peek with me behind the curtain of time. **WHY** did God create? Not because of any lack. The Father, Son and Spirit were Community before anything else existed. Their unbridled delight and satisfaction with One Another in the outpouring of their mutual co-love and their joy-filled life with each other knew no bounds! However, life and love must be multiplied to reach the zenith of its fullness.

The Father so deeply loved His Son that the Team-of-Three decided to “go public” in creation. God designed His image-bearers as much like the relational Trinity as any created being could ever be. This Team longs to populate the world with men and women like Jesus to receive and to pass along His life and love to others.

Now our Family-of-Three has other companions to receive their Divine life, love and light. Now beings like Him display to others our passionate delight in our mutual indwelling. God is in us and we are in God, sharing the *same* glory and the *same* love as the Son received from the Father.

Of course, not for any vain reason. Not because God has a huge ego that needs our worship. We worship Him simply because He is worthy of our praise. Giving Him our all-in, wholehearted allegiance is His brilliant plan to release **our** highest and best.

In His glory (the shimmering brilliance of His character), He reveals the perfection of everything that is good and holy. *His* initiating *first*-love draws us to become all that God has prepared us to be. God gave **everything** to show that **nothing** will stand in the way of His redeeming all things to His glory.

This means God's *generosity* moved His *goodness* and *greatness* to create community beings like Himself. He created us in His image, as much like the Uncreated God as a created being could ever be.

Now focus on these three clear, primary aspects of God's design. ***First***, God fashioned us for *belonging*, to enjoy secure relationships, first with God and also with people (our ***identity***). ***Second***, for *purpose*, to partner together in significant mission, first with God and also with people (our ***authority***). ***Third***, to be *blessed or affirmed*. Experience this mutual, sincere acceptance first from God, then both toward and from people (our ***culture***).

Adam and Eve went rogue and failed God's test in Genesis 3, demonstrating to **every person** how much we need Him. Jesus has always been God's ***Plan-A***, "*the Lamb slain before the foundations of the earth.*" He conquered and still conquers. Jesus came both to remove all the damage created by Adam. He also came to outfit and train us up. Now we move forward "*in Christ*" towards God's eternal-intent of shared life in action.

"*In Christ*," God unites believers in a new, permanent relationship as fellow members of His spiritual body in union with Christ. "*I am in My Father, and you are in me, and I am in you,*" John 14:20. Can you imagine the impact this will have when we believe this Reality? We are the temple of God, in whom the Spirit of God dwells (Ephesians 2:22).

"*In Christ*," the Triune God draws us near to powerfully experience His eternal life, love and light from the inside out. This mutuality of "*Christ in us*" and "*us in Christ*" is the revelation of true humanness in the image of , which will be fulfilled in eternity future (Revelation 21:1-22:5).

This high view is the only one I know worthy of the extraordinary sacrifice of God Himself dying for me, oh mystery! Our relational God, Father, Son and Spirit, gives us a long, refreshing drink of how our Family-of-Three passionately delights in us. Begin with ***His*** passion ***for us***.

3. "*What are my God-Assignments today?*" God celebrates us with indescribable pleasure as His Beloved child, His servant-warrior, and His beautiful Bride. He enjoys partnering with us!

As His crown-jewel, we are both friends and partners, delighting ourselves in the Lord so He puts His desires on our heart. We mature and grow personally so we more accurately grasp our true **identity** and **authority**. Now we partner more fruitfully in our God-Assignments on His epic adventure to restore His prodigal world to His Father's heart.