

YOUR LIVING FAITH

Ephesians 4:1-6 ... “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

What is your understanding of the Godhead? When I speak of the Godhead I'm talking about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Catholics routinely pray to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit which is one way of remembering that all three roles of the trinity have active and meaningful roles in our lives. Protestants most often pray in the name of Jesus. And, the Bible actually instructs us to do that. Regardless of how you pray or which church you attend, it is vitally important that you understand and revere the Father, Son and Holy Spirit – one God with three different roles.

If you neglect to celebrate the Father's role in your life, you might be tempted to treat your life and the lives of others too casually, or even disrespectfully. We see the effects in our society when people do not consider life as having great value. This often happens when people lose sight of the fact that every life is a creation of the Father and his personal property. We see it in the high rates of murder, abortion, suicide, rape, human trafficking (including giving away children in early marriage) and other sins against humanity. People who do not value life (or the creator), can find it easy to abuse and destroy life, even their own.

If you neglect the Son, you will automatically neglect the salvation Jesus offers through his death on the cross. His sacrifice, suffering and resurrection will lose importance to you, which means that your future in the life to follow, will be very miserable.

If you neglect to honor the Holy Spirit, you essentially reject every aspect of God the Father and the Son because it is the Spirit guiding you that gives life to your relationship with God. Without the Holy Spirit living within your soul, God will seem like a distant, invisible, barely-there entity. Many people claiming to be Christians, pray to Jesus for help, but reject the help he offers them through his Holy Spirit. Nothing is more personal about your relationship with God, than your relationship with the Holy Spirit.

God does not hear your prayers if you are not living according to his plan for your life, and if you are not praying according to what God wants for you. If your prayer life is mostly you asking God for stuff and miracles, then you have no prayer life. I hope that is not how you have defined your relationship with God. If you want a good and healthy relationship with God; if you want to enjoy his blessings and the guidance he offers you through his Holy Spirit, then you must accept God's definition of a relationship. You must accept God for who he is – the Father AND the Son AND the Holy Spirit. You cannot have a relationship with God by only having a relationship with the Father, or the Son, or the Holy Spirit.

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