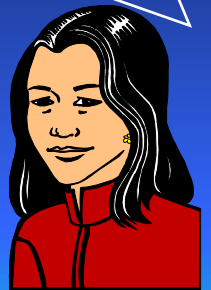


The Trinity

Class 4: Processions

Vern S. Poythress
Lansdale Presbyterian Church

What are
processions?



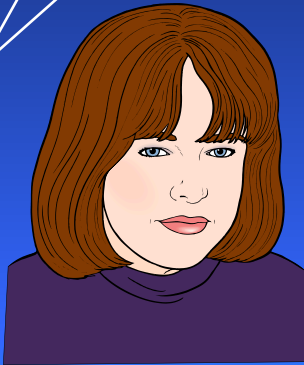
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Bible quotations are from the ESV

What Are Processions?

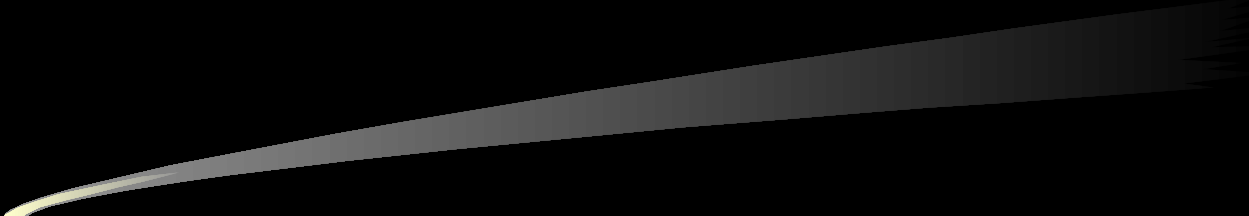
Why Does it Matter?

I can't understand the Nicene Creed. It says "begotten."



God gives more than one analogy in the Bible to help us understand.





Holy, Holy, Holy

1

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to
thee.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

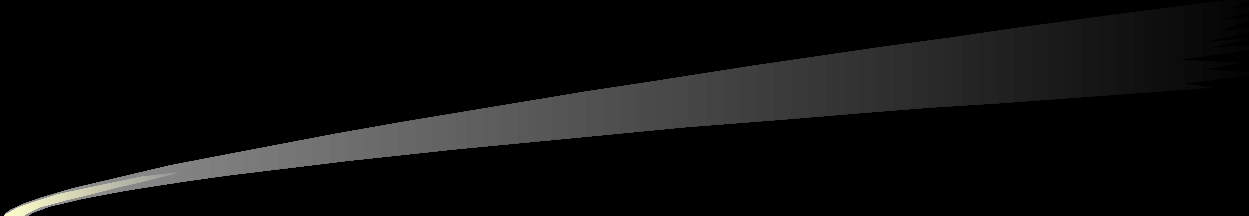
Holy, Holy, Holy

2

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea;

cherubim and seraphim falling down before
thee,

who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

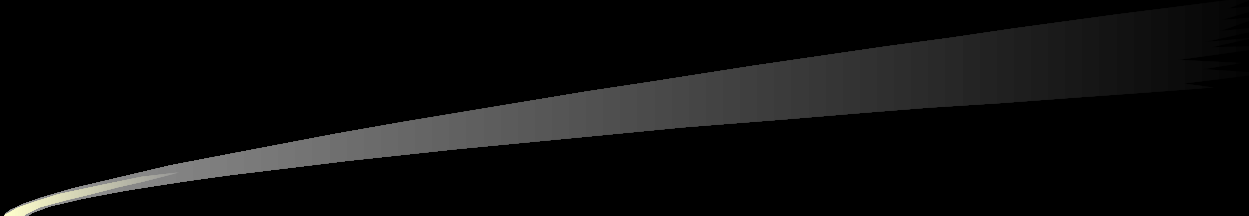


Holy, Holy, Holy

3

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not
see,

only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.



Holy, Holy, Holy

4

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All thy works shall praise thy name in
earth, and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

A. Application



Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

4 But when the fullness of time had come, **God** sent forth his **Son** born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the **Spirit** of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.

B. Formulation



Generation of the Son (Begetting)

God the Father eternally begets (fathers) the Son.

Nicene Creed:

begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father.

Procession of the Spirit (Spiration)

God the Father spirates (breaths) the Spirit through the Son.

Nicene Creed:

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is
worshiped and glorified.

Special Terms

- Origin of the Son
 - Father begets
 - Father generates
 - Son proceeds
- Origin of the Holy Spirit
 - Father spirates
 - Spirit proceeds

1 begetting; 1 spiration
2 processions

Analogies in the Bible

- Analogy with communication (speaking a word)
- Analogy with a family (Father and Son)
- Analogy with reflections (image)

C. Supporting Verses



1. Speaking, John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

God

speaks

The Word

When? Eternal

2. Begetting, Psalm 2:7

I will tell of the decree:
The LORD said to me, “You are my Son;
today I have begotten you.

The Father

begets

The Son

Begetting, Acts 13:33

this he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you.”

The Father

begets

The Son

Begetting, Gal. 4:4

But when the fullness of time had come,
God sent forth his Son, born of woman,
born under the law, ...

The Father

begets

The Son

Begotten When?

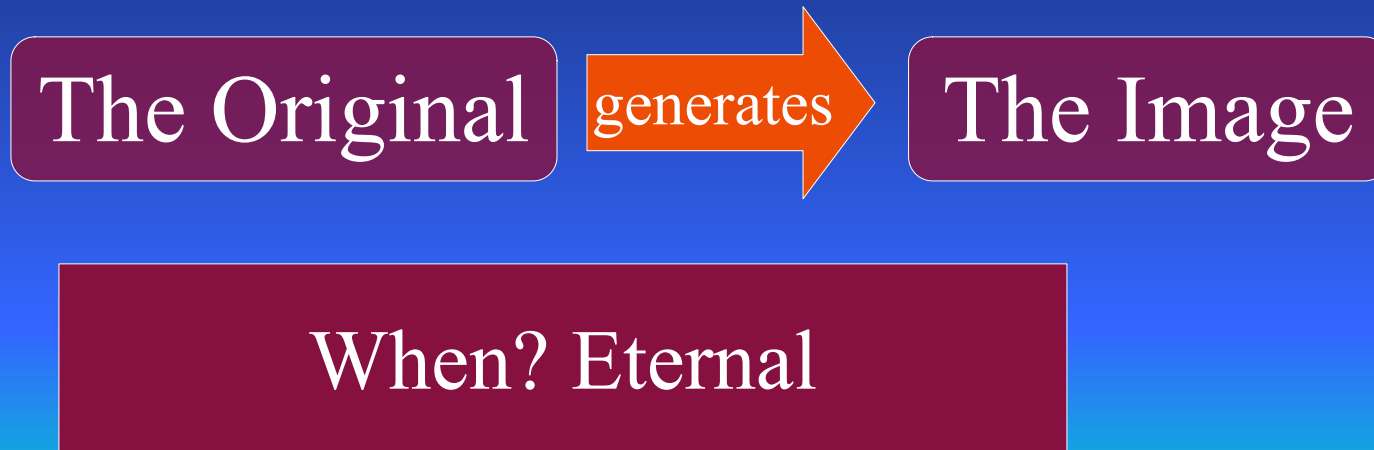
- Ps. 2:7
- Acts 13:33
- Gal. 4:4
- Resurrection
- Resurrection
- Incarnation

When? Key: God shows in time who he always is.

Implies eternal begetting

3. Reflecting, Col. 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, ...



The Pattern of Generating

First Person

- Speaker
- Father
- Original pattern

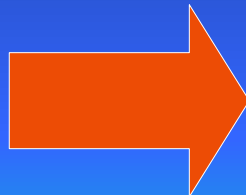
Second Person

- Word
- Son
- Image

Activity

- Speaks
- Begets
- Reflects himself

First Person



Second
Person

Analogies in the Bible

- Analogy with communication (speaking a word)
- Analogy with a family (Father and Son)
- Analogy with reflections (image)

The Role of the Holy Spirit

First Person

- Speaker
- Father
- Original pattern

Second Person

- Word
- Son
- Image

Third Person

- Breath
- Love
- Glory

First Person



Second
Person



Third
Person

Analogy with Communication: Breath (Ezek. 37:5, 9, 14)

5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones:
Behold, I will cause breath to enter you,
and you shall live.

רוּחַ *ruach*

14 And I will put my Spirit within you,
and you shall live,

Breath

Analogy with a Family: Love

For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.
– John 3:34-35



Bond of
Love

Analogy with Reflections: Glory (Ezek. 1:26)

26 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. ...

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. – Gen. 1:26

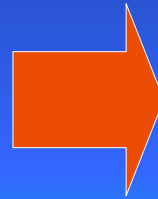
Analogy with Reflections: Glory (Ezek. 1:26, 28)

28 Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Analogy with Reflections: Glory (1 Pet. 4:14)

If you are insulted for the name of Christ,
you are blessed, because the Spirit of
glory and of God rests upon you.

Image,
the Son



Glory
Displayed

Analogy with Reflections: Glory (Isa. 63:11-14)

11 Then he remembered the days of old,
of Moses and his people.

Where is he who brought them up out of the sea
with the shepherds of his flock?

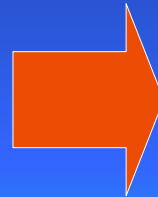
Where is he who put in the midst of them
his Holy Spirit,

12 who caused his glorious arm
to go at the right hand of Moses,
who divided the waters before them

Analogy with Reflections: Glory (1 Cor. 11:7)

For a man ought not to cover his head,
since he is the image and glory of God,
but woman is the glory of man.

Image,
the Son

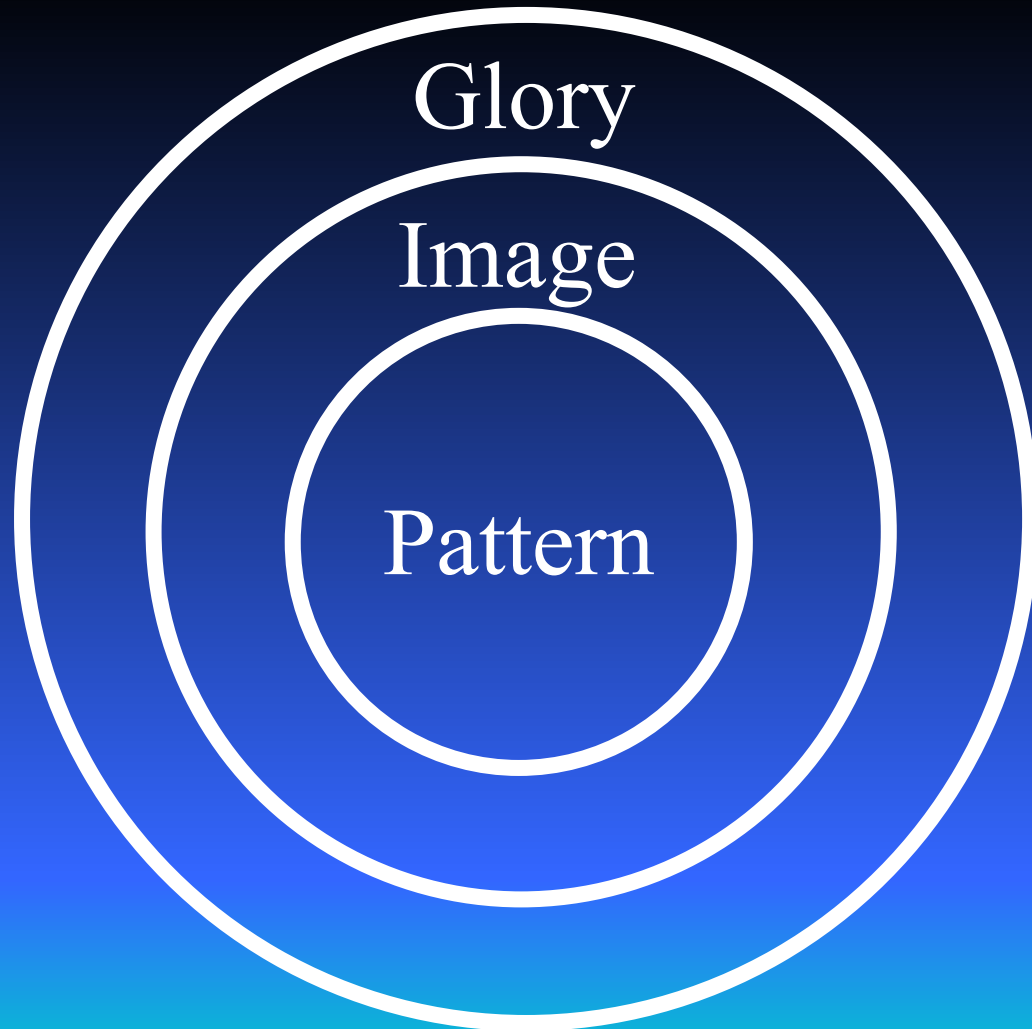


Glory
Displayed

Display (1)



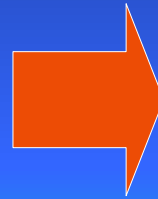
Display (2)



Analogy with Reflections: Glory (John 1:14)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Image,
the Son



Glory
Displayed

The Role of the Holy Spirit

First Person

- Speaker
- Father
- Original pattern

Second Person

- Word
- Son
- Image

Third Person

- Breath
- Love
- Glory

First Person



Second
Person



Third
Person

Analogies in the Bible

- Analogy with communication (speaking a word)
- Analogy with a family (Father and Son)
- Analogy with reflections (image)



D. Applications

You Are a Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

- Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.

God Acting according to His Character

God's Eternity



God's Redemption



You Hear God: John 17:8

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.



You Hear God: John 17:8

Eternal Pattern



Expression in Redemption



You Reflect God: 2 Cor. 3:17-18

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.



Man Creates (Gen. 1:26)

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Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Man Creates Imitatively



God Imitated by Man

Eternal Pattern



Expression in Redemption



You Have New Life: Rom. 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.



You Pray: Rom. 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

You Pray: Rom. 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

You Are Being Saved: Gal. 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

You Are Indwelt: Rom. 8:9-10

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

- John 14:23; 17:21-23; 1 Cor. 6:19.

You Are Under Care: Eph. 1:22

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,



- Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 13:20-21; John 10:14-18.

You Serve: Eph. 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

- Eph. 4:10-13; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 3:10-13.

God Sustains You: Heb. 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.



- 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 1:18.

God Acting according to His Character

God's Eternity



God's Redemption

