

The Perfect Relational Concept Is Your Relationship Going in the Right Direction?

by Dr. David A. DeWitt

- What would a perfect relationship look like?
- Can we have perfect relationships?

Some time ago, I did a *Concepts*' brochure entitled *A Biblical Perspective of Relationships*. There I defined a relationship as "a significant connection, which results in mutual identification." In other words, *if we have a relationship, we have some vested interest in each other*. Under the subtitle "The Nature of a Perfect Relationship," I suggested *there is one perfect relationship which can be easily observed in the Bible*. I was referring to the relationships within the Trinity. This brochure is an expansion of that idea.

There Is Perfect Submission in the Trinity

God is the head of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:3). ... *When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all* (1 Corinthians 15:28). ... *I [Jesus] will send Him [the Holy Spirit] to you* (John 16:7). ... *Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done* (Luke 22:42). ... *to sit on My right and on My left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father* (Matthew 20:23).

Notice:

- (1) Submission in the Trinity is not mutual. [Mutual submission is a contradiction in terms.] Submission in the Trinity is always one way, voluntary, and eagerly given from the Holy Spirit to the Son and from Them to the Father.
- (2) Submission is always given from the bottom up, not dictated from the top down.
- (3) Submission is motivated by the character of God. The Spirit submits to the Son and both to the Father because He is true, just, loving, righteous, holy, unchanging, etc.

Application

So in a perfect relationship (say, husband/wife, parent/child, employer/employee, or extended family), submission would never be mutual but neither would it be dictatorial. [Yosemite Sam's relational model "BECAUSE I SAID SO, VARMINT!" i□

ness, and holiness. But since none of us are like that, and we are especially not **consistently** like that, what should we do?

The answer is, we function not like a dictator but like an investigator, looking for the truth. A husband, parent, or employer is worthy of submission, not because they are always right but because they seek truth. They **look for** what is right, just, holy, and loving. A godly leader is worthy of submission, not because he or she is always right but because he or she is leading a quest for what is right.

The Members of the Trinity Have Perfect Unity

The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! (Deuteronomy 6:4). ... *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). ... *the Spirit of truth, ... will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak* (John 16:13). *No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him ...* (John 1:18).

The Trinity is in sharp contrast with all the polytheistic religious ideas where all the gods argued, fought, competed, even caused natural disasters, storms, and wars. The biblical Trinity is in contrast with pantheism, where everyone is self-focused—trying to get rid of his or her bad karma. Religions such as Rabbinical Judaism, Islam, and the Jehovah's Witnesses have no trinity to exhibit a perfect unity.

All other religions miss the beauty of having the perfect relationship displayed only by the biblical Trinity

Application

So in a perfect relationship there would be perfect unity. "But," you have to be thinking, "you don't get it, DeWitt. The whole problem is we aren't perfect in the first place." But that's my point in this brochure. I don't think that is the whole problem. True, we are not perfect, but the question is, "Are we going in the right direction with our efforts?"

The world's society belongs to the Devil, and he, not the persons of the Godhead, is directing its goals. Secular unity will measure everyone against each other via whatever is socially, religiously, or politically correct. Secular (satanic) relationships see people as gods living on this Mt. Olympus called earth, and we must relate together in such a way that your godness doesn't interfere with my godness. Your freedom ends at my nose. So our relationships begin with competition and end in tolerance and compromise.

The perfect unity, as displayed in the Trinity, is just the opposite. It says we should all agree (1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Timothy 6:3-5). [Imagine that as a standard for solving problems, say, at the U.N.] And the perfect agreement is not with each other. That's impossible because we are not perfect. The perfect unity is obtained by agreement with God, as defined in the Bible. For sure, that's difficult. But the question is, "Are we moving in that direction or the world's direction?" because as long as we are focused on compromising and tolerating each other's view of things, we are going 180 degrees in the opposite direction of perfect unity. So the further we go (the more "successful" we are at, say, negotiating peace between conflicting parties or counseling to help people get along), the further away we get from the biblical idea of perfect unity.

The Trinity Glorifies One Another Perfectly

He, the Spirit of truth ... will glorify Me (John 16:13-14). I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do (John 17:4-5). "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him (Matthew 17:5).

The three persons of the Godhead are always making known the value, wonder, majesty, in other words, the *glory*, of one another. This is in sharp contrast to Satan who turned this around and sought his own glory (Isaiah 14:14). And the world's idea of a good relationship will always follow the satanic model of glorifying yourself—hence, pride, self-accomplishment, self-value, self-worth, self-esteem, and self-achievement. So worldly (satanic) relationships will be based on each of us achieving our own self-actualization. But with the Godhead, it is just the opposite. They are always glorifying one another.

Application

So in a perfect relationship, each member would be glorifying the other. For example, suppose you introduced your spouse, son, or daughter, by saying, "This is my beloved wife [etc.] in whom I am well-pleased. Listen to her." Of course, we wouldn't say it like that, but what if that is what we actually communicated to those around us?

The Trinity Glorifies One Another Perfectly

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work (John 4:34). He [the Holy Spirit] will take of Mine [Jesus] and will disclose it to you (John 16:14). [God the Father] in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things (Hebrews 1:2). ... But of the Son He says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of His kingdom" (Hebrews 1:8).

In every glimpse we have of the Godhead, it seems they can't wait to serve one another and give to one another. The Father wants to give the Son a kingdom. The Son lives to serve the Father. The Holy Spirit continually serves the Son and the Father. And their service is defined by giving. It seems that it never occurs to them to get something from each other.

Application

So in a perfect relationship, each person would only, and always, be asking how they could serve the other. There would be no thought of what can I get, earn, accomplish, or achieve for myself. It's Satan who defines relationships that way. Remember, it's not just how good you are doing, but are you moving in the direction of the perfect, Trinity-like relationship. Are you trying to serve those you relate to or are you using them? Because **you cannot serve someone and use them at the same time**. Are you going toward a godly relationship or away from it?

Questions and Answers

Q: *What would a perfect relationship look like?*

A: A perfect relationship would like the way the biblical Trinity relates to each other: with submission, in unity, bringing glory to one another, and serving one another.

Q: *Can we have perfect relationships?*

A: No. But we can strive for them. The problem is we are usually striving for Satan's idea of a relationship (taught in the social standards of this world), not God's. It's not just that we are not perfect, the problem is most are headed in a direction 180 degrees away from a perfect relationship.