

(Q) What's the biggest challenge to teaching and preaching about our Triune God?
(A) There are no bible verses that clearly say that our Holy God is one God in three persons.

Off course we have:

- Lots of verses that say God is one – The great Shema – Hear, O Hear, O Israel the Lord our God is one (Deut 6) (Shema, Shema, Yisrael Yahweh Eloheenu, Echad)
- Lot's of verses that say Jesus is God – the 8 "I Am" statements where Jesus calls himself God.
- Lot's of verse that say the Holy Spirit is God.
- And of course, lots that say the Father is God.

But there no one text that wraps it all up into one teaching about the Triune God – "oops" unless you have the King James Version there is the perfect text: *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [Son], and the Holy Spirt: and these three are one.*

The perfect Trinitarian text – but unfortunately, it's not in any other bible version – it's a bit sneaky – King James wanted a clear verse on the Trinity, so he simply ordered the translators to put one in – or off with your heads.

Any way without King James' help we pull all the text together and we have a very clear teaching that The Father is God, The Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, and mysteriously we still hold the ancient Shema – that God is one.

It is a mystery – when I went to school $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$ – with God $1 + 1 + 1 = 1$.

Let's not get bogged down in doctrine – rather let's believe and trust that our one God comes to us in the three person for a purpose – to save us, to bless, and to make us Holy for heaven.

What's your favorite book?

Harry Potter? War and Peace? Motorcycle trader?

A few years ago we went to England for a holiday – awesome place to go.

Out of all England our priority was to see James Heriot country - right in the middle of the Yorkshire Dales and the Moors – we stayed at Thirsk – James Herriot's home town – where his surgery is.

We also went to the little town of Aidensfield – where the Heart Beat Serries was filmed. You remember Greengrass, PC Bellamy, Sergeant Blaketon?

I also wanted to go to Norwich – where a lady wrote a my favorite book.

Norwich is down the coast from Whitby.

We went to Whitby to see the home of Captain Cook – thought we had better do that – we were passing by anyway – the least we could do for Captain Cook.

Then Norwich – the famous city of churches – the home of Julianne of Norwich who wrote my favourite book.

Now Julianne of Norwich lived in the 14 hundreds. I got interested in her book because it's supposed to be the first book ever written by a woman in English – so I wanted to read what she had to say. I wanted to know what women really wanted in the Middle Ages?

Julianne was what they call a mystic – that is a bit like a monk – a person totally devoted to serving God and studying his word. She lived in a tiny single room attached to the Cathedral – with a cat.

Her book is all about the Holy Trinity – it's called "the Revelations of Divine Love" – it's very famous book if you're into that sort of thing.

She sums up the Triune God: "*All shall be well, all manner of thing shall be well.*" No doctrine there – it's a description of the mission and intent of the Triune God.

Last Sunday here we had Kurt and Pere sing "It is well with my soul" – twice!

The songs rings of Julianne's words "*All shall be well, all manner of thing shall be well.*"

The hymn "It is well" was written by a Christian businessman, Horatio Spafford, who sent his wife Anna and 4 children, by ship, to Europe, on a holiday, in 1871.

The plan was that he would come later on another ship.

In the middle of the Atlantic Ocean his wife's ship collided with another ship and they both sank.

Nearly everyone drowned except Anna – the kids drowned – 226 people drowned but not the wife – the mum.

She was picked up by another boat and taken to England. When she got there, she sent a telegram to her husband: "*Saved, alone, God gave us four daughters they're all gone - Someday I will understand why. What shall I do?*"

Horatio, set sail for England and his shipped stopped right where his wife's ship went down – a seafarers respect thing. At that place and at that time he received the words for that hymn:

When peace like a river attended my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll,
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

He also claimed it was the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit at work in him 3 different ways that gave him the strength to say those words and glorify God in the middle of tragedy.

Now back to Julianne of Norwich, sounds nice living by the Cathedral with her cat. Julianne lived in the middle of a town, in the middle of a terrible war, in the middle of the Black Plague – people were being killed or were dying all over the place.

Read her book to appreciate the miseries of England at that time.

And she wrote – just like Horatio: *“All shall be well, all manner of thing shall be well.”*

People used to come her window for comfort and she would say those words: *“All shall be well, all manner of thing shall be well.”*

How could she say that in the middle of such desperate times?

She said she was “enclosed” by the ministry of the Holy Trinity – not God but the Holy Trinity - being cared for in at least three different ways.

The three persons of the Trinity have very different job descriptions don't they?

3 different jobs with one intent - to “enclose” us completely and make us Holy For heaven.

Each *person* of the Holy Trinity is forever and constantly “enclosing” us with Love and peace.

Isn't it good to leave the doctrine of the Trinity behind, and all those inadequate explanations - and focus on the intent and mission of the Triune God – to enclose us with love and peace?

And what's more we find we are called into the work of the Triune God. In Baptism we take on the name of the Triune God – it's not flash – it's simply the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Through that triune name we are called into the same mission of enclosing people with love and peace. And mostly it says those people are the poor, the widows, the orphans, the lonely, and the strangers to God's love.

Scripture, tells us that we are made in the image of the Triune God, we are called to be the persons of the Triune God to people in our community.

When people are enclosed by the Triune God – our faith confidence grows - we too can float above the tragedy and say *“it is well with my soul”* – I am wrecked with grief and sadness – but my soul is God's business - *“it is well with my soul”*.

Julianne says, “We need the whole of the Holy Trinity if we are to be “enclosed” by love and peace - we need each person.

Is there anything God can't do? (Trick Question)

Jesus can't fully enclose us, The Holy Spirit can't fully enclose us, the Father can't fully enclose us, - The Triune God can and will, *muss und sollen*, enclose us with his love – fully and completely.

Is that too risky? Saying that each person of the Trinity on their own can't fully enclose us? I don't think so. Think about it. Can the Holy Spirit die on the cross? Can the father be resurrected to life? No!

We have all been through tragedy – If we stop and think we will agree with Julianne, and Horatio, we need the fullness of God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to enclose us with love and peace.

It's Trinity Sunday – let's name our God for who he is.

Dear God, protect me, love me, give me peace. Now is that God with a capital G or a little g, or is that the god of Islam, or Hindu

How about, Dear Holy, Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now that is the one true God.

We know there are situations out there - things which seem so evil that it seems impossible that anyone could ever be comforted.

This is not the case for Julianne, for Horatio, for me, what about you – Our Triune God is Committed to enclosing us with love and peace.

Tragedy upon tragedy – and they say “*It is well with my soul*” – you can only say this knowing the fullness of the creator Father, the saving son, and the nurturing Holy Spirit.

Please know the fullness of the Holy Triune God – listen to the complex support network that goes on in our Triune God:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access, by faith, to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but let us also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. Our Romans 5:1-5 Amen.