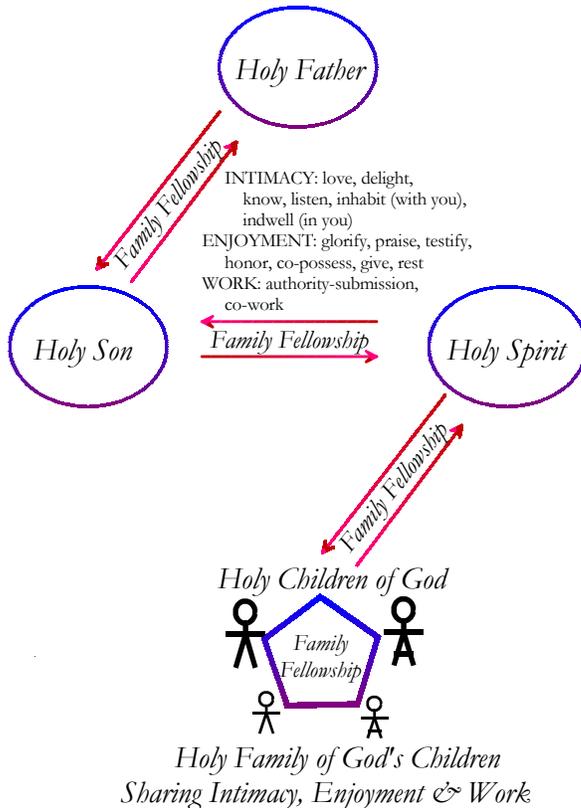


ENJOYMENT in the Trinity with and imaged in the Christian Family

The Fellowship of the Trinity with & imaged in the Christian Family



Sharing Intimacy, Enjoyment & Work

1 John 1:3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that *you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.*

ENJOYMENT in the Trinitarian Fellowship Imaged in Family

Summary Parenting Theme:

Everything important in the Christian family and Christian parenting is modeled and fulfilled in the Trinitarian fellowship and in the Trinity in relation to his people! If we only define the themes of parenting by the human relationships and biblical commands in those relationships, we will become moralistic or behavioristic, failing to see how the Gospel transforms us into people who know how to honor and be honored. The human family is a shadow of the eternal true family in the Trinity and the Trinitarian relationship to his people (Rom 1:20; Heb 8:5; 10:1; Eph 5:23-26)

CHILDREN: Honor, glorify, praise, testify to parents (*both because of their God-given authority, and especially because they have served the children well, taught them the Word, and modeled Christ*) by faithful, submissive service, and financial support in times of need, *as Christ and God's children do to the Father.* Children are both honored and

honoring, in relation to both God and parents. Children also co-possess the material possessions of the parents (*both as beneficiaries of those goods as they grow up and generally as an inheritance when the parents die*).

PARENTS: Honor, glorify, praise, respect and financially support their children (=co-possession of material goods and their benefits to the family) (*both because they are weak and helpless in their early years and especially because their children are faithful & submissive to God and their parental authority*), as God the Father does to Christ and his children. Parents are both honored and honoring, in relation to both God and children.

Honor:

ESV John 8:49 Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but *I honor my Father*, and you dishonor me.

ESV John 5:23 that *all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.* Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

ESV John 12:26 If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, *the Father will honor him.*

ESV Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "*Honor your father and mother*" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

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The general biblical principle requires first that we respect the authority of a person's God-given position, regardless of moral integrity, but in the case of a leader who is corrupt, we will not praise or glorify (Prov 29:2, 4). In cases of a person of moral integrity, faithfulness to his/her assigned duties and exemplary character, we show honor, give public praise, respect, and financial support: (as we should do to those adults who have served well: faithful wives 1 Pet 3:7; exemplary widows 1 Tim 5:3, faithful elders 1 Tim 5:17; Phil 2:29, as to rulers—especially those who reward good and punish evil—honor by paying taxes Rom 13:1-7). Every parent is a model to children of showing honor to those deserving of honor in his/her spheres of life.

Honor the Weak

ESV 1 Corinthians 12:23 and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unrepresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more representable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

ESV Romans 12:10 Love one another with brotherly affection. *Outdo one another in showing honor.*

Testifying (the authority & power for evangelism and missions):

ESV John 5:37 And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen,³⁸ and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent.

ESV John 8:16 Yet even if I do judge, my judgment is true, for it is not I alone who judge, but I and the Father who sent me.¹⁷ In your Law it is written that the testimony of two people is true.¹⁸ *I am the one who bears witness about myself, and the Father who sent me bears witness about me.*"

ESV John 8:26 I have much to say about you and much to judge, but he who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."

ESV John 12:28 Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

ESV John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, *he will bear witness about me.*²⁷ And *you also will bear witness*, because you have been with me from the beginning.

ESV John 16:14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and *declare it to you.*

ESV Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and *you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

ESV Hebrews 2:4 while *God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit* distributed according to his will.

ESV Romans 8:16 *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit* that we are children of God,

ESV John 10:25 Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. *The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,*

Possessing:

ESV John 16:14 He will glorify me, for *he will take what is mine* and declare it to you.¹⁵ *All that the Father has is mine*; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

ESV Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

ESV Luke 22:29 and *I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom,*

ESV Luke 11:13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!*"

ESV Acts 2:33 Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and *having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing.*

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ESV Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of *righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit*.

ESV Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, *who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places*,

ESV Ephesians 1:14 who is *the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it*, to the praise of his glory.

ESV Ephesians 1:18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, *that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints*,

ESV 1 Corinthians 3:22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--*all are yours*,²³ *and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's*.

ESV 2 Corinthians 6:10 as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet *making many rich*; as *having nothing, yet possessing everything*.

ESV Romans 8:17 and if children, then *heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ*, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Giving:

Father gives to Son

ESV John 3:34 For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for *he gives the Spirit without measure*.

ESV John 1:32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him.³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, '*He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit*.'

ESV John 17:11 And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, *keep them in your name, which you have given me*, that they may be one, even as we are one.¹² While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled.

ESV John 5:36 But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For *the works that the Father has given me to accomplish*, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

ESV John 17:22 *The glory that you have given me I have given to them*, that they may be one even as we are one,

ESV John 6:37 *All that the Father gives me will come to me*, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that *I should lose nothing of all that he has given me*, but raise it up on the last day.

ESV John 5:27 And *he has given him authority to execute judgment*, because he is the Son of Man.

Son gives to Father:

ESV 1 Corinthians 15:24 Then comes the end, when *he delivers the kingdom to God the Father* after destroying every rule and every authority and power.

The Father gives to the believers & the world

ESV John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that *he gave his only Son*, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

ESV John 6:32 Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but *my Father gives you the true bread from heaven*.

ESV John 1:17 For the law was given through Moses; *grace and truth came through Jesus Christ*.

ESV John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and *he will give you another Helper*, to be with you forever,

ESV John 19:11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no *authority* over me at all unless it had been *given you from above*. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

ESV Romans 8:32 He who did not spare his own Son but *gave him up for us all*, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?

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the Son gives to his followers

ESV John 17:14 *I have given them your word*, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

ESV John 17:22 *The glory that you have given me I have given to them*, that they may be one even as we are one,

ESV John 4:10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and *he would have given you living water.*"

ESV John 4:14 but whoever drinks of the *water that I will give him* will never be thirsty again. The *water that I will give him* will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

ESV John 5:21 For as *the Father raises the dead and gives them life*, so also *the Son gives life* to whom he will.

ESV John 6:33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and *gives life* to the world."

ESV John 6:27 Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for *the food* that endures to eternal life, which *the Son of Man will give to you*. For on him God the Father has set his seal."

ESV John 10:28 *I give them eternal life*, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Spirit gives birth to spirit

ESV John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

ESV John 6:63 It is *the Spirit who gives life*; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Praising:

ESV Matthew 11:25 At that time Jesus declared, "*I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth*, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

ESV Luke 10:21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "*I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth*, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.

ESV Hebrews 2:11 For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers,¹² saying, "I will tell of your name to my brothers; *in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise.*"

ESV John 5:41 *I do not receive glory from people.*⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you.⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him.⁴⁴ How can you believe, when *you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?*

ESV Matthew 25:21 His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. *Enter into the joy of your master.*"

ESV Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;³ to grant to those who mourn in Zion-- to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, *the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit*; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified.

ESV Matthew 21:15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant,¹⁶ and they said to him, "Do you hear what these are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read, "'*Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise*'?"

ESV Luke 19:37 As he was drawing near--already on the way down the Mount of Olives--the whole multitude of *his disciples began to rejoice and praise God* with a loud voice for all the mighty works that

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they had seen,³⁸ saying, "*Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!*"

ESV 1 Corinthians 12:3 Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and *no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.*

ESV Revelation 5:11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!"¹³ And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "*To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!*"¹⁴ And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and *worshiped.*

ESV Revelation 7:11 And all the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and *worshiped God,*¹² saying, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

contrast sin: ESV John 12:42 Nevertheless, many even of the authorities believed in him, but for fear of the Pharisees they did not confess it, so that they would not be put out of the synagogue;⁴³ for they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.

ESV John 5:44 How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Resting:

ESV Genesis 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.² And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and *he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done.*

ESV Hebrews 4:1 Therefore, *while the promise of entering his rest still stands,* let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach it.² For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened.³ For *we who have believed enter that rest,* as he has said, "As I swore in my wrath, "They shall not enter my rest," *although his works were finished from the foundation of the world.*⁴ For he has somewhere spoken of the seventh day in this way: "*And God rested on the seventh day from all his works.*"⁵ And again in this passage he said, "They shall not enter my rest."⁶ Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience,⁷ again he appoints a certain day, "Today," saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on.⁹ So then, *there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God,*¹⁰ for *whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.*¹¹ Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience.¹² For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.¹³ And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

ESV Matthew 11:28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and *I will give you rest.*²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

ESV Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because *he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,*¹⁹ *to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*"²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

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How do Parents Get this ENJOYMENT into the Hearts of their Children? (Prov 4:23; Mat 12:33)

^{ESV} Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but *bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*.

Instruct

1. Worship and adore the beauty of the Lord Jesus in his honoring of the Father. We seek to change the spiritual affections of the child, his/her love, hate, joy and grief, to be like God (1 Pet 1:8). Family worship and private worship studying the examples that God gave us in the Bible will also help (Abraham let Lot chose which inheritance he wanted; Paul & Timothy; Ruth & Naomi; David & Saul; Jesus & his mother at wedding in Cana).
2. Model for children a lifestyle of honoring those whom God honors (Christ and his godly people Psalm 84:11; 91:15, husbands honor their godly wives), honoring God-given authority though submission, respect, praise, glory (Prov 5:9; 11:16; 15:33; 21:21; 29:23; 1 Pet 2:17; 3:1-7) and offerings, financial support & taxes (Prov 3:9; Matt 15:4-6; 1 Tim 5:3-10, 17; Eph 6:2-3; Rom 13:1-7; 2 Cor 12:14).
3. Co-possess: teach contentment with this world's goods and worshipful rest to enjoy what we have (Eccl 3:12-13; 5:18-20; 8:14; 9:7-9), rather than coveting what we do not have. See God as the source of all our material blessings (Deut 8:17-18; 1 Chronicles 29:10-19; Acts 14:17; 17:25; Rom 11:36).
4. Teach the child to be polite and thankful.
5. Ask for mercy and forgiveness from God and parents for dishonorable, disrespectful, non-glorifying, critical testimony about parents in thoughts, words and actions toward parents (and parents to children for dishonorable thoughts, words and actions toward children). Receive mercy through faith in Christ's death on our behalf.
6. Receive the credited righteousness-honor of Christ (he perfectly honored God and authorities for us) through faith that God raised him from the dead (Rom 4:24-25)
7. Receive the imparted Spirit whose very nature is to honor God and righteousness/justice seen in the world (by common grace and governments), the family and the church.
8. Hope for completed righteousness-honor in us when we see Jesus at his Second Coming.

Discipline

1. Repent of dishonorable thoughts, words and actions towards God-given authorities, receive the forgiveness of the Father through the death of Christ on the cross
2. Punish with the Rod for dishonoring authorities (Heb 12:6-14; Prov 13:24; 23:13)
3. Show the benefits of honoring over dishonoring by a display of the consequences of each (Proverbs style parenting). Warn against honoring fools (Prov 26:1, 8)
4. Stop financially supporting rebellious young adult children over 18 (yet note that God is generous, merciful and gives good things even to his enemies Acts 14:17; Matt 5:44-45). God does not link all his gifts to our performance, but to the performance of his perfect Son.

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,

Compare with Chinese Cultural Models of ENJOYMENT: honor, praise, glory, testify, co-possess (inheritance & enjoyment of/contentment with wealth), rest

1. Some Chinese parents find it difficult to praise children, show love to them, and rather find it easy to criticize both within and outside the family. There is even a superstition that praising kids will bring the opposite or some kind of bad luck on the child or the family.

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2. Some Chinese parents use possessions as a *weapon* of manipulation and control, rather than generous sharing in ways that encourage thrift and thankfulness.
3. In some traditional Chinese inheritance practices, sons, especially oldest sons, are valued and get the inheritance, while daughters get nothing, and further must pay parental support even when there is no need to do so.
4. If love of “face” is a controlling motive in family life, public respect and trying to impress people will be more important than earning the respect of family members from a life of integrity.