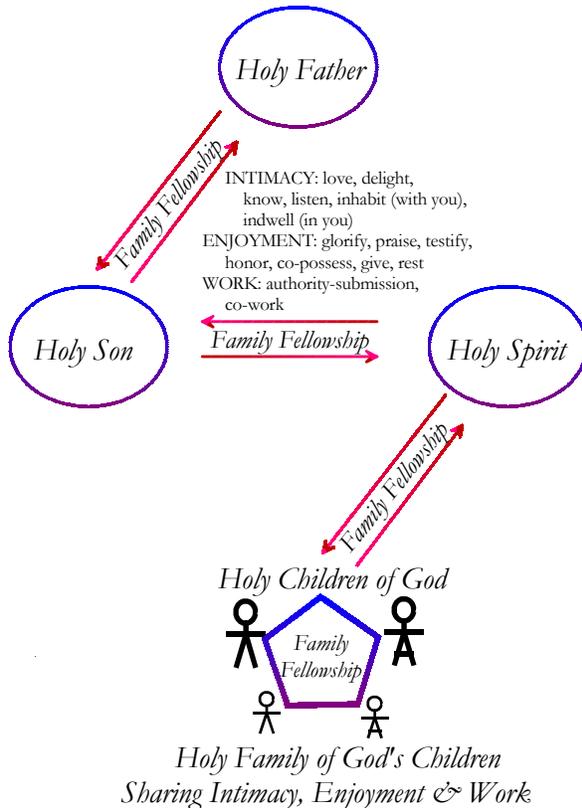


## WORK in the Trinity with and imaged in the Christian Family

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



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.*

### ***I. WORK 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!*

#### **A. CO-WORKING in TRINITY**

ESV John 5:17 But Jesus answered them, “*My Father is working until now, and I am working.*” . . . <sup>19</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. *For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.* <sup>20</sup> For the Father loves the Son and *shows him all that he himself is doing.* And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

ESV John 8:28 So Jesus said to them, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but *speak just as the Father taught me.*

ESV John 9:3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that *the works of God* might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup> *We must work the works*

*of him who sent me* while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work.

ESV John 14:10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but *the Father who dwells in me does his works.*

ESV John 16:8 And when he comes, *he will convict the world* concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. <sup>12</sup> “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> When the *Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth,* for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup> All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

ESV Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who *works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

#### **B. TRINITARIAN CO-WORKING with us his Children in His Holy Family**

ESV 1 Corinthians 3:9 For *we are God's fellow workers.* You are God's field, God's building.

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 [by the work of] *the Holy Spirit.*

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ESV Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, *work out your own salvation* with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work* for his good pleasure.

ESV 2 Corinthians 6:1 *Working together with him*, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

ESV 2 Corinthians 9:8 And *God is able to make all grace abound to you*, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, *you may abound in every good work*.

ESV 1 Corinthians 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, *I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me*.

ESV Colossians 1:29 For this *I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me*.

### C. Parents working with children

ESV 2 Samuel 8:10 *Toi sent his son Joram to King David, to ask about his health and to bless him* because he had fought against Hadadezer and defeated him, for Hadadezer had often been at war with Toi. And *Joram brought with him articles of silver, of gold, and of bronze*.

ESV 1 Kings 7:14 He was *the son* of a widow of the tribe of Naphtali, and *his father was a man of Tyre, a worker in bronze*. And *he was full of wisdom, understanding, and skill for making any work in bronze*. He came to King Solomon and did all his work.

ESV 1 Chronicles 6:49 But *Aaron and his sons made offerings on the altar of burnt offering and on the altar of incense* for all the work of the Most Holy Place, and to make atonement for Israel, according to all that Moses the servant of God had commanded.

ESV 1 Chronicles 23:24 These were *the sons of Levi by their fathers' houses, the heads of fathers' houses* as they were listed according to the number of the names of the individuals from twenty years old and upward *who were to do the work for the service of the house of the LORD*.

ESV 1 Chronicles 28:20 Then *David said to Solomon his son*, "Be strong and courageous and do it. Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed, for the LORD God, even my God, is with you. He will not leave you or forsake you, *until all the work for the service of the house of the LORD is finished*."

ESV 1 Chronicles 29:1 And David the king said to all the assembly, "*Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the LORD God.*<sup>2</sup> *So I have provided for the house of my God, so far as I was able, the gold for the things of gold, the silver for the things of silver, and the bronze for the things of bronze, the iron for the things of iron, and wood for the things of wood, besides great quantities of onyx and stones for setting, antimony, colored stones, all sorts of precious stones and marble. . . .*<sup>19</sup> *Grant to Solomon my son a whole heart that he may keep your commandments, your testimonies, and your statutes, performing all, and that he may build the palace for which I have made provision.*"

ESV Matthew 21:28 "What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'<sup>29</sup> And he answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind and went.<sup>30</sup> And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, 'I go, sir,' but did not go.<sup>31</sup> *Which of the two did the will of his father?*" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.

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### II. TEAM-ROLES in WORK: Authority & Submission

There are also non-mutual verbal aspects which I call the authority-submission pattern in the Trinity. This pattern within the Trinity gives a permanent place for imaging the authority-submission roles in society (government-citizens Rom 13), the church (elders-members Heb 13:17), marriage (husband-wife Eph 5) and family (parents-children Eph 6:1-4).

#### A. The Father decrees and disciplines

ESV Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of *him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,*

ESV 1 Corinthians 11:3 But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and *the head of Christ is God.*

ESV 1 Corinthians 15:27 For “God has put all things in subjection under his feet.” But when it says, “all things are put in subjection,” it is plain that *he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him.*<sup>28</sup> When all things are subjected to him, *then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.*

ESV Hebrews 12:6 For *the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. *God is treating you as sons.* For what son is there whom his father does not discipline?<sup>8</sup> . . .<sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but *he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.*

#### B. Son submits/ the Spirit submits:

ESV Hebrews 5:7 In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and *he was heard because of his reverence.*<sup>8</sup> Although he was a son, *he learned obedience* through what he suffered.

ESV Hebrews 10:7 Then I said, ‘Behold, *I have come to do your will, O God,* as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.’

ESV Matthew 26:39 And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, *not as I will, but as you will.*”

ESV Philippians 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, *taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.*<sup>8</sup> *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

ESV John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for *he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak,* and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

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.

#### C. All God’s Children Submit to God’s Teaching & Discipline

ESV Deuteronomy 6:4 “*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*<sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

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ESV Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and said to them, “*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*”<sup>19</sup> *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.* And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ESV Hebrews 12:9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who *disciplined us* and we respected them. *Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?*<sup>11</sup> For the moment all *discipline* seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to *those who have been trained by it.*

### D. Exercise Parental Authority: Teach & Discipline

ESV Proverbs 4:1 *Hear, O sons, a father’s instruction,* and be attentive, that you may gain insight,<sup>2</sup> for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching.

ESV Proverbs 23:22 *Listen to your father who gave you life,* and do not despise your mother when she is old.

ESV Proverbs 30:17 *The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother* will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

ESV 1 Timothy 3:4 *He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive,*<sup>5</sup> for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God’s church?

ESV Titus 1:6 if anyone is above reproach, the husband of one wife, and *his children are believers and not open to the charge of debauchery or insubordination.*<sup>7</sup> For an overseer, as God’s steward, must be above reproach.

ESV Deuteronomy 6:7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

ESV Deuteronomy 11:19 You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

ESV Psalm 78:5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he *commanded our fathers to teach to their children,*

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

### E. Parents Model Submission to God: Use Authority Gently & Wisely

ESV Deuteronomy 4:10 how on the day that you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, the LORD said to me, ‘Gather the people to me, that I may let them hear my words, so that they may *learn to fear me* all the days that they live on the earth, and *that they may teach their children so.*’

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

ESV 1 Peter 5:3 So I exhort the elders among you, . . .<sup>2</sup> shepherd the flock of God that is among you, . . .<sup>3</sup> *not domineering over those in your charge,* but *being examples* to the flock.

### F. Children submit in the Lord

**The purpose of rules for children is to instruct, apply and enforce God’s commands and teachings, not to create another moral universe in which the child sees no obvious connection between your authority with your rules and God’s teachings & commands.**

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ESV Deuteronomy 21:18 “If a man has a *stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and, though they discipline him, will not listen to them,*<sup>19</sup> then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gate of the place where he lives,<sup>20</sup> and they shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This our son is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.’<sup>21</sup> Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

ESV Colossians 3:20 *Children, obey your parents in everything,* for this pleases the Lord.<sup>21</sup> Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

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

### G. Compare with Chinese Cultural Models of WORK

Co-working: Some trade skills and store ownerships are passed on to children.

Traditional authority of a parent or teacher is unquestioned by children, but this authority is not exercised “in the Lord” as either modeling Him or representing His will. Anger is routinely used to control children.

### H. Consider the Work Commands

ESV Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.<sup>8</sup> “Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.<sup>9</sup> **Six days you shall labor, and do all your work,<sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God.** On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates.<sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.<sup>12</sup> **“Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.**<sup>13</sup> “You shall not murder.<sup>14</sup> “You shall not commit adultery.<sup>15</sup> **“You shall not steal.**<sup>16</sup> “You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.<sup>17</sup> **“You shall not covet** your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's. Observe the commands related to work & rest (4<sup>th</sup>), valuing, protecting and increasing the value of family possessions (8<sup>th</sup>), learning contentment with plenty or with want (10<sup>th</sup>; see Phil 4:12).

### I. Work tasks for children at different ages

1. **Early childhood (age 2-5):** self maintenance, health & eating, hygiene, cleanliness, sharing in simple household tasks as directed and accompanied by older sibling or adult, learn politeness, honor & respect for authority and immediate obedience through discipline of the rod, learn honesty, learn boundaries for male & female, respect privacy of parents marriage bed.
2. **School age elementary children (age 6-11):** develop perseverance & integrity with studies, respect for school administrators, teachers & school staff, learn co-operation with classmates, learn to enjoy reading and practice remembering, processing information and drawing conclusions, learning to think, increasing ability to keep room orderly, choose own clothes, put dirty clothes in laundry baskets, make bed, help in food preparations and clean up, nurture exercise & sports interests, able to travel independently on public transportation, learn controlled use of money (allowance) for serving others, enjoying life and supporting the church.
3. **Junior & Senior High (age 12-18):** independent study habits developed, test-taking integrity, larger and more complex household helping tasks (doing own laundry, garbage collection, making meals, self-initiated room orderliness, give incentives to do extra work at home for pay in addition to assigned jobs) career exploration (differentiate academic gifts vs. vocational gifts), exposure to local & world news analysis from

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Christian perspective, learn biblical principles for evaluation of media, missions trip exposure to witness and evangelism, find part-time jobs for pay especially in summers, apply financial stewardship principles for honoring God and loving people, earning & saving for important goals, balance love for family with love for friends.

### J. Apply the Work Model to Your Family

<sup>ESV</sup> Ephesians 6:4 Fathers . . . *bring up [your children] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

#### 1. Instruction

- a. **Change the child's spiritual affections:** process by seeing & savoring the glory of Christ in Scripture (his character and beauty shown in the history of redemption) and reflected by his people.
- b. **Increase the child's knowledge of the Bible, the way of salvation and gospel-of-grace oriented change, and the natural consequences of good and evil:** use Bible stories, moral stories (CD, DVD, books).
- c. **Shape the behavior and speech to reflect love for God and people:** teach proper ways of loving by curiosity about people, learning to listen and spend time with people, learn to be led by the Spirit and the Word.
- d. **Parental Modeling:** parents as examples of INTIMACY showing love, delight, knowledge, listening, with you & in you patterns in four dimensions evident to the child(ren): with God, with each other in the marriage, with the children, with those outside the family (relatives, friends, neighbors, fellow believers in the church).

#### 2. Discipline

- a. **Self-knowledge→repentance:** Through misbehavior and disobedience to parents and other authorities, frustrations with duties and relationships, the child should be gaining knowledge of his/her heart idolatries and sin patterns and be directed to repentance before God and seeking forgiveness from people he/she has sinned against or disobeyed. Use of the ROD up through age 8. This should help the child to fear and respect parents as representatives who point to the fear of the Lord as the beginning of wisdom, taking obedience seriously. Keeping a **prayer notebook** for the child is a good tool to increase awareness of Gospel-of-grace methods of change and of self-knowledge (self-centered, heart-idol patterns that constantly re-occur).
- b. **Culture knowledge→Christian critique:** through increasing awareness of sin and evil in the world by exposure to books, media, TV, movies, teach the child not to love the world or the things in it (1 John 2:15-17), and to resist the temptations aroused by such evil. The parental goal must not be shutting out all influences of non-Christian culture, but inoculating children against it by permitting them to experience small doses of its evil realities and interacting with them on its dangers and destruction (as Proverbs themes show the end result of certain behaviors).
- c. **Parental Modeling:** parents show their children how they deal with their own heart idols through example (Matt 7:1-5), leading the child to see parents as fellow sinners in need of God's Gospel of grace.