

C Trinity Sunday	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Facing Outward</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Romans 5.1-5, Ezekiel 16, 1 Peter 3.15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">by Tim Isbell</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Preached Monterey Living Hope 5/22/2016</p>
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Thesis: In this life, we are to display who God is to a watching world. And when people notice something different about how we operate and react, we are to find ways to deflect God's glory to those people.

## **Prayer Time Teachable Moment**

[Pondering Prayer concept](#)

### **Sermon** - please do not record this message.

Last week's message was: God always comes down, invites us into relationship, tells us to go and multiply, and then fills all who follow him with his Spirit so we can live in community while facing outward. Today we'll see what facing outward looks like. First, a little theology, then some transparency.

### **Some theology**

#### ***Trinity -***

- the Divine Community<sup>1</sup>
- Humanity - the extension of the Divine Community

God did not create us just to receive love and honor from us, but to share the love, joy, honor, and glory he already had within the Trinity.<sup>2</sup>

#### ***Motivation -***

A riff on the journey from gratitude (Ez 16, especially v 42-3, 53-54a, 59-63) to intimacy (Rom 5.1-5, 11).

#### ***The value of building community<sup>3</sup> - Keller's Every Good Endeavor.***

Every good endeavor, when pursued in response to God's prompting, matters forever. *1 Cor*

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<sup>1</sup> I *think* I got this concept from Dallas Willard. I preached a sermon on it: *Trinity - the Divine Team*.

<sup>2</sup> A concept from Jonathan Edward's treatise: "Concerning the End for which God Created the World"

<sup>3</sup> From Timothy Keller's book: *Every Good Endeavor* (the best theology of work I've read.)

15.58. ...*nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*

Human beings “filling the earth”<sup>4</sup> means something far more than plants and animals filling the earth. It means more than procreation; it means building and caring for civilization. He gives this job to us.

Jesus didn’t save us so that we can go to heaven; heaven is a by-product. He saved us to life as his intimate ally in this life and the next.

In this life, we are to display who God is to a watching world. And when people notice something different about how we operate and react, we are to find ways to deflect God’s glory to the watching world.

Andy Crouch writing about his wife: In her work as a physics professor, Catherine can do much to shape the culture of her courses and her research lab. In a laboratory’s sterile and technological environment, she can play classical music to create an atmosphere of creativity and beauty. She can shape how her students respond to exciting and disappointing results and can model both hard work and good rest rather than frantic work and fitful procrastination. By occasionally bringing her children with her to work, she creates a culture where the family is not an interruption. Instead, it’s where research and teaching are natural parts of a mother’s life. By inviting her students into our home, she shows that she values them as persons, not just research productivity units. At the small scale of her laboratory and classroom, she has the real ability to reshape the world.<sup>5</sup>

Work is partnering with God in his love and care for the world. This biblical conception helps us appreciate all work, from the most simple to the most complex, by believers and nonbelievers. Christians with a biblical theology of work not only value and participate in the work of all people but also see ways to work in ways distinct to Christians.

God is the Creator of the world, and our work mirrors his creative work when we create a culture that conforms to his will and vision for human beings – when it matches up with the biblical storyline. God does more than create. He loves, cares for, and nurtures his creation. He feeds and protects all he has made. And we must do this same building and nurture of culture.

God is the only boss who will not drive us into the ground; the only audience that does not need our best performance to be satisfied with us. Why? Because his work for us is finished.

### **Some transparency**

I’m a bit shy about telling personal stories. They make my wife uncomfortable. But at the same time, I frequently preach the importance of living transparently in our world. So this morning I’ll be a bit transparent.

***Rich/Sue***

***Architectural Committee***

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<sup>4</sup> Gen 1.28

<sup>5</sup> Andy Crouch, *Culture-Making: Recovering our Creative Calling*.

***Robin's book club***

***House blessing***

***Steve C***

***PI\*\*\*da tenting***

***14636 F\*\*\*ne "dance"***

**Remember:**

Our assignment in this life is to live in ways that display who God is to a watching world, and when people notice there is something different about how we conduct our lives, we are to find ways to deflect the glory to God.

This is how God

- Grows his Kingdom in this world, and
- Grows our hearts to beat like Jesus' heart so that we are comfortable living in the next life in an intimate relationship with our Trinitarian God, the creator of everything.

And what will the next life look like? I think God will look at us and say, "Here are all the cosmos' resources, just follow your heart.

*1 Peter 3.15. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*

<b>Other resources:</b>
Click on the link for the <a href="#">Google Slides</a> . (Similar to PowerPoint)
Free subscription to email or RSS feeds available at <a href="#">IsbellOnline News</a> .