

Scripture: Ephesians 1 Belgic Confession: art 8-9 (2)
Singing: 242:1-4 – 202:1-3 – 81:1-4 – 282:1-4

Intro: Our Christian faith is not only a religion of *mystery* but also *experience*

A. Don't be afraid of word 'experience'

1. Art 9 appeals to *experience* as *confirmation* of Trinity

2. Experiential Christianity is a *powerful confirmation* of its reality

B. Scriptural teaching on Trinity is three main truths

1. God is three Persons: John 1:1-2 – John 14:26 – Rom. 8:27

2. God is one God: Deut. 6:4-5; Is. 45:5-6; 45:21-22; 1 Tim. 2:5; James 2:19

3. Each Person is fully God: John 5:26; John 1:1; Acts 5:3, 4 (art. 10, 11)

The Experience of the operations of the Triune God in the life of a Believer
I. Who is the believer? II. What are the experiential operations of Triune God?

I. Who is the believer?

A. The believer is a person described in Ephesians 1:13-14

1. They *trust in* Lord Jesus Christ

a. saving faith is always found in a context of spiritual exercises

b. the 'saving' of their faith is the object they trust: Jesus Christ

2. They are *sealed with the Holy Spirit of promises*

a. this seal is the earnest of the inheritance

b. this seal indicates *authenticity* and *ownership*

c. this seal is Holy Spirit's indwelling

B. The believer is not always clear about salvation: Eph. 1:17ff

II. The operations of the Persons of the Trinity in Salvation

A. God the Father is *cause, origin, and beginning* of all things visible/invisible

1. He is the cause of all life: John 5:26 – Ps. 2:7 – Eph. 4:6 – Col. 1:16

2. He is also the cause of your *spiritual life*: Eph. 2:4; 1:4-6

a. He chose sovereignly to adopt fallen sinners (Eph. 1:4-5)

b. adoption is *highest privilege that the Gospel announces*

3. The Father's drawing operation (John 6:44-45) becomes known through the activity of the Spirit: Gal. 4:6-7

B. God the Son is *our Savior and Redeemer by His life and death for us*: Eph. 1:6-8

1. He assumed our flesh and came upon this world as our Mediator: John 1:14

2. Experientially we discover the need for Another

a. as we see how deeply unacceptable and guilty we are before God

b. God the Father provided in His Son the Savior we need: Gal. 4:4-5

3. We placed our faith in Him as the *righteousness of God*: Eph. 1:12-13a

C. God the Spirit is our Sanctifier by His dwelling in our hearts

1. The starting point of His sanctifying work is *regeneration* (John 3:8)

a. though no one will comprehend fully His work

b. we experience the power of His presence in leading us (Rom 8:14)

● He leads our hearts to turn, to repent, to believe, and follow

c. Paul prayed that the Ephesians would *understand* how they came actually to faith in Jesus Christ: Eph. 1:18-20; 2:4-8

2. The petitions of the believers reveal their exercises with the Holy Spirit

a. in the daily battle experienced

b. in the ongoing prayers offered

c. in the petition for His reassuring witness

Reflect: Value the blessed Trinity and their distinct operations!

Thought on the Trinity

Tell me how it is that in this room there are three candles and but one light, and I will explain to you the manner of the Triune existence of one God.