



Andrei Rublev's icon of the Trinity. 1360 AD

## People of the Trinity

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### Where We've Been . . .

1. Spirituality and Human Nature
2. The gift of Jesus
3. Theosis - spiritual transformation
4. Wounded human nature
5. The inner nature of faith

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## TWO APPROACHES

- "Economic" Trinity  
Actions of Father, Son and Spirit in history, salvation, the Church, the lives of believers. Immanent Trinity.
- "Ontological" (metaphysical) Trinity  
Pertains to God's inner life; who God is in/as God-Self.

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## Why God as Trinity?

- Jesus related to the Father as an-Other.
  - John 14: 28.
- Christ was considered divine by the early Church.
  - Paul's many references to Jesus as "the Lord."
  - Gospel references to Jesus as "the Son" who is One with the Father.
  - Jn. 1 - the Word was God; the Word became flesh.
- References by Jesus to the Spirit as an-Other.
  - Glorifies Father and Son.

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## Early Christian

- ✦ Mandate to baptize "in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Mt. 28: 19.
- ✦ Pauline blessings. e.g. Eph. 1:15-17.
- ✦ Clement: "Letter to the Corinthians," 80 A.D.
- ✦ Many early pre-Nicene references in teaching and liturgy.

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## "Mission" of the Trinity

- ✦ Yahweh = God, the Supreme Being, the One who "Is." Covenants with Jewish people. Promise of a New Covenant.
- ✦ Father = Creator and Source of all that is. Abba. Unmanifest. Transcendent.
- ✦ Son = the One through whom the Father creates. Manifest. Incarnate as Jesus Christ. Redeemer.
- ✦ Spirit = the Breath/Energy of God within the creation. Unmanifest. Immanent. Sanctifier.

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