

Theme: As the image of the Triune God, the Divine Community, humans are by nature relational, created to be part of a community.

## I. Intro – CastAway

- A. Picture of Wilson the Volleyball
- B. A key point in CastAway - his longing for community
- C. To get community he created Wilson the volleyball
- D. We were made for community!

## II. Created For Community

- A. Let us make man in our **image**, in our **likeness**  
Then God said, “Let us make man in our **image**, in our **likeness**, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”  
Genesis 1:26
  - 1. Humans are created in God’s **image & likeness**
  - 2. We are like God - and He is the Divine Community  
Then God said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, in **our** likeness, and let **them** rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” Genesis 1:26
    - a. God refers to Himself in the plural - implies Trinity
      - 1. Not plural of majesty, nor heavenly court
      - 2. Refers to Trinitarian communication/deliberations
    - b. We are the creation of the Trinity - US
    - c. We are the image of the Trinity - OUR

- d. WE are creation and image of Trinity - THEM
- 3. Since He is relational - we are relational
- B. Let us make **man.... Male and female** He created **them**  
Then God said, “Let us make **man** in our image, in our likeness, and let **them** rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”  
27 So God created **man** in his own image, in the image of God he created **him**; **male and female** he created **them**. Genesis 1:26–27
  - 1. Both v26,27 singular (man/him) & plural (them/male & female)
  - 2. Like the Trinity, singular and plural - community
  - 3. We are only a shadow, but we reflect Divine Community
- C. Let **them** rule over  
Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let **them** rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.”  
Genesis 1:26
  - 1. Our function of ruling is communal - not individual
  - 2. We can not fulfill our function alone
- D. Blessed to **be fruitful and increase in number** - to rule  
God blessed them and said to them, “**Be fruitful and increase in number**; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”  
Genesis 1:28
  - 1. First command requires community!

2. Note increase linked to fulfilling function of ruling
3. We can't fulfill God's commands in isolation

E. It is **not good for man to be alone** - needs community

The Lord God said, "**It is not good for the man to be alone.** I will make a helper suitable for him." Gen 2:18

1. Adam in right relationship with self, creation, God
2. But it is still **not good** - this is a jarring statement!
3. What we need is another human - animals won't do  
The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. **I will make a helper suitable for him.**" <sup>19</sup> Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. <sup>20</sup> So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. **But for Adam no suitable helper was found.** Genesis 2:18-20
4. So God makes another human - same but distinct!  
So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> **Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man,** and he brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> The man said, "**This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;** she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." Genesis 2:21-23
5. And they were naked and felt no shame  
The man and his wife were both **naked, and they felt no shame.** Genesis 2:25

- a. Not really about clothes - nothing hidden
- b. They were in real community - like the Trinity

### III. Humanity - The Extension of Community

A. Humans - the creation and image of the Trinity

1. Humans are created by the Trinity - The Divine Community
2. Humans are the image of the Trinity - The Divine Community
3. Humans are created for community!
4. All human community is a reflection of the Trinity - The Divine Community

B. Marriage & family is to be a reflection of the Trinity

1. Clearly marriage & family is in view in these texts
2. Marriage & family is the primary human community
3. Marriage & family is to reflect the Trinity - Divine Community
  - a. Not just living together - knowing and being known
  - b. A self-giving love that prefers the other

C. All human relationships are to reflect the Trinity

1. This is the first thing we are told about ourselves
2. You were created for community - not isolation
3. Our relationships are to reflect the Divine Community

D. This is all complicated by sin - but that is next week!

## IV. Applying the Word

- A. Does my marriage & family life reflect the Trinity?
1. Culture is completely distorting marriage & family
  2. Marriage and family are rooted in the Trinity
  3. Does my marriage & family reflect the Trinity?
  4. Are we knowing and being known?
  5. Are we deeply loving one another?
  6. Can others see the Trinity through our family?
  7. Please don't just give up - you were created for community!
  8. If not, look to Jesus for grace and strength
- B. Am I experiencing real community with people outside my family?
1. Sin and culture lead to isolation
  2. But we were created for community - our DNA cries out for it!
  3. Am I building meaningful friendships with others?
  4. Where is my place "where everyone knows my name"?
  5. This takes time - please don't give up!
  6. If not, look to Jesus - & reach out - small group, etc.

## Humanity - Created For Community

Genesis 1:26-28;

May 12, 2013

Prayer

1 Thessalonians 3:12-13

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

28 God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Genesis 1:26–28

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." 24 For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. 25 The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 2:18-25

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. <sup>13</sup> May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 3:12–13