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## Too Much Trinity

It's come to our attention here at *The Adopted Life* that too many people are talking too much about the Trinity. Heaven forefend! What a disaster!

Everyone knows the Trinity is a wonderful doctrine. In fact, it's so wonderful that it's best left to the thoughts and words of really wonderful people – like theologians and (maybe) certain pastors with a little too much time on their hands. But the Trinity is just that – it's a doctrine, and therefore it's boring, and hard to understand. So take my advice: don't try.

And please, don't try to talk about the Trinity with people who aren't Christians. Can you imagine what kind of weirdoes they'll think we are? People already think we're strange when we talk about "God," but at least the concept of "God" is amorphous enough to allow other people to fill in their own ideas of whatever they think "God" might be. If you start talking about the Trinity then you force the other person to think about a very specific, clear, and weird picture of God. You force the other person to think about God as three persons in one.

We've even heard horror stories that some people are talking about the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit during baptismal counseling instead of talking about "God." Can you imagine? What in the world could the Trinity possibly have to do with baptism?

I want to apologize for whatever role *The Adopted Life* has played in this mess. To be honest, though, it's not entirely our fault. Various miscreants in the history of the Church have contributed their fair share to the problem. Consider St. Patrick. Everyone knows the story of him using the clover leaf to explain the Trinity to the Irish. That's an example of someone who not only discussed the Trinity with non-believers but talked about the Trinity with pagans who had never even seen a Bible! What was he thinking?!

Fortunately we know better today. We know it's better to just talk about "God" in a general sense. Or better yet, don't talk at all. Let the non-believer do all the talking. C.S. Lewis once told the story of a friend of his who had been taught, as a child, that God was a "perfect substance" and so she ended up imagining him as a "vast tapioca pudding" (*Miracles*, p. 17). This is exactly the sort of thinking we want to reinforce: pudding, pie, clouds in the sky – anything but the fearsomely free and wild heart of the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. This reinforcing is best done by shutting up about the Trinity and letting the non-believer talk about what he thinks God is.

A little bit of Trinity – as icing on the cake, so to speak – is not a bad thing when given in small amounts to mature Christians. But all this talk of announcing the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit to the world at large is just too much Trinity. And too much Trinity might bring crashing down all the grand philosophical ideas of "God" that humanity has spent so many millennia constructing. And I don't think any of us want to live in a world like that.

~ Rt. Rev. Pstr. Jonathan Stepp, M.Div., O.C., G.Q.