

In the first article of the Creed, by saying I believe in God the Father, we profess not only one God, but one God in three Persons. This is the dogma of the Holy Trinity. Let us first understand the meaning of the dogma of the Holy Trinity, and then what are the relations of a Christian to the Holy Trinity. Faith teaches us that there are in God three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. These three Persons are eternal, consubstantial, equal.

1. They are eternal: the Son and the Holy Ghost, who have one origin or principle, are not less eternal than the Father, who has none; just as the light and heat which the sun emits are contemporary with that luminary itself.

2. They are consubstantial: that is to say, they have the same substance, nature, or essence, pertaining in common to each of them.

3. They are equal. Having but one and the same nature, common to all three, the divine Persons are equal in splendour and majesty; they have the same power, the same wisdom, the same holiness. Power is, however, especially predicated of the Father, because, being the principle from which the other two Persons proceed, He is considered as having produced the universe by His almighty power; wisdom is predicated of the Son, because He is born of the intelligence of the Father; holiness is predicated of the Holy Ghost, because He proceeds from the mutual love of the Father and the Son, and all holiness has its source in the love of God.

II. What are the relations of a Christian to the Holy Trinity? The Christian is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, and as it were marked with the seal of the three divine Persons from his Baptism to his death. At his Baptism, by the invocation of the Holy Trinity, he becomes the child of God the Father, the disciple of God the Son, the temple of God the Holy Ghost. During all his life, whenever he makes the sign of the Cross, he renews his baptismal dedication, since that sign is made with the invocation of the three divine Persons. At his death the Church commends him to the Holy Trinity, saying: Depart out of this world, O Christian soul, in the name of the Father Almighty, who created thee; in the name of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who suffered for thee; in the name of the Holy Ghost, who sanctified thee. O God, she adds, recognize in this dying Christian your creature; admit his soul into the joys of your presence; for, though he has sinned, he has not lost his faith in thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but has believed in thee and faithfully adored thee. To please this Holy Trinity we must endeavour not to defile our souls with sin, but rather strive to imitate by our love for God the union of the three divine Persons : That my disciples, says Jesus Christ, may be one, O my Father, as we are one in the Holy Trinity.