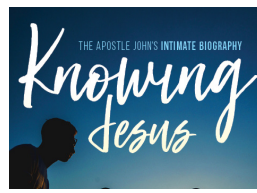


The A, B, Cs of the Trinity

Reading: John 5: 19-29



GROWING IN GRACE

I need to develop godly attitudes.

- A) Pray for godly attitudes in general & certain attitudes in particular.
- B) Ask others to pray the same thing for you.
- C) Repeat the attitude to help it sink in. Do this in conjunction with A & B!

Attitudes.

- 1) God desires that I will be freed up to marvel at who He is and what He does.
- 2) Jesus is stronger than death.
- 3) I cannot honour Jesus too much.

I need to grow in prayer.

A great way to do this is to learn to pray the Bible. Pray this prayer until you can pray without reading:

Lord Jesus Christ, You give life; in You I do not come under condemnation, but pass from death to life; in You I will know the resurrection to life. You have life in Yourself and by faith in You, I receive eternal life from You. Please grow me as Your disciple, gripped by Your Gospel, learning to honour You more and more in all I do. Amen!!

I need to get God's word in my mind and heart.

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. John 5:24

I need to do something or start to do something.

Complete the following sentence: "In light of God's word, the Holy Spirit is leading me to _____."

GOING DEEPER

For this week:

Go to <http://messiahchurch.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/John-Ch-1-529.pdf>

and follow pages 21 and 22

For next week:

NEW Go to <http://messiahchurch.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/John-Ch-530-Ch-9.pdf>

and follow pages 2 and 3

Next week's reading is John 5: 30-47



WELCOME TO CHURCH OF THE MESSIAH!

We are glad you are here! We are a prayerful, Bible-teaching, evangelical church in the heart of the city with a heart for the city and the world. We are a member of the Anglican Network in Canada and part of the Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans. We seek to be a biblically faithful and orthodox church within the Anglican Way of following Jesus.



Are you new? Get connected!

Is this your first visit to Church of the Messiah? Thank you for being with us. Interested in learning more about Messiah and getting connected? See the contact info below.

Nursery & Sunday School

Nursery (0 - 24 months) and Sunday School (2 yrs - Grade 6) are available at the 10am service. Nursery children meet in the Green Room in the basement (ask a door host). Sunday school kids are invited to follow the cross after the last worship song.



Making disciples of Jesus, gripped by the gospel, living for God's glory.

Rev Canon George Sinclair - Rector

Twitter: @messiah_church

Facebook: Church of the Messiah, Ottawa

iTunes: Messiah Church Ottawa Sermons

messiahchurch.ca

613 235 0596

info@messiahchurch.ca



Today's service:
[bible.com/
events/368950](http://bible.com/events/368950)

office & mailing address: 315 Lisgar St. Ottawa ON K2P 0E1

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wednesdays -7:30pm
@ 84 Fairmont Ave
Thursdays - 7pm
@ 267 Sunnyside Ave
@ 110 Nelson St



Please contact the office by March 18 to include the names of loved ones you wish to remember in the Easter bulletin.

As is our custom, we will collect non-perishable food and gently-used clothing for St Joe's Supper Table until Easter Sunday, April 1.

Support the Jericho Road Coffeehouse
Thursday, March 29

- 1) Donate food.
- 2) Prepare food.
- 3) Serve food & coffee at 6:30pm at 40 Cobourg (Jules Morin Fieldhouse)

March 11, 2018

Can Christians call God their "mother in heaven"?

Dear friends,

Jesus calls God His Father. He says this many times. He tells us to pray, "Our Father..." This is problematic to many Canadians today. In Canada today we believe gender is a social construct and that gender is highly fluid. Jesus sounds "stuck" to modern Canadian ears. As well, many people have had abusive fathers. So, to modern Canadians, Jesus' teaching sounds uncaring, unhelpful and potentially abusive to those who have already been abused. One more thing - to many modern Canadians, patriarchy is a great and persistent evil. Patriarchy is to be resisted and dismantled so we can have a just and caring world. So, to these modern Canadians, Jesus' words sound patriarchal - definitely outmoded and oppressive. For many Christians, then, the most logical thing to do is to update Jesus' language. To many Canadians, there is an evangelical imperative that we open up His language to reach Canada. This will also help Christians feel more at home in Canada.

Is such an agenda something that Christians in Canada should embark on? Is Jesus' teaching on this both outmoded but also flexible so that we can improve it? The short answer is, "No." Consider the following.

First, while most Jewish people in Jesus' time were strict monotheists, a casual reading of the Old Testament will see that, at many times in Israel's history, many Jewish people worshiped goddesses. Jesus knew His Old Testament. As well, Jesus had regular contacts with Roman soldiers and officials. He would have known that the teensy-weensy Jewish world of monotheists was an island in a vast polytheistic ocean where goddess worship was common. Yet, He chose to tell us to call on God as Father.

But, you say, maybe He did not call God, "Mother", not because He was ignorant of the idea, but because He did not want to offend Jews? Well, really? If you read the four biographies of Jesus, He offended many Jews constantly to the point of the leaders conspiring to have Him crucified. No, He was not ignorant. He was not afraid of offending when necessary. He chose to teach us to call God, "Father" and not "mother".

But can't we contextualize the language? For the record, in this case "contextualize" is a fancy way of saying, "changing it because we think it is not right". Here we come to a very big issue. Jesus makes very big claims - He claims to be God. He claims to have "come from God" to teach and to save. He claims that no one has ascended into Heaven and then returned to make God known. He claims He alone has come down to make God known. He claims that only He knows the Father and only to Him is God the Father "transparent" and "showing Himself". These claims are central to all of the Gospels and New Testament. They are central to Jesus and to Christianity. But, if they are true - and a true Christian believes them - how can we even imagine that we can "fix" or "improve" His language? How can anyone reasonably claim to know more than Him and still be a Christian?

George+