



CHRISTIAN
MISSION
&
THE SOCIAL
MODEL OF THE
TRINITY



What is a Mission Statement?

A mission statement is a short statement of why an organization exists.

What is its overall goal or purpose?

What kind of product or service it provides?

Who are the primary recipients of its product?

What is the targeted geographical region of operation?

Christian Mission Statement

Why do I as a Christian exist?

What is the goal of my contribution to Christianity and the Church?

What can we/I offer to the world?

Who do we/I target with my message?

What geographical area do we target?





Some Christian Mission Statements

I want to reflect Christ on the mission field

I want to lead a church towards Christlikeness

**I want to be the best mother and wife
(husband and dad)**

I want to spread the gospel to the world

I want to be the best employee I can

I want to earn lots of money and live comfortably





GOD'S MISSION
FOR BELIEVERS

LOVE GOD



LOVE OTHERS



What is Love?





Based on Feelings—How I Feel





A THEOLOGICAL DETOUR

Image-bearing

**Social Model Of The
Trinity**

What is an Image Bearer?



- **Persons are Self-aware, “I am”**

(John 1:2; John 8:56-59; Exodus 3:14)

- **Persons are beings who exhibit mind, will, and emotions.**

- **Persons are Capable of Harmonious I/Thou Relationship**

(Matt 18:20; 1 Cor 12:25-27; 1 John 1:7; Rom 12:16)

What is an Image Bearer?




- **Persons can indwell one another**

(Gen 2; Matt 19:5; 1 Cor 6:17, Eph 5:31-32)

- **Persons can reflect the moral character of God**

(Matt 5:48; 1 Cor 13; Gal 5:19-21)



SOCIAL MODEL OF THE TRINITY

A focus on the Persons
of the Trinity and the
relationship of each
person one to the other

The Trinity

The one God exists eternally

as **three Persons,**

God the Father,

God the Son,

& God the Spirit,

One in nature, equal in glory and distinct
in relations.

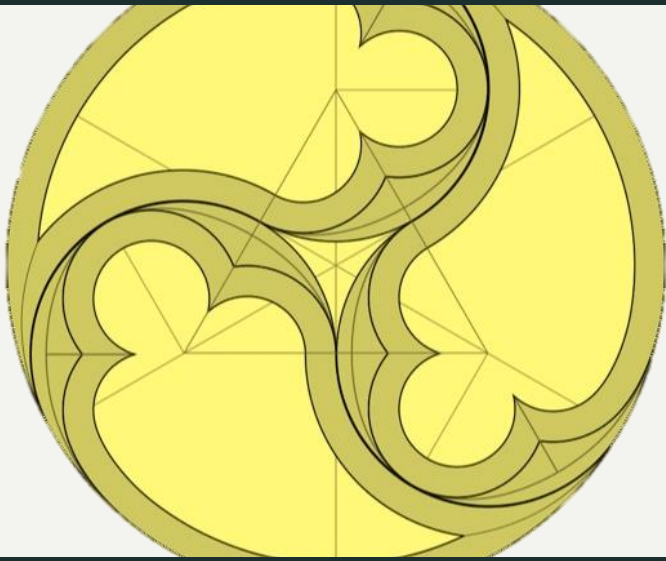




In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He (the Word) was with God in the beginning. (John 1:1)

I and the Father are One (John 10:30)

No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. (1 John 4:12)



Perichoretic Indwelling:

On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you (John 14:20)



I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:23)



The Persons love One another

(John 14:31; Mark 9:7; Matt 3:17)

The Persons glorify One another

(John 16:14, 17:1, 4-5)

The Persons honor One another (value, respect, revere) (John 5:22-23; 8:49, 54)

The Persons please One another

(John 8:29, Matt 3:17, 17:5)

The Spirit testifies of the Son (John 16:14-15)

The persons KNOW one another intimately **(epiginosko)** (Matt 11:27; John 10:15)

The Persons communicate with one another

(John 10:18, 15:15)

The Persons work with and for one another

(John 5:17; 4:34)

The Son submits to the will of the Father

(Matt 26:39, John 14:19)

The Spirit Speaks the Word of the Father

(John 3:31)

The Persons give gifts to one another

(James 1:17; John 3:35)

The Persons abide in unity and love

(John 10:3; 14:10, 20)

The Persons enjoy fellowship of the Other

(John 1:18; John 17)





Prior to Creation, the Persons of the Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit existed in eternal delight and joy, loving one another.

C.S. Lewis describes a perpetual dance of joy. (Perelandra)

Christian Mission

**WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO LOVE
GOD AND LOVE
OTHERS?**



This requires sacrifice, a laying down of our own desires and passions for the sake of the Other.

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8



How do we love wisely?



Scripture:

Jesus Example

One Another's

Fruit of the Spirit

1 Corinthians 13

**Brothers and
Sisters in
Christ**

Prayer



**By nature, and by communal disposition,
the Holy Trinity is love.**

**The Creator has no obligation to give to
creation, yet this triune God has so
structured human beings in the *imago dei*
that we must give of ourselves to others
to be filled with God's life.**

Scott Horrell, Notes, **Persons Divine and Personal**, Dallas
Theological Seminary



Reeves, Michael, *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith*. IVP Academic; Illustrated edition 2012.

Zizioulas, John. *Being as Communion: Studies in Personhood and the Church*. Crestwood NY: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1985.