

the
TRINITY
an invitation to love



a pictorial quote collection
Yvon Prehn

The Trinity, an invitation to love, a pictorial quote collection

November 2025

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Published by The Lion's Voice

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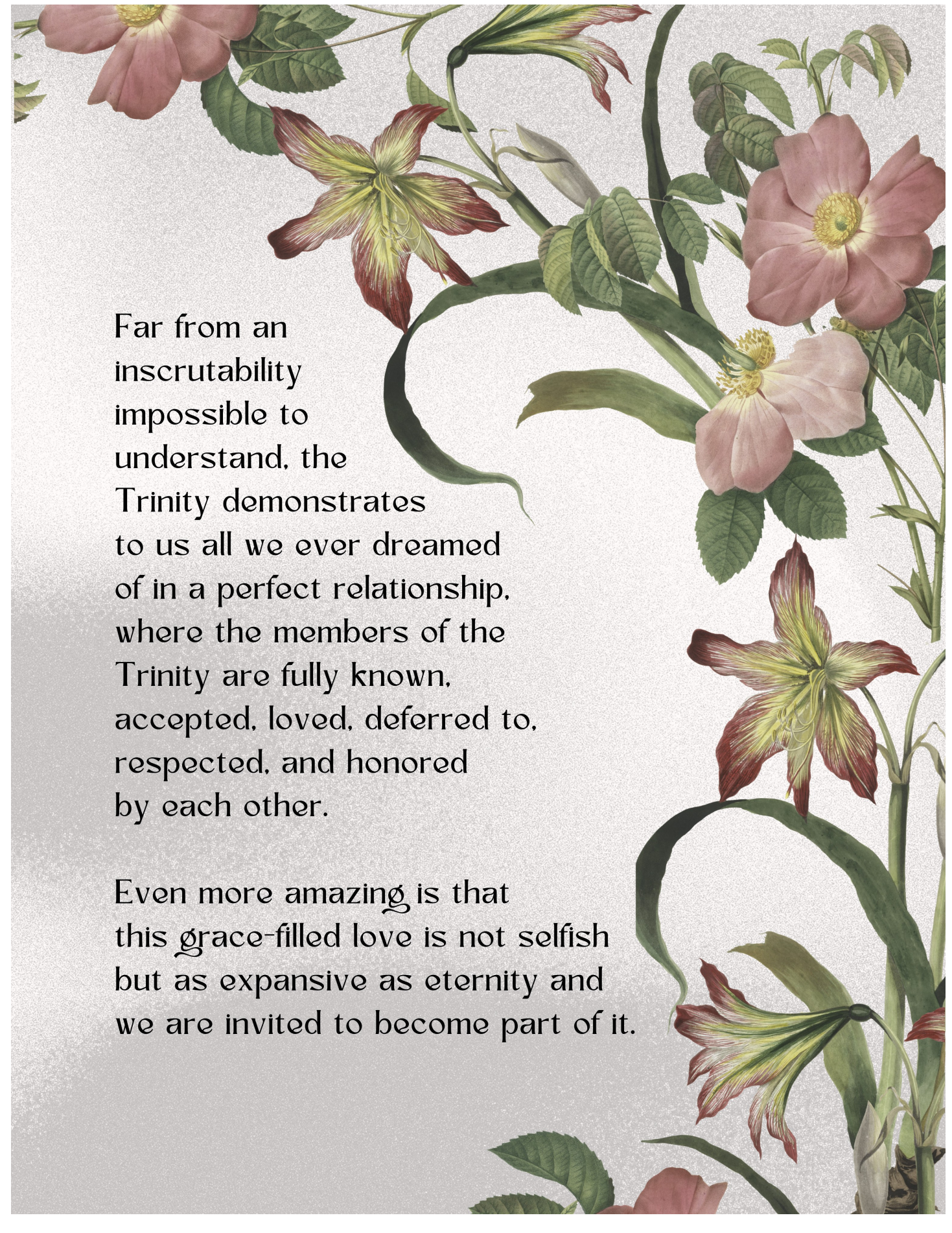
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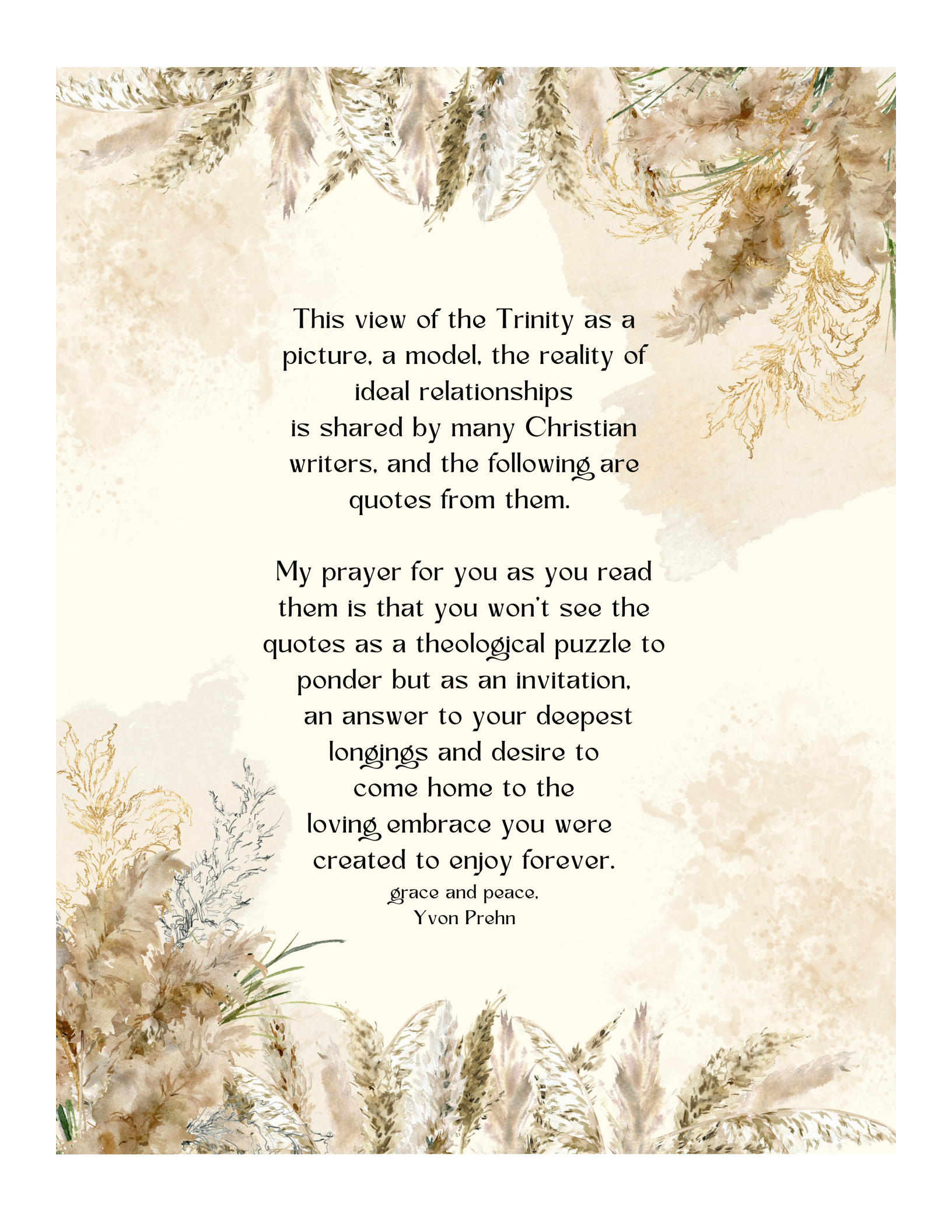
I have called you friends.
John 15:15





Far from an
inscrutability
impossible to
understand, the
Trinity demonstrates
to us all we ever dreamed
of in a perfect relationship,
where the members of the
Trinity are fully known,
accepted, loved, deferred to,
respected, and honored
by each other.


Even more amazing is that
this grace-filled love is not selfish
but as expansive as eternity and
we are invited to become part of it.



This view of the Trinity as a
picture, a model, the reality of
ideal relationships
is shared by many Christian
writers, and the following are
quotes from them.

My prayer for you as you read
them is that you won't see the
quotes as a theological puzzle to
ponder but as an invitation,
an answer to your deepest
longings and desire to
come home to the
loving embrace you were
created to enjoy forever.

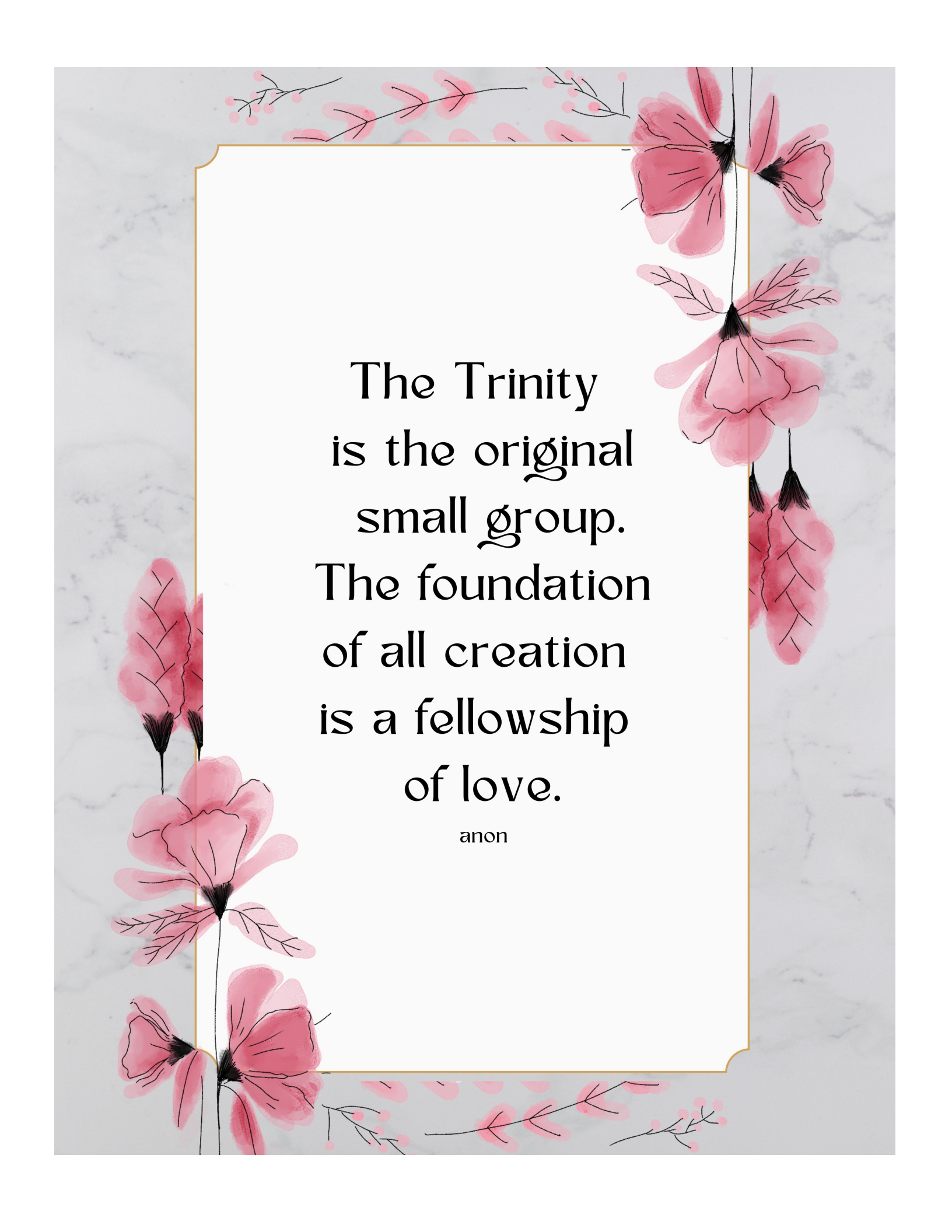
grace and peace,
Yvon Prehn



It is commonly
said that the Trinity is
a mystery. And it certainly is But it
is not a mystery veiled in darkness in
which we can only grope and guess. It
is a mystery in which we are given to
understand that we will never know all
there is of God It is not a mystery
that keeps us in the dark, but a
mystery in which we are taken by the
hand and gradually led into the light

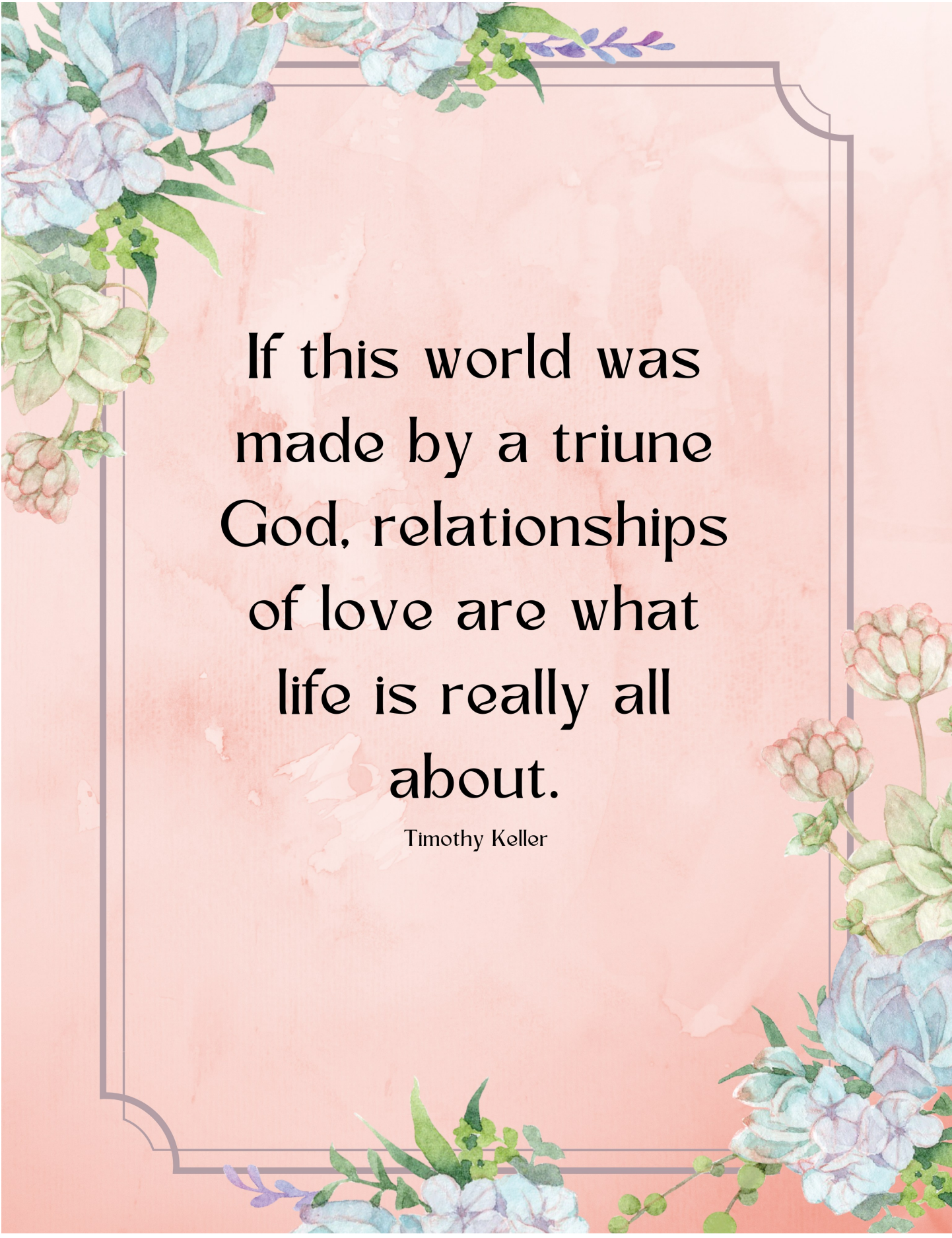
Eugene Peterson
Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places



The image features a central white rectangular frame with rounded corners, set against a light gray marble background. The frame is decorated with delicate pink flowers and branches, some of which are tassel-like. The text is centered within the frame.

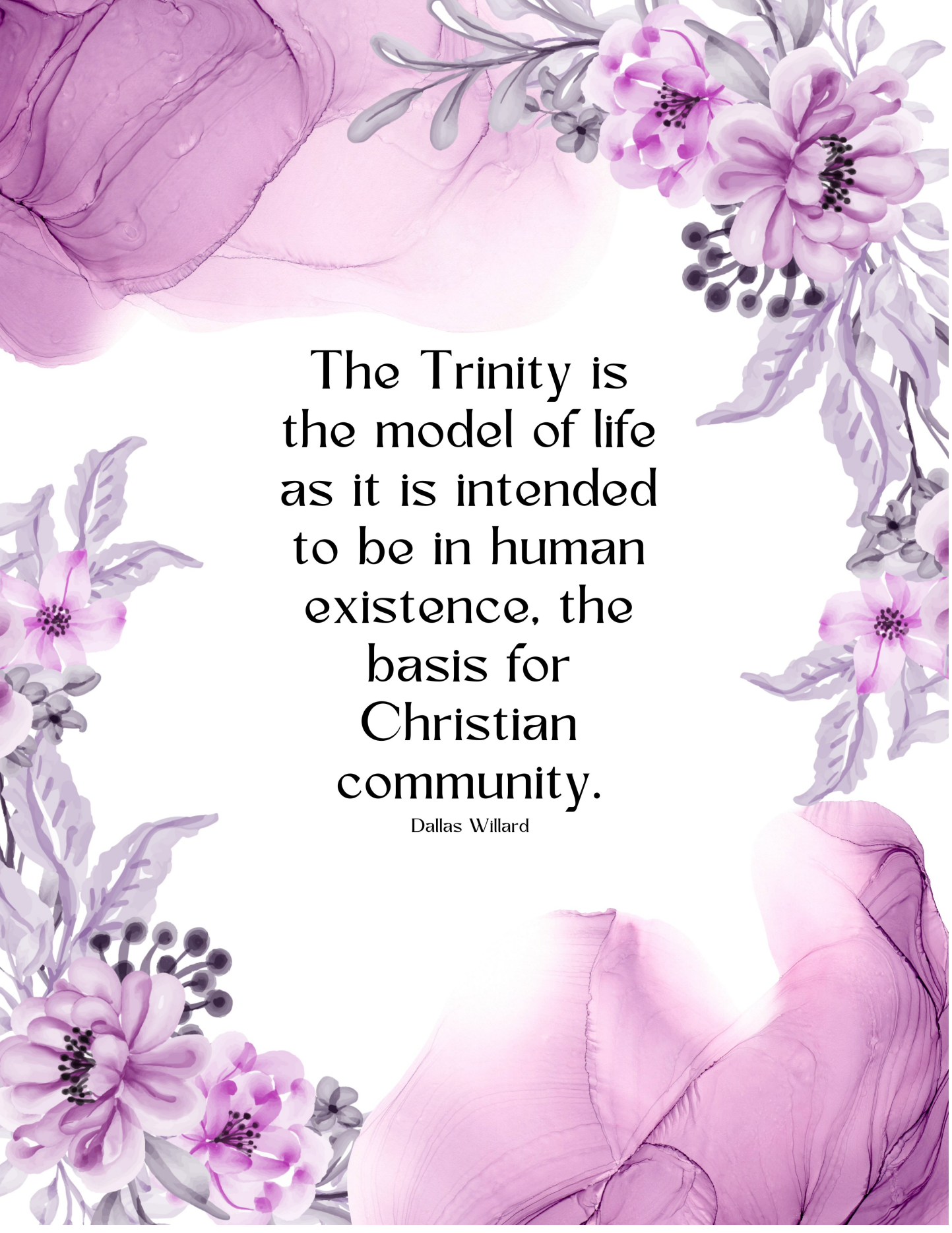
The Trinity
is the original
small group.
The foundation
of all creation
is a fellowship
of love.

anon



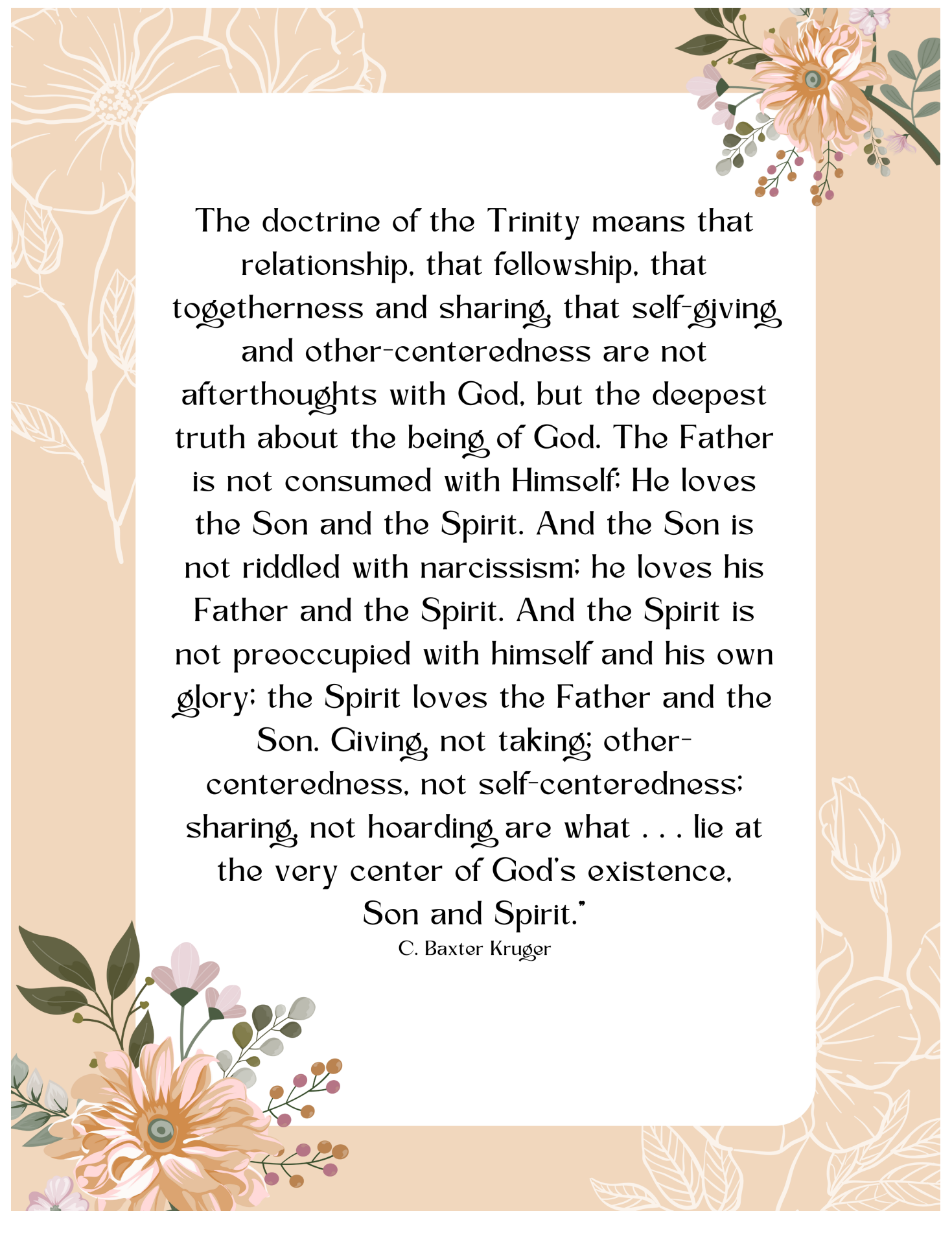
If this world was
made by a triune
God, relationships
of love are what
life is really all
about.

Timothy Keller



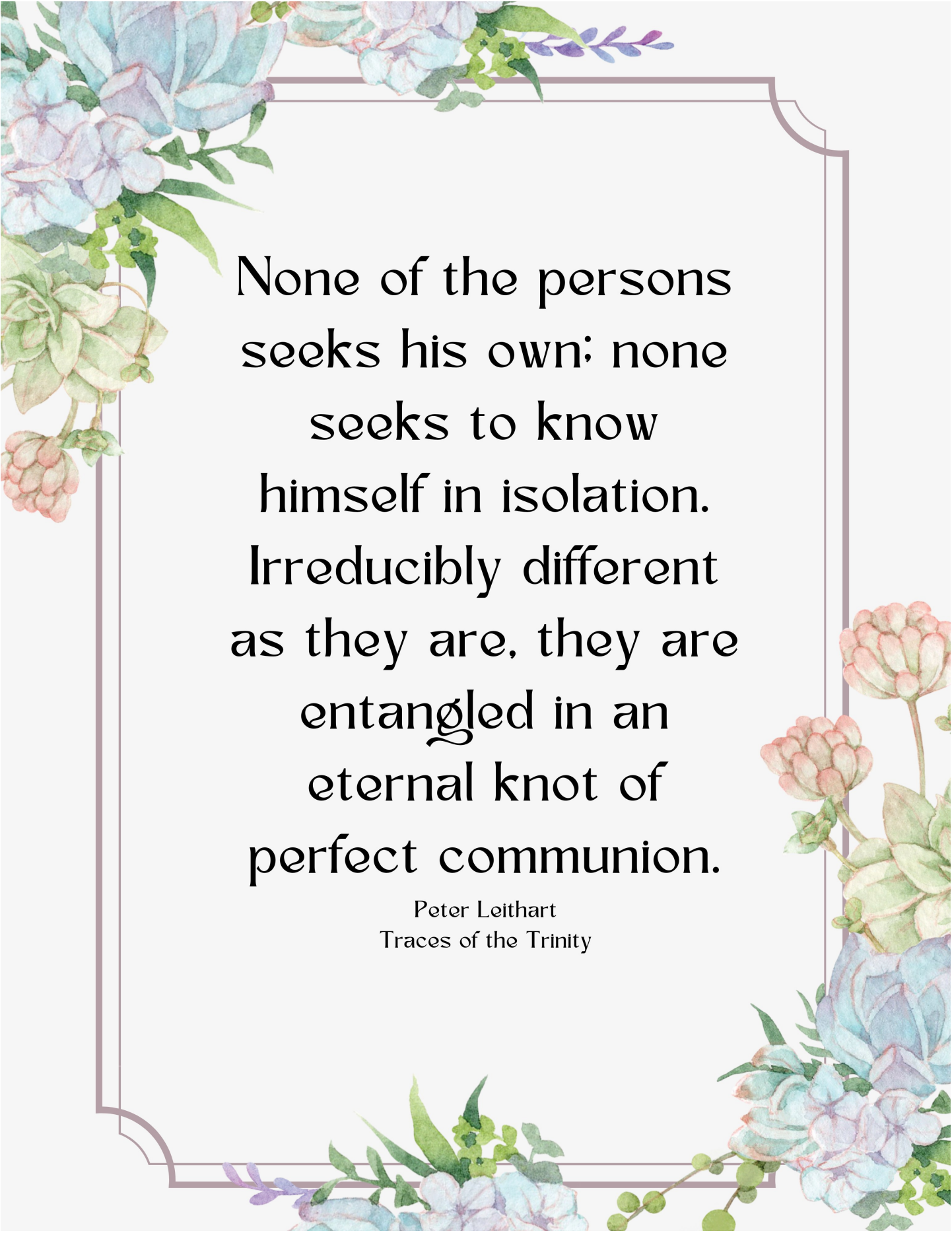
The Trinity is
the model of life
as it is intended
to be in human
existence, the
basis for
Christian
community.

Dallas Willard



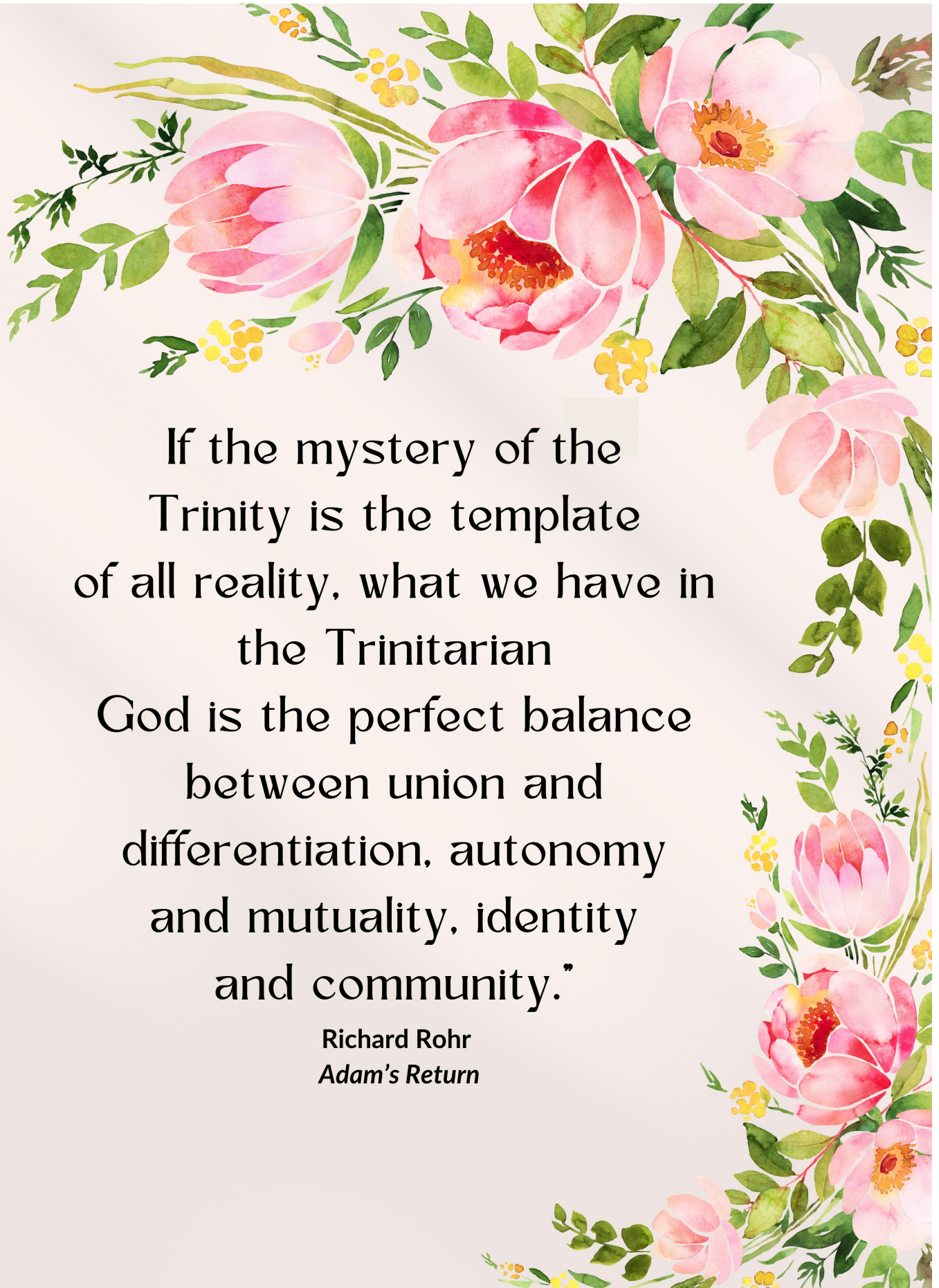
The doctrine of the Trinity means that relationship, that fellowship, that togetherness and sharing, that self-giving and other-centeredness are not afterthoughts with God, but the deepest truth about the being of God. The Father is not consumed with Himself; He loves the Son and the Spirit. And the Son is not riddled with narcissism; he loves his Father and the Spirit. And the Spirit is not preoccupied with himself and his own glory; the Spirit loves the Father and the Son. Giving, not taking; other-centeredness, not self-centeredness; sharing, not hoarding are what . . . lie at the very center of God's existence, Son and Spirit."

C. Baxter Kruger



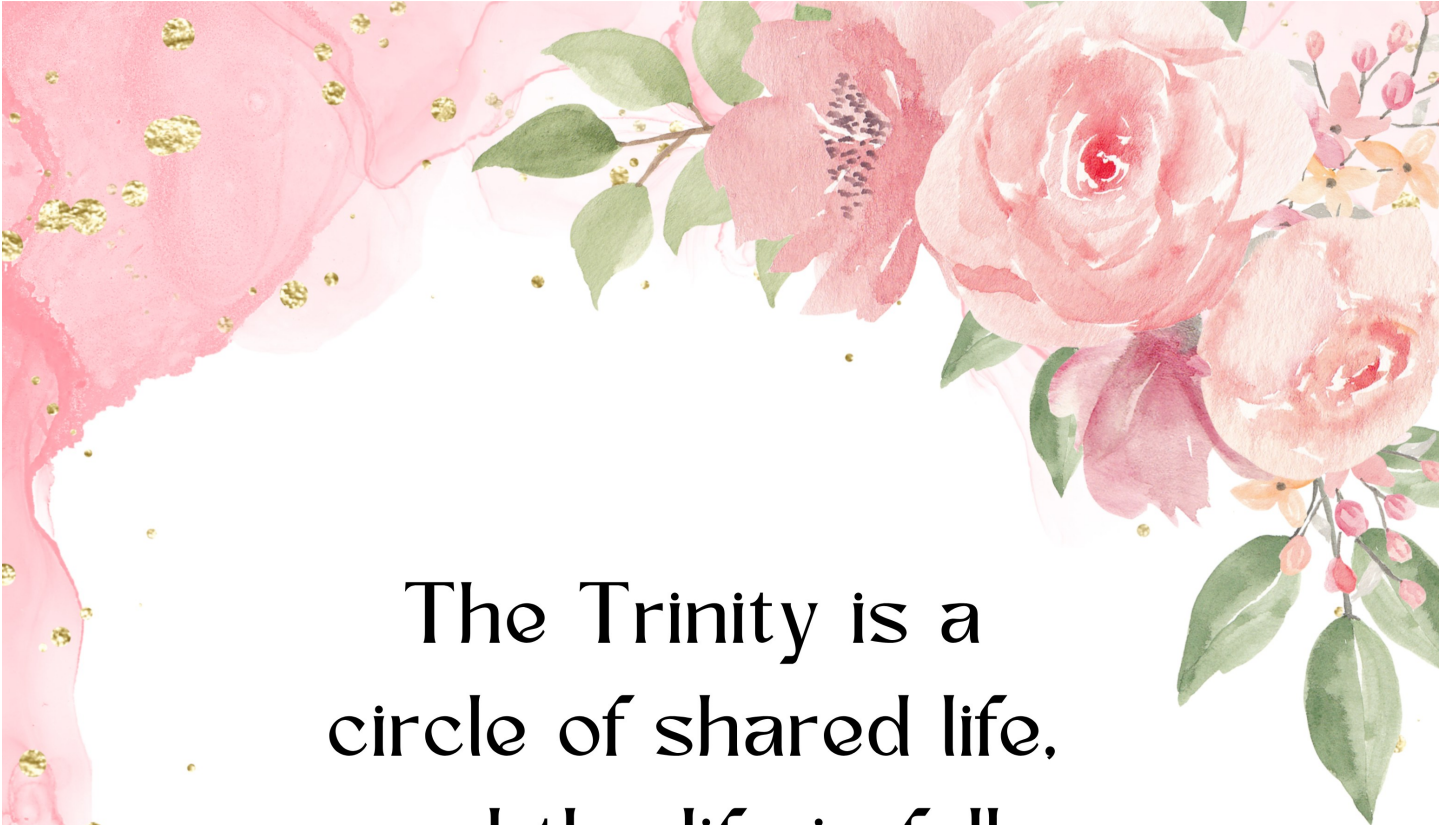
None of the persons
seeks his own; none
seeks to know
himself in isolation.
Irreducibly different
as they are, they are
entangled in an
eternal knot of
perfect communion.

Peter Leithart
Traces of the Trinity



If the mystery of the
Trinity is the template
of all reality, what we have in
the Trinitarian
God is the perfect balance
between union and
differentiation, autonomy
and mutuality, identity
and community.”

Richard Rohr
Adam's Return

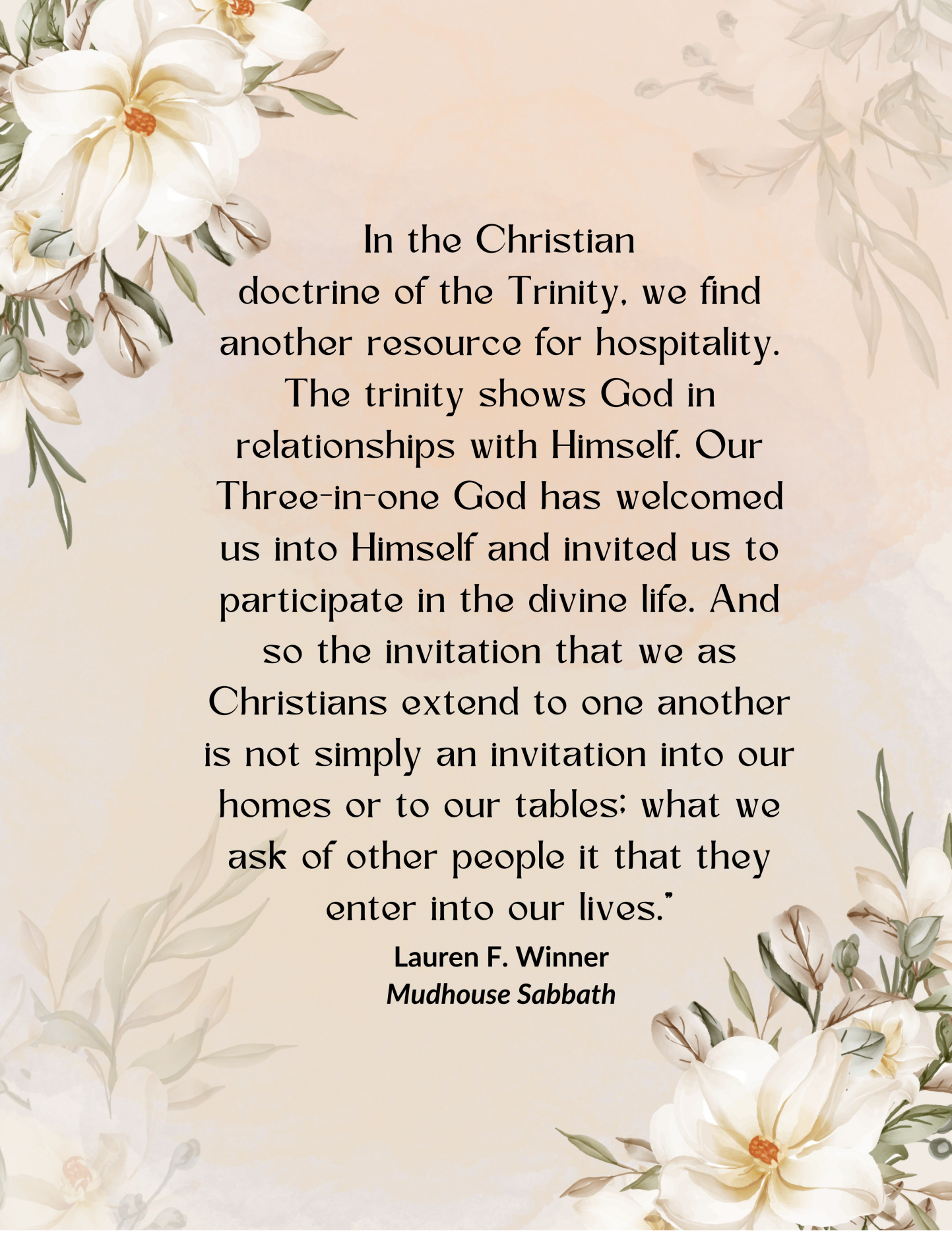


The Trinity is a
circle of shared life,
and the life is full,
not empty,
abounding and rich
and beautiful.

Baxter Kruger

The Great Dance: The Christian
Vision Revisited

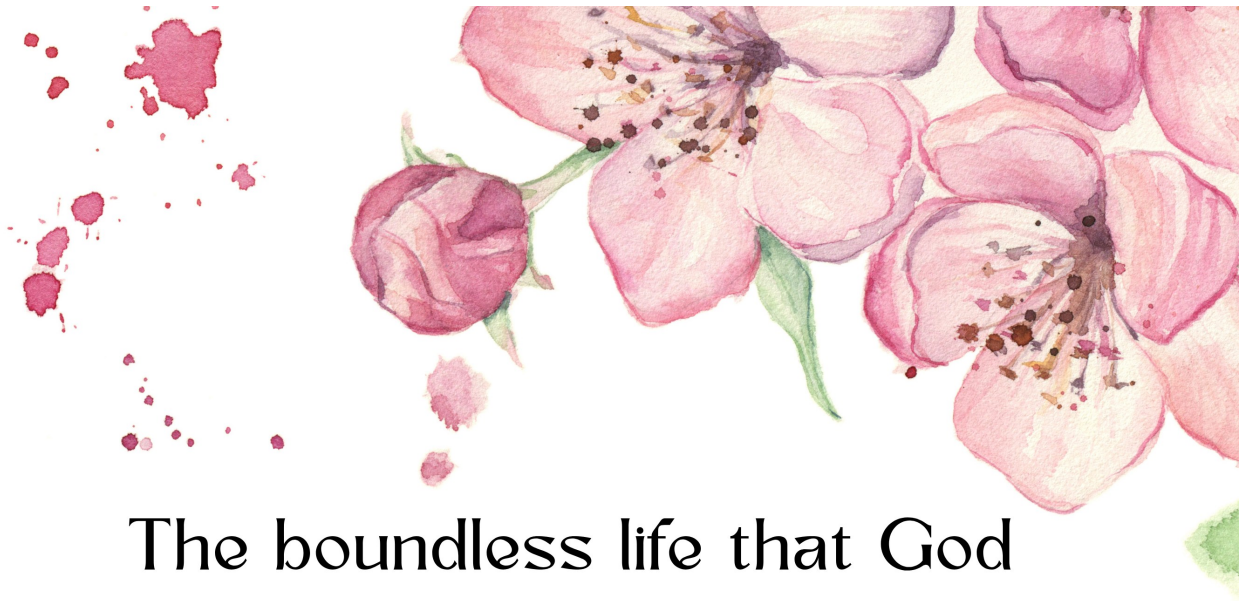




In the Christian
doctrine of the Trinity, we find
another resource for hospitality.

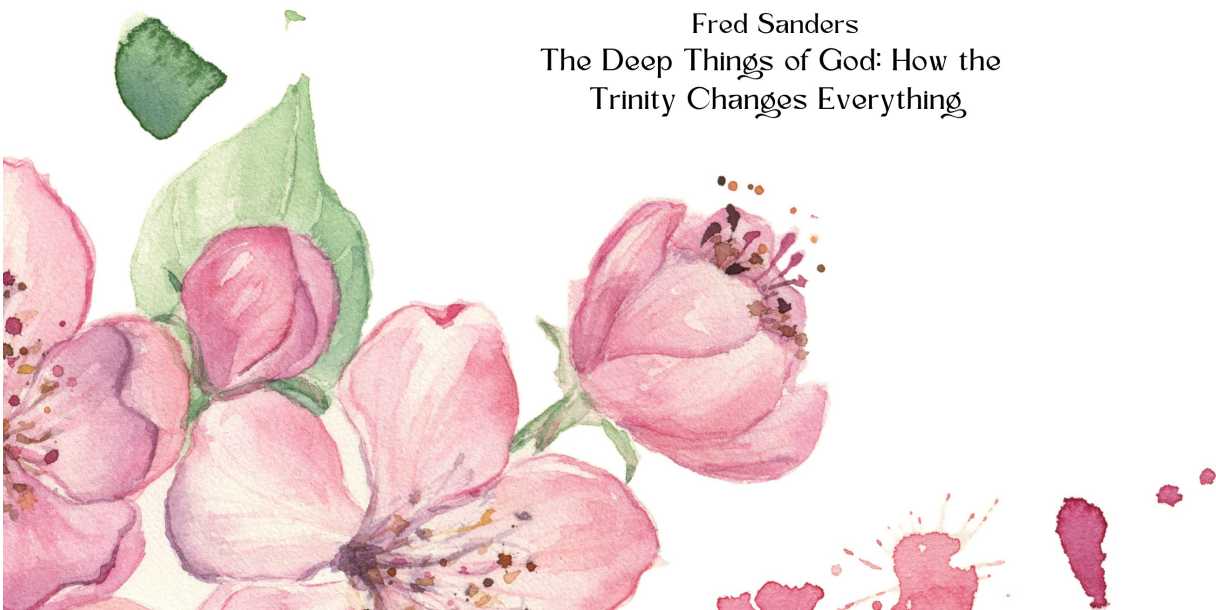
The trinity shows God in
relationships with Himself. Our
Three-in-one God has welcomed
us into Himself and invited us to
participate in the divine life. And
so the invitation that we as
Christians extend to one another
is not simply an invitation into our
homes or to our tables; what we
ask of other people is that they
enter into our lives.”


Lauren F. Winner
Mudhouse Sabbath



The boundless life that God lives in himself ... is complete, inexhaustibly full, and infinitely blessed.... The good news of the gospel is that God has opened up the dynamics of his triune life and given us a share in that fellowship.

Fred Sanders
The Deep Things of God: How the
Trinity Changes Everything





The Christian story is not primarily about how God in Jesus came to rescue sinners from some impending disaster.

It is about God's work of initiating us into a fellowship and making us true conversational partners with the Father and the Son through the Spirit and, hence, with each other (1 Jn 1:1-4).

Simon Chan

*Spiritual Theology: A Systematic Study
of the Christian Life*

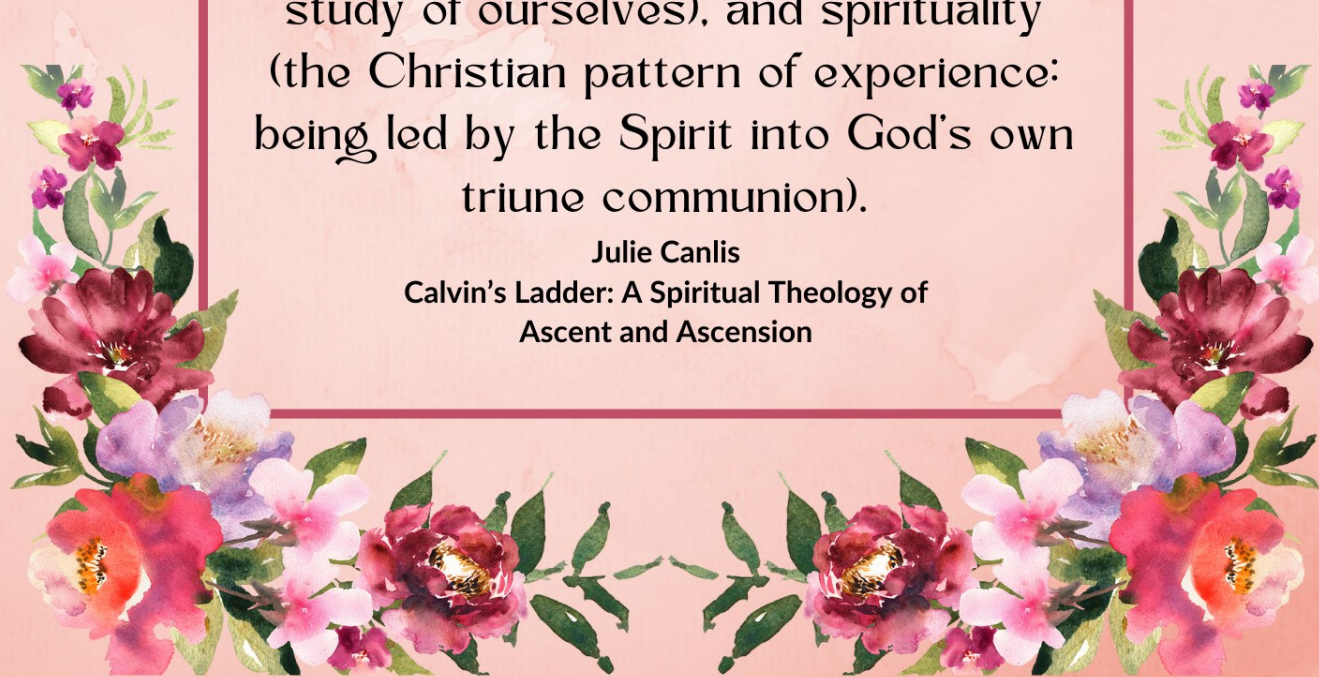


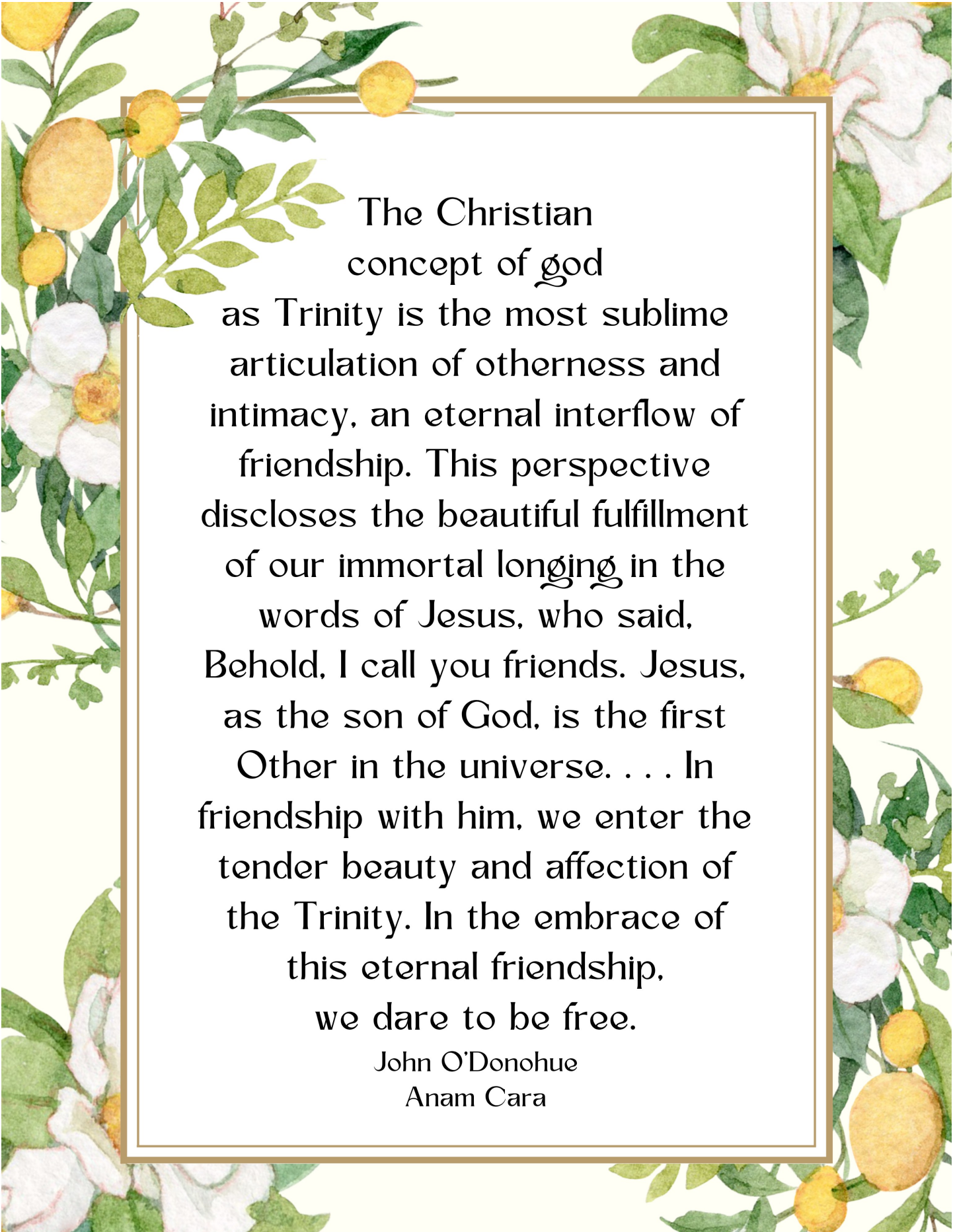


Koinōnia is at the heart of the Christian understanding of the triune God as a rich relationship not between individuals but between persons who indwell one another in a loving harmony of friendship and communion. As such, koinōnia is at the center of Christian theology (the study of God), anthropology (the study of ourselves), and spirituality (the Christian pattern of experience: being led by the Spirit into God's own triune communion).

Julie Canlis


Calvin's Ladder: A Spiritual Theology of
Ascent and Ascension



The image features a decorative border with watercolor-style illustrations of oranges and white flowers with green leaves. The oranges are bright yellow-orange, and the flowers are white with pinkish-red outlines. The background is a light cream color. A central white rectangular box with a thin brown border contains the text.

The Christian
concept of god
as Trinity is the most sublime
articulation of otherness and
intimacy, an eternal interflow of
friendship. This perspective
discloses the beautiful fulfillment
of our immortal longing in the
words of Jesus, who said,
Behold, I call you friends. Jesus,
as the son of God, is the first
Other in the universe. . . . In
friendship with him, we enter the
tender beauty and affection of
the Trinity. In the embrace of
this eternal friendship,
we dare to be free.

John O'Donohue
Anam Cara



The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
act as a divine community of
comfort for those who are in
Christ Jesus. The Trinity
possesses all comfort all the time
for all afflictions. The Godhead
never run short and are never
indisposed. They are an eternal
fountain of self-giving solace for
sufferers. Always available,
together they provide comfort that
is both portable and eternal.
Nothing can hold a candle to that.

Jonathan K. Dodson
Our Good Crisis: Overcoming Moral Chaos
with the Beatitudes






Go therefore and make
disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and
of the Holy Spirit, teaching
them to observe all that I
have commanded you. And
behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20





A Trinitarian Benediction

May the amazing
grace of the Master,
Jesus Christ, the
extravagant love of
God, the intimate
friendship of the
Holy Spirit, be with
all of you.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Bible-based lessons on the Trinity

For an overview lesson, handouts, charts, and a short video on the subject:

What the gospels tell us about the Trinity, why it isn't difficult, but extremely important to understand, go to <https://wp.me/pazrJD-W3>

For a more comprehensive series of lessons on the Trinity, the following three lessons are available:

The Trinity, part One, essential to understand, not nearly as hard as you might think it is

Understanding the Trinity, part Two, The One Substance of the Trinity, the attributes shared by the members of the Trinity and what that means to us

Understanding the Trinity, part Three, The Trinity Throughout the Bible

Go to www.Bible805.com for links to these lessons, podcasts, and YouTube videos on them.

Go to www.Bible805Academy.com for free, editable and downloadable materials you can use without attribution to teach these lessons including PowerPoint files, notes, questions, and related infographics.

On the following pages is first a Christmas version of the Nicene Creed, one of the first statements to clarify the Trinity for the church.

Following it are two charts that help explain the Trinity that my class members have found helpful. You may copy and use them, as you can for all the images in the book; I created them, own the copyright and pass it on to you, without cost or attribution however you'd like. The only limitations are that you cannot revise or sell them.

For additional resources, including notification of an upcoming book based on updated content of the three lessons on the Trinity and many more resources to help you know, trust, apply, and teach the Bible, go to www.Bible805.com and sign up for the Bible805 newsletter, ***The Lion's Voice***.

The Reason for the Season



JESUS CHRIST



the only Son of God,
God from God, Light from Light



Through him all things were made.



For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven and was made man.



*For our sake
he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.*

ON THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN

in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.



*He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead.*

AND HIS KINGDOM

will have no end!



Biblical View of the Trinity

ONE GOD

ONE SUBSTANCE

**All share in the same attributes,
equally and eternally**

THREE PERSONS

**Distinct persons eternally co-existing
Eternally sharing the same attributes**

Holy

"There is none holy like the Lord;
there is none besides you." 1 Samuel 2:2
"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord Almighty." Revelation 4:8

Just

"The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just;
A God of faithfulness and without injustice,
righteous and upright is He." Deut. 32:4

Merciful

"The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger
and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender
mercies are over all His works." Psalm 145:8-9

Love

"Love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born
of God and knows God. . . God is love." 1 John 4:7-8

Truth

"God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago," Titus 1:2
"And we know that the Son of God has come . . . This is the true
God and eternal life." 1 John 5:20

All-knowing, Omniscient

"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts
from afar. . . Before a word is on my tongue you,
LORD, know it completely." Psalms 139:1-6

Everywhere, Omnipresent

"Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall
not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?"
says the LORD. Jeremiah 23:24

All-powerful, Omnipotent

"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the
earth by your great power and outstretched arm.
Nothing is too hard for you." Jeremiah 32:17-18

Immutable, Unchangeable

"I the Lord do not change. So you, the descendants
of Jacob, are not destroyed." Malachi 3:6

Eternal

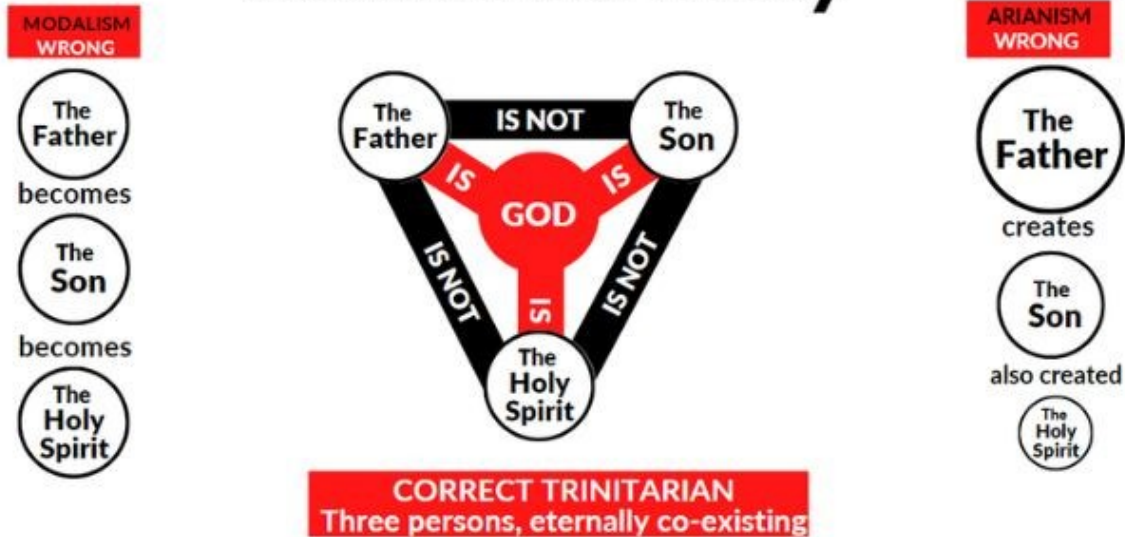
"For thus says the One who is high and
lifted up, who inhabits eternity..." Isaiah 57:15
"To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor
and glory forever and ever. Amen." 1 Timothy 1:17

**God,
The Father**

**God,
The Son**

**God,
The Holy Spirit**

Views of the Trinity



The correct view of the Trinity illustrates three eternally co-existing persons as the center image shows.

Modalism wrongly teaches the Creator as the Father, becomes the Son, as the Savior, who then becomes the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier in the same way that water, as one substance can progressively be solid, liquid, and steam--correct regarding water, wrong regarding our Triune God.

A modern-day expression of Modalism leads to Oneness theology, a false belief held by United Pentecostal and United Apostolic Churches that believes the Father in the Old Testament became the Son in the New Testament who then became the Holy Spirit today. This false belief is easily refuted when we look at the Baptism of Jesus when all three members of the Trinity were present and many other passages in the Bible.

Arianism wrongly teaches that the Father created both the Son and Holy Spirit and incorrectly makes them noneternal lesser creations.

Modern-day beliefs influenced by Arianism include the Mormon religion and the Muslim religion in that both believe that both Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not co-eternal with God the Father.

There are many other false views of the Trinity, but rather than focus on them, the best thing to do is focus on the truth of the Trinity, one God, One Substance, Three Persons, eternally co-existing.



About the Author: Yvon Prehn

Yvon Prehn is the founder and primary content creator of the Bibleverse, an umbrella group whose purpose is to help you get God's Word into all of life.

The Bibleverse consists of two major areas, a Bible-teaching area, Bible805 (www.Bible805.com) and a church communications training area, Effective Church Communications, (www.effectivechurchcom.com).

Yvon has a master's degree in Church History and has done additional graduate work in theology and communications. She taught high school English and was an adjunct professor in church history at Regis University.

She traveled all over North America consulting, training, and leading seminars to church and ministry communicators for over 20 years, while writing books, magazine articles, and blog posts to help churches and Christian ministries create communications that would enable them to fully fulfill the Great Commission.

No matter what else she was doing, Yvon has taught Bible classes pretty much all her life. She started teaching kindergartners in Sunday school when she was in third grade, had her own little class of fourth graders when she was in sixth grade, took over her high school youth group when the sponsors at the little Presbyterian Church she was attending in Colorado Springs left town when she was 16-years-old, and she's never stopped teaching the Bible.

She's taught in various situations in a variety of home studies and churches for many years and in addition to live classes, she currently has an extensive online Bible teaching ministry that includes classes, eBooks, training videos and shorts, podcasts, and the online Bible805 Academy (www.Bible805Academy.com), a totally free, editable resource site that equips others to teach the Bible and an ever-growing YouTube channel, www.Youtube.com/Bible805. Links to her resources of all sorts are available at www.Bible805.com.

She currently attends Community Presbyterian Church in Ventura, CA.

