

The Trinity – God presents Himself to us in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is one of the hardest theological concepts for most Christians (and non-Christians, too) to wrap their minds around. The fact that Jesus is “God’s Son” and yet “fully God”, that the Holy Spirit is sent from the Father once the Son ascends and yet is “fully God” as well is just too confusing for most. Add to this the fact that there is not scripture verse that defines the concept of “Trinity” (in fact, the word doesn’t even appear in scripture) and you’ve got the makings of a theological quagmire. This may be why throughout history there have been those who have fought the very idea. At one point, a group posited that there shouldn’t be three Persons of the Trinity, but four. “Sophia”, the word for Wisdom, is so personified in scripture, most often in Proverbs, that it seems to be another person means that Sophia should be the fourth person of the Trinity.

For the next few blogs, I am absolutely NOT suggesting that there are more Persons to the Trinity, nor that there should be. There is plenty of scriptural example (though not direct teaching) of The Trinity as God’s chosen way of revealing Himself and interacting with us. However, there are many other helpful metaphors about God’s character and behavior toward us that are worth exploring, so that’s where we’re going.

We’ve talked about how God the Creator made us to be With Him, from the garden of Genesis to the New Jerusalem of Revelation. We’ve talked about the power of Jesus Christ to undo the power of sin which separates us from God’s presence (though never from His love). And we’ve talked about how carving pumpkins can be a metaphor for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

What metaphors do you use to describe God? Is God a coach, a boss, a lover, a mother, a friend? Or is He a sheriff, a vending machine, a Santa Claus, a judge, or a butler? And can you set aside the metaphor you “should” be using so you can see which ones you honestly think of when you pray?