

The Trinity and Spirituality

*Between the Trinity and hell there lies no other choice.
Vladimir Lossky*

*I pray... that all of them may be one, Father, just as
you are in me and I am in you.*

*May they also be in us so that the world may believe
that you have sent me.*

John 17.20-21

Jesus' prayer for unity, inserted in the context of his high priestly prayer, leads us to a world that transcends our capacity for comprehension and discernment. In this prayer Jesus places himself, in his relationship to his Father, as the standard for the proposed unity. The affirmation "I ask...that they might be one. Father, as you are in me and I in you, permit that they might be in us" leads us to the mystery of the Trinity as the model of relationship that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit enjoy among themselves. It is also the relationship that they share with the church.

Nevertheless, what place does the Trinity have in our personal Christian lives and in our human relationships? What relevance does this doctrine have for the practical questions that arise regarding the unity of the church? And what influence could this teaching provide for our spirituality and our relationship with God? Although the doctrine of the Trinity occupies an important place within Christian theology, many consider it to be irrelevant and without any practical purpose for Christian living.

The feeling evident in the contemporary church is that the doctrine of the Trinity belongs to our religious past and has almost nothing to say or offer for the current situations that the church faces. The impression is that

Ricardo Barbosa de Sousa

pastors Planalto Presbyterian Church in Brasilia, Brazil and is the vice-president of the FTL. He and his wife have two children. This article is a translated chapter from his book *Cuida tu corazón: Ensayos sobre espiritualidad cristiana* (Kairós, 2005).

