

The Dance of God

From Tim's Keller's
The Reason for God

A Drama in Four Parts

- *In this chapter, Keller attempts to draw together the previous 13 chapters and view the storyline of Christianity as a whole.*
- *Keller states that the Bible has often been summed up as a drama in four acts – creation, fall, redemption, and restoration*

The Trinity and the Dance

- *“The life of the Trinity is characterized by mutually self-giving love.*
- *When we delight and serve someone else, we enter into a dynamic orbit around him or her, we center on the interests and desires of the other.*
- *That creates a dance...each voluntarily circles the other two, pouring love, delight and adoration into them.*
- *Each person of the Trinity loves, adores, defers to, and rejoices in the others. That creates a dynamic, pulsating dance of joy and love.*

Perichoresis

- *Perichoresis literally means to “dance or flow around” (think “choreography”) – it involves mutual movement as well as mutual indwelling.*
- *It is the eternal movement of the communion of love which the Holy Trinity is ever within himself.*
- *Perichoresis means that each divine person harbors the others at the center of his being. In constant movement of overtone and acceptance each person envelops and encircles the others.*

The Essence of Creation

- *If God is triune, then loving relationships are the “great fountain...at the center of reality” – God really has love at his essence.*
- *Ultimate reality is a community of persons who know and love one another. That is what God...and life is all about.*

Creation And The Reason for the Dance

- *God did not create us to get the cosmic, infinite joy of mutual love and glorification, but to share it. We were made to join in the dance.*
- *If we will center our lives on him, serving him not out of self-interest, but just for the sake of who he is, for the sake of his beauty and glory, we will enter the dance and share in the joy and love he lives in.*

Behind the Grand Creation Design

- *We were designed, then, not just for belief in God in some general way, nor for a vague kind of inspiration or spirituality.*
- *We were made to center our lives upon him, to make the purpose and passion of our lives knowing, serving, delighting, and resembling him.*
- *This growth in happiness will go on eternally, increasing unimaginably*

The Fall: Losing the Dance

- *We lost the dance.*
- *The dance of joyful, mutually self-giving relationships is impossible in a self-centered world in which everyone is stationary, trying to get everyone and everything else to orbit around them.*
- *When our relationship with God unraveled, all our other relationships disintegrated as well.*

Redemption and Rejoining the Dance

- *Jesus was born into the world to begin a new humanity, a new community of people who could lose their self-centeredness, begin a God-centered life, and, as a result, slowly but surely have all other relationships put right as well.*
- *When Jesus came into the world and died on the cross to deal with our sins, he was circling and serving us – glorifying us.*

How to Return to the Dance

- *We can return to the dance by:*
 - *Making Jesus the new center of our lives and stop trying to be our own Savior and Lord.*
 - *Accepting his challenge to recognize ourselves a sinners in need of his salvation.*
 - *Accepting his renewing love as the new basis of our identity.*

At the End of the Story...

- *At the end of the final book of the Bible, we see the very opposite of what other religions predict – we see heaven descending into our world to unite with it and purify it of brokenness & imperfection.(see Rev 21 The New Heaven and the New Earth)*
- *Rom 8:21 - “Creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”*
- *The whole world will be healed as it is drawn into the fullness of God’s glory.*

Living Together in Peace

- *Because creation was made in the image of a God who is equally one and many, the human race will finally be reunited and yet our racial and cultural diversity will remain intact in the renewed world. Humanity finally lives together in peace.*
- *It is not just about our individual salvation. Jesus came to put the whole world right*