This Sunday, the first after the festival of Pentecost, we find ourselves in a familiar position. We find ourselves in the midst of a mystery as we celebrate the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We find ourselves trying to discuss and understand the impossible. How could we explain a god that is three distinct persons as revealed in the Father, son, and Holy Spirit without stepping on a heresy along the way.

For example let me share some common explanations of the trinity.

The Trinity is like an egg. In one egg you have the white, the yoke, and the shell composing one full egg.

This analogy denies the unity of the God-head. The problem with this analogy is that an egg yoke is of a very different substance than a shell. Also, the egg is made up of three distinct and unalike parts. This analogy actually teaches the heresy of tritheism.

The trinity is like water. Water has three states: solid, liquid, and gas. Although the water changes forms it is still H2O. Just as water changes forms so too is the trinity.

This analogy denies the distinction of the God-head. The problem with this analogy is that no one molecule of H2O can actually exist as solid, liquid, and gas at the same time. As a result the water molecule must change forms. A single molecule cannot simultaneously exist in three different states. This analogy actually teaches the heresy of modalism.

The trinity is a like a Three-Leaf Clover. There are three different cloves that represent the three different persons of the trinity.

The problem with this analogy is it denies the unity of the God-head. The analogy breaks down because the three cloves are overly distinct and cannot represent the unity of God. As a result, this analogy can easily lead to tritheism in which there are three different gods which might share some like substance.

There’s a simple reason they don’t work: The Trinity, as such, isn’t like anything in creation. True, we humans are image bearers but nothing in creation serves as an analogy for the Trinity because the Trinity is a doctrine of special (biblical) revelation not nature or reason.

Put simply the doctrine of the trinity is a mystery to us. And we can react many different ways to a mystery and one of them is like the Father of Carl Jung my Old Testament professor talked to us about. He said “Psychoanalytical pioneer and scholar of religion Carl Jung remembered taking confirmation classes from his father, a Lutheran minister. It was all very boring–but young Carl had read ahead in his catechism, and knew that coming up was something strange, mysterious, and wonderful–the Trinity! When the day assigned to study the Trinity arrived at last, however, Jung’s father said, “This is very complicated, and I really don’t understand it myself, so we’ll skip over it.””

We can run from mystery or we can react like Rick and Marty Lagina who are working to fulfill a life long dream as they embark on the most exciting chapter ever of the now 220-year-old Oak Island mystery.

Oak Island has been a subject for treasure hunters ever since the late 1700s, with rumours that Captain Kidd's treasure was buried there. While there is little evidence to support what went on during the early excavations, stories began to be published and documented as early as 1856. Since that time there have been many theories that extend beyond that of Captain Kidd which include among others religious artifacts, manuscripts, and Marie Antoinette's jewels.

This mystery has intrigued Rick and Marty that they have been digging and excavating on oak island for several years and are even part of a history channel show called the mystery of oak Island

Will the mystery fatigue you and get your frustrated, or will the mystery intrigue you and drive you to dive even deeper into the subject matter.

You see the doctrine of the Trinity stems right from the early church as the church was struggling to speak about their experience with the divine. A lot of the early church were jewish converts and so they are trying to figure out how to affirm the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, with the lordship of Jesus Christ and his revelations.

Throughout the scriptures Jesus speaks of this intimate relationship between him and the Father. For example in John 10 Jesus states that “What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. 30 The Father and I are one.”

Jesus also commands his followers to baptize in the name of the father, son, and holy Spirit.

These two verses together force the faithful followers of Christ to think about who it is they worship and serve. Who is Jesus and the Spirit that they are on par with the Father in this command is a question the hearers might have asked themselves.

And so begins a journey into discovery as people are trying to explain how there are three persons on par with each other and yet just one God. And so people dove into the depths of this mystery because their experience of God and Christ drove them in search of answers. And so they searched the scriptures and formed councils to straighten this out.

The mystery of the God they served drove them to learn more and more about this wonderful God who in and of Godself needs and wants for nothing and yet for gods own pleasure created us in Gods image.

You see, After making major discoveries in borehole 10-X and the infamous Money Pit last year, Rick and Marty, and their partners will again take on Oak island. Nothing will stop them from finding out the mystery of what could be buried on Oak Island, who concealed it there and where “X” marks the spot.

And that is what I want to challenge us to do, to be intrigued and not fearful of the mystery. To use the mystery to fuel us to a deeper search of who God is. Analogies for the trinity that may step on some heretical toes, were born out of someone’s desire to get to the bottom of the mystery of who God is. The Holy Trinity Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are a beautiful mystery that invites us into a journey of discovery of God and of ourselves.

That’s the beauty of the grandeur of God. We will never know everything about God, there is always something new to learn, and with each discovery we learn something not only about God, we learn something about ourselves, because who we are is always in relation to God.