

The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
St. John 10:22-30  
May 12th, 2019  
St. George's Bolton  
Fr. Chris  
One

### **“The Father and I are one.”**

God is like a modern cell phone.

I am like a troglodyte. I was raised believing you need all sorts of gadgets to accomplish something. This was not simple. It was complicated and required the mastery of many items. Most of you must remember what this was like.

I put on a watch in the morning. When I went out for a walk, I clipped on a pedometer. Maybe I wanted to take some pictures, so I brought along my point and shoot camera. When I got home, maybe I wanted to read the newspaper or watch the news on T.V., so I picked up my paper newspaper and started to read it, or I went to my TV set and watched the news after setting the antenna or tweaking the cable box. Then I would get out a pad of paper and go to work on my “to do” list for the day. I would remember that I needed to send a birthday card to my friend, so I went to my closet, got out a Hallmark card from my box of stored cards, went to my desk and penned a card, addressed the envelope after looking through my “Rolodex” address book, and put a stamp on it, and waited to deliver it later in the day to the post office so I could be sure it arrived on time. While at my desk, I decided to pay some bills, and wrote those out and posted them in the same way as my friend’s birthday card. I decided after that to listen to my messages on my telephone answering machine, and played and replayed those taking notes all the way through. I packed up my camcorder in my bag, as I remembered I was supposed to go to my son’s football game in the afternoon and take some home movies. Then I dropped my good pen on the floor and it rolled under the couch, so I went downstairs, grabbed my flashlight and came back up to look for it under the clunky piece of furniture...ahhhh, I found it! And so on, and so on, for many tasks throughout the day.

Today, a cellphone, which you keep in your pocket or purse and hold in your hand, can do all of those things and much more. One simple looking

gadget, not a room full of gadgets. Much simpler, right? At least that was the intention behind the invention. Steve Jobs had the goal of making technology more accessible and simpler to use.

The human temptation is to believe in a polytheistic realm above us, in which there are many Gods. The Egyptians, the Greeks and the Romans have left us ample evidence of this. Many of the planets in our solar system are named for some of them. There is Mercury, Mars, Venus, Neptune and Jupiter to name just a few. And as the cultures matured and dug deeper into their spirituality, they became monotheistic. One God, not many Gods. God was no longer experienced in the forces of nature, or as controlling a portion of them. It came to pass that human beings understood that there is one God, and this one God manifests Godself in a number of ways.

Judaism has been monotheistic since its earliest beginnings. The law given to Moses states that “You shall have no other God’s but me.

I, the Lord your God am one. Deuteronomy sets for the teaching early on: [Deuteronomy 6:4-9]

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart; and you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Christianity is also monotheistic, yet the doctrine of the Trinity can be misunderstood to lead us to believe that there are three distinct Gods. Not so. One God revealed in three persons or three ways. God the creator. God who walked the earth. And God whom we perceive when we pray and meditate.

Jesus says in the Gospel this morning, “I and the Father are one.” Not separate beings. He who has seen or heard Jesus has seen the Father and heard him. The terms “Father” and the Son,” while showing the intimate intricacy of the relationship between Jesus and the infinite God of all eternity, can lead us to ignore the statement of Jesus that, “I and the Father are One.” The terms Father and Son anthropomorphize this relationship, as

humans are want to do, yet they give us a way to grasp this profound mystery.

John's Gospel "prologue" –in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God, speaks of Jesus using the Eternal Word as a substitute for the name of Jesus.

- Jesus is not an afterthought.
- Jesus did not come along half way through history as an idea cooked up by God.
- God did not adopt Jesus because he was a good person and teacher. (as a major heresy in the early era of Christianity believed.)

Jesus is the living God incarnate, in the flesh, walking and living among us. God loves us so much to do so, and to lay down the incarnate life as a sacrifice for us, that we might not have to suffer and sacrifice anymore.

And God still lives and walks among us, without the physical body to limit Him.

If you have seen Jesus, you have seen God, the Father and the Holy Spirit. They are one God. AMEN