

## A Trinitarian View of School Authority

by Leslie Collins, Covenant Christian Academy

The unity and authority of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost provide a model for the authority structure of the board-governed school. Within the Trinity, fellowship, unity, and interdependence are the natural mode of communication and action. Ontologically there is pure unity; economically there is a distribution of function. The Father is the Head of the Trinity. He has a will to which the Son lovingly submits. "But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Matthew 24:36). The Father sent the Son, who accomplishes His will, intercedes for the Father's children, and sacrifices Himself to provide for their needs according to the Father's will. "My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done" (Matthew 26:42). The Father sent the Spirit, who continues to intercede for His people and equips, encourages, and edifies them as well. "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you" (John 14:26). Each part of the Trinity has a separate function, all equally important and all equally interdependent. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

As image-bearers of the Triune God of Scripture, we reflect the unity and model of Three in One in our school leadership: board,

administration, and faculty and staff. "We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also

the future. The work of the Trinity is to establish, build, and further the Kingdom. The Father is the Head of the Trinity. The Son

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be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body" (2 Corinthians 4:10–11). The board, serving as the Head, represents the will of the school. It serves to protect its mission and vision by creating policy and preserving legacy. It guards the future and the past. The administration does the will of the board by fulfilling the mission and vision in the day-to-day operations of the school, interceding on behalf of the faculty, staff, and parents and community. The administration, being called by the board, seeks to serve, protect, and defend the work of the school, serving as the Christ figure and guarding the present. The administration calls upon the strength of the faculty and staff to equip, edify, and encourage the students and families of the school. The will of the Father is accomplished by the Son, and furthered by the Spirit. In the same fashion, the will of the board is accomplished by the administration and furthered by the teachers as they train and teach the next generation, preparing for

submits willingly to the Father. The Spirit is sent by and, in like fashion, submits to the Father and the Son. The trinitarian authority of the school functions in the same way. The board is the head, the administration submits to that authority, the faculty and staff submits to the authority of both the board and the administration. In this way, all parts of the school understand that there is beauty and specialty in their role, specific and general submission to one another, and unity in the midst of that submission." . . . *I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me*" (John 17:23).

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