

THE UNIQUE CLAIM

By Rod

This sketch was written to accompany a sermon on the title above about the Trinity. It does no more than introduce the complexity of the subject.

CAST

Ethel *A 'mature' woman.*

Madge *Another 'mature' woman. Married to Bert.*

Bert *Husband of Madge*

The scene is just before the evening service in church. Ethel is seated in a pew. Madge and Bert enter and go across to join her.

Madge Hello, Eth, do you mind if we join you?

Ethel Not at all, Madge.

Madge [*Sitting down next to Ethel*] Fred not with you?

Ethel No, he's got a back problem.

Madge Oh, I'm sorry to hear that.

Ethel Don't be. The problem is that his back is stuck to the sitting-room sofa: he's fast asleep.

Madge [*Suggestively*] Ooh, Ethel, what have you been doing to him to make him so exhausted?

Ethel We had a few neighbours round for a barbecue.

Madge What a good idea: the weather's been lovely.

Ethel It was a spur of the moment thing; I saw that the barbecue meat was on two for the price of one in the supermarket and decided to go for it.

Madge And why not? A bit of spontaneity adds spice to life; that's what I say. But why is Fred so exhausted? Surely a barbecue is relaxing?

Ethel He insisted on doing all the cooking. Never lifts a finger round the house usually but when it comes to barbecues he is all action.

Madge My Bert's just the same. He wouldn't be seen dead in the kitchen but mention the word barbecue and suddenly he thinks he's that Naked Chef, Jamie Saliva.

Ethel Knackered Chef more like, if my Fred's anything to go by. What is it with men and barbecues?

Madge What is it with men full stop? With meat at least you get two for the price of one occasionally but with husbands you get nought for the price of one all the time.

Bert *[By this time he is seated]* When I got married I was told I'd get sixteen wives.

Ethel Come again, Bert. How do you figure that? Was the vicar one of those Morons?

Bert No, he was not a Mormon but he said I'd get sixteen wives: four richer, four poorer, four better, four worse.

Ethel Oh, very funny Bert. Very good.

Madge Don't encourage him, Eth.

Bert The trouble is, I only got one – and she was one of the 'worse' ones.

Madge See what I mean, Eth? No gratitude. It's a wonder I'm still sane.

Bert *[Under his breath]* That's a matter of opinion.

Ethel Martyrs we are, Madge, martyrs. *[Pause]*

Madge What's the sermon about this evening, Eth?

Ethel *[Reading from service sheet]* "The unique claim" by*(Ues name of suitable preacher – ideally one who plays golf. See later)*

Madge I wonder what it's about? *[Thinking]* "The unique claim"

Ethel I expect it's something to do with golf. It usually is.

Madge Yes, you're right; he's probably going to claim he did a hole in one. That would be "unique".

Bert Seeing as how it's Trinity Sunday it's more likely that the sermon is about the Trinity.

Madge Don't be daft, Bert. Everyone knows that "uni" means "one": like how a unicycle has one wheel, whereas a tricycle has three wheels. And triple means three. How can "A unique claim" be about the Trinity?

Bert But the whole point of the Trinity is that God is three in one.

Ethel You mean He's like a lubricating oil, Bert?

Madge Or my spray polish: that's three in one. It "cleans, polishes and protects".

Ethel So God cleans, polishes and protects?

Bert Not exactly. It means that there is only one God but at the same time He is three different gods: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is three persons in one.

Ethel That sounds rather complicated.

Bert It is – it's reckoned to be beyond the power of man's understanding.

Madge Most things are beyond the power of man's understanding in my experience. Eh Ethel?

Ethel Too right, Madge – but this does sound hard to fathom. I hope the rector can shed some light.

Bert We'll have to wait and see.

Madge It's good value though.

Ethel How do you mean, Madge?

Madge Three Gods for the price of one. You don't see offers like that at the supermarket. That really is a unique claim!

THE END