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THE TRINITY

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Christians believe that God is trinity because this is clearly taught in God's word the Bible. There is only one God the supreme creator, ruler and judge of everyone. But God is not a simple mathematical singleness but within His nature there is a threefold mode of personal life and being, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each is equal but they are not separate but are one God. It may seem a difficult thought but it is not really. We ourselves are a unity which is threefold and yet only one. For example we have thought, feeling and will and we are our thoughts, our feeling and our will and yet we remain very much one person. Perhaps it is not surprising that we have this sort of unity which is not simple but threefold, because mankind has been created in the image of God, but unlike ourselves He is three personal conscious centres of life while remaining one God. This knowledge of His threefold nature is a great help to understanding our relationships to God and indeed of understanding the nature of human life because the trinity reminds us that ultimate reality is relational, there are personal relations within it. It is not an isolated unity. We learn that there are moral relations within the trinity itself, and we should reflect the same relationships in our dealings with one another. For example Jesus taught that the Spirit is not self-centred but rather seeks to glorify Christ, He does not speak of Himself but of the things of Jesus. So too Jesus pleased not Himself but did always that which pleased the Father. While of the Father, Jesus taught that He loves the Son and gives everything to Him.

So there is within God Himself this threefold relationship where each person serves the other persons. There is no self-centredness in the Trinity. Our human life has been modelled by the creator on His own nature. We are made in His image and the secret of human life is this other person relatedness. When the Son of God became man His life was summed up by the phrase "I am among you as He who serves". Our family life, too, should be modelled on that of God. Husband, wife and children make up a trilogy and none should serve their own interests but the interests of the others.



Moreover the doctrine of the trinity helps us to understand our experience of God. We know Him as our creator and yet He is also the one who became man in the second person of the trinity to redeem us and we know Him as our saviour and thirdly we experience God in our lives through His spirit who draws our thoughts and hopes and joys towards Him and who shapes in us His own character and who supports us and comforts us in times of trouble. Thus we experience God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a personal relationship. So the doctrine of the trinity helps us to understand our own relationship to ultimate reality to God Himself, who created us, who redeems us and who dwells with us. It also helps us to understand what our relationship with our fellow men should be. We are to reflect the character of God in our relationships by being other person centred both in our homes and in our business dealings or in any other contact we may have with our fellow men and women. We are to be really interested in them as God is in us. God so loved the world that He gave His Son that through believing in Him we might not perish, but have eternal life.

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