

## HOLY TRINITY MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2008

When I look up in the night sky and see all the stars something in me says ‘Oh my God!’ how awesome the universe is. The God I worship is big, he is huge. He must be, He created all I see and much more.

### **OH, MY GOD!**

**Oh** = reverence, awe, homage.

**My** = personal, intimate.

**God** = majestic, mighty, all powerful

The former English cricket captain, Mike Gatting, once said: “I believe in a bit of everything- God, the supernatural, ghosts, superstitions, UFOs. I like to keep my options open.” He is typical of many in today’s pluralistic society.

We need to know without a shadow of doubt which God we believe in.

The early church found it necessary to have a statement of faith to help Christians in their understanding of the God whom they worship.

The Apostles creed and the Nicene creed are contained in the liturgy of the various services of ‘A Prayer Book for Australia’.

### **A Definition of the Trinity:**

Within his own mysterious being God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The designations are just ways in which God is God. Within in the Godhead there are three “Persons” who are neither three Gods nor three parts of God, but coequally and coeternally God. (Christian Theology in Plain Language p.143)

We focus our attention on the Christian God, One God in three Persons, Holy Trinity. The word Trinity doesn’t appear in the Bible but there are texts that have become the basis for the doctrine. (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)

The doctrine of the Trinity is not easily understood. How many of us can say we fully understand the concept of One God in three Persons?

Example: I am a father- a son of my father- and a husband to my wife.

Water –steam- ice- all the same element in 3 different forms.

It is helpful for us to realise there needs to be an element of mystery in the God we worship it helps humble us with a sense of awe and reverence for someone far greater than we will ever be.

However, some knowledge of the God we worship will help satisfy our human understanding and keep us focused on the One true God.

### **God the Father**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (Apostles creed)

If we only know God as Almighty Father, the Creator of the universe, He can become, for us, too distant and holy that He is not interested in having a relationship with his created beings. This concept of God is similar to the God of Islam.

However we don't worship the God who isn't interested in a relationship with us. On the contrary we worship the God who wants us to relate to Him like an ordinary father. That's why when we pray we say; "Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come..."

He loves us and wants the best for us. He has a plan for you in his kingdom and wants you to accept and live in that plan.

Do you know God's plan for you?

God has a role for every believer for His kingdom purposes. Physical age is not a problem for God, remember Moses started out in ministry at 80years old.

The reason many don't know what God's plan is because they haven't asked.

***Matt 7:7-8) "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 8 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.***

We have a loving Father God who we can trust implicitly. Ask Him!

### **God the Son**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord..

The Bible tells us how God loves us:

***1 John 4:9-10) This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him.***

We don't think of God only as Almighty God and Father but also as the Son.

Someone loving and personal with whom we can have an intimate relationship.

God's plan for us all is to become like Jesus.

***Jesus said "anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)***

We worship Jesus Christ the Son of God who rescues us from the sin of the world.

The Son of God, his name is Jesus and through Him we have our sins forgiven.

The bible tells us;

***Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12)***

Knowing God only as the Son can lead to sentimentalism about Jesus. We become too familiar with Him and in so doing we lose the awe and majesty in our worship of Him.

### **God the Holy Spirit**

#### **I believe in the Holy Spirit**

Just before Jesus returns to heaven He tells his disciples to wait for another Helper the gift of Holy Spirit(Acts 1:4). A few days later at Pentecost they received that gift, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is God in action in the world. He is literally everywhere in power , love and mercy drawing us closer to Him that we may receive healing and salvation. The Holy Spirit can be likened to wind, it can be calm but it can be strong and powerful.

However focusing only on the Holy Spirit can lead to emotional faith with little or no moral force, relying on feelings and experiences. This was a genuine criticism of some of the happenings during the charismatic renewal in the 1970-80s

Summary:

The doctrine of the Trinity is intensely relevant in our faith today. The truth to be found in the Trinity helps us to be balanced in our awareness of God. It supports our faith and helps us understand and express it to others