

GOD 3D THE TRINITY AND ME ready

God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yet we know each of those by other names too. For instance: The Almighty, The Word, the Breath of God. Or Creator, Redeemer and Comforter. Or....

In the Bible names describe a person's character, and knowing a person's name - especially their intimate name - enabled close fellowship with that person.

We are called to be the Body of Christ together on earth, to represent Him and to be like Him. To this end He has given *us* His Name: that's what happens to a Bride when she marries.

We are called too to let the Holy Spirit develop His fruit in us, to reflect His very nature.

And God Himself says we are to *be Holy, because He is holy*. (Leviticus 11:44,45, 1 Peter 1:16).

The world is fallen, and in rebellion against God. Therefore we should expect to see the world reflecting opposites to His character. Instead of reflecting the Creator, bringing new things to be, increasingly we see people as consumers - using up what others have made.

Instead of being Redeemers, restoring things to how they should be, we see destruction and a 'throw away' culture {even the new trend for recycling, at the user end at least, is only about which bin to *throw rubbish* into}.

And instead of Comforters, we see a world of Pleasure Seekers, living for the moment rather than seeking deep and lasting wholeness of character.

Of course, not all people are like that. The image of the Creator lives on even in a fallen world. But it gets mixed up with rebellion, and the fulness of God is at best blurred if not

obliterated. The youth who *created* the graffiti below was reflecting the Creator in one way, and also the fact that, as



eternal beings we want to leave something of ourselves that will remain when we go. But because of their fallen nature, they have mixed creativity with destruction.

God the Father wills something, breathes it out forming the Word as He does so. His will, His breath, His Word. All intertwined in His character. Truth. Love. Singlemindedness. We are called to reflect that. We are called to be like Him.

Our nature then needs to be such that what we are is consistent with what we do, think and say. Our words need to reflect the Truth of God, all our breaths need to be spent bringing Him glory, and our wills need to be aligned with His.

One of the heresies that was creeping into the Church early enough to need to be corrected by the writers of the epistles was gnosticism. Among other things this was teaching that our spiritual lives are separate from our physical lives. It did not matter what we did with our bodies as long as we were spiritually in tune with God. So physical sin was not important.

The New Testament makes it very clear that this is not an acceptable viewpoint. We are ourselves trinitarian beings. Body, mind, spirit (or body, soul, spirit if you prefer. The middle word seeks to sum up personality or essence of character). God, the Trinity, is totally consistent with Himself at all times. The Son is always doing what He sees the Father doing (John 5:19), the Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son (which is the summary statement



of faith that forms article 5 of the Church of England, and also traditional Catholic wording).

So to be trinitarian in our way of life requires us:

1. to be certain of what we believe (Hebrews 11)
2. to be focussed solely on the purpose to which we are called, ie to live wholeheartedly for God (Ecclesiastes 12:13)
3. that our thoughts match what we believe (Proverbs 15:26, Philippians 4:8)
4. that our words match what we believe (Colossians 3:17, Titus 2:7,8)
5. that our deeds match what we believe (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:17)
6. that *everything we do, think or say* is consistent with who we are in Christ. (2 Corinthians 13:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:7)

As The Holy Spirit, God's Breath, proceeds from the Father so too our lives must proceed from the same source: the Presence of God within us. All that God says is True, and meaningful. We should seek for our speech to be of the same calibre.

What does that mean in practice? It may be of help to consider the opposites mentioned before.

Creator or Consumer?

Are we active in building the Kingdom of God or just consuming what is on offer to us?
Are we building the people we speak to us or wearing them down with our words?
Are we speaking hope and truth, embraced by love; or are we bringing despair and pain?

Redeemer or Waster?

Do we aim to see salvation springing up around us, and are we set on being a bringer of life to the people who walk in darkness around us. Or do we simply spend time with people meaninglessly?

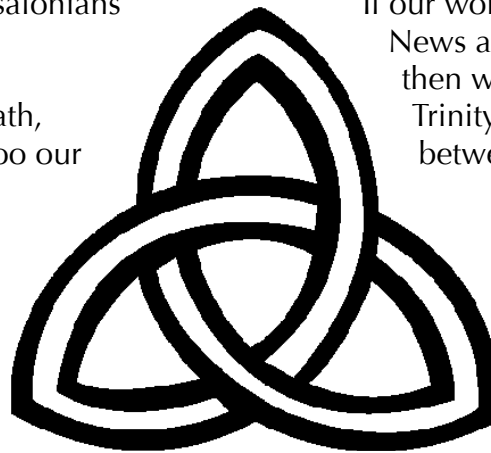
Comforter or Pleasure Seeker?

When we have pain, do we simply try to drown it with activity, entertainment, thrills or do we seek the One who can bring lasting healing and comfort?

Do we point people to Him when they are in need?

None of this will happen without the correct foundation. If we are not built on Jesus Christ and His word, Scripture, then we are on shaky ground. It has to start with *believing*.

If our worldview is part scripture, part News at Ten or part modern rationalism then we will not be consistent. The Trinity is consistent within itself and between itself.



Build on scripture. Assess other material in the light of scripture, not the other way round. Anything which contradicts, undermines, or causes you to think the question "Did God really

say...?" is not likely to be Truth. Don't adopt a worldly view and then try to make scripture fit it. Always the other way round.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 (Authorised Version) says: *if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken*

Be consistent, and you will be able to stand.