

## God the Trinity

### Introduction

God is incomprehensible (Isaiah 55:8-9). Nevertheless, Christianity is all about knowing God (John 17:3). Therefore we should be pressing deeper into our knowledge of God.

### i The Bible's teaching

- ❶ There is one God. See Deuteronomy 6:4, I Timothy 2:5, Isaiah 46:9-10.
- ❷ God the Father is God. See I Corinthians 8:6, Ephesians 4:4-6.
- ❸ God the Son is God. See Isaiah 9:6, Titus 2:13, Hebrews 1:8. And He has characteristics which only God can have.
- ❹ God the Holy Spirit is God. See Acts 5:3-4, I Corinthians 2:11. And He has characteristics which only God can have

This is not incoherent, though existing as Trinity is totally different from anything we can ever experience.

What is more, God has always existed this way. God is the eternal Father. God the Son is eternally begotten of God the Father. God the Holy Spirit is eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

And the three Persons of the Godhead are equally God. There is some subordination in the roles the three Persons take (see John 6:38 and John 14:28, for example). But there is no inferiority.

### ii Mistakes to avoid

- ❶ Arianism, which denies that the Son and the Holy Spirit are God.
- ❷ Modalism, which denies that God is three Persons; God is viewed as three manifestations. Matthew 3:13-17 helpfully rebuts this.
- ❸ Analogies. God is not like an egg, like water, or like a three-leafed clover!

### iii What the doctrine means to us

- ❶ It means that the universe is founded against a backdrop of love. I John 4:7-8 can only be true of a God who is Trinity.
- ❷ It means that we should worship God. His works flow from His Trinitarian nature. Salvation is a great example: see Ephesians 1:3-6, the cross, Titus 3:4-6.
- ❸ It means that we must be driven to evangelism. There is no deity other than the Trinitarian God of the Bible and people need to know Him.