

A roadmap towards God

You've probably heard the story of the tourist who, lost in the big city stops to ask the way. He pops into a shop and enquires of the shopkeeper: "excuse me please" he says, "can you tell me how to get to so and so?" "Of course I can" comes the reply, "but if I were you I wouldn't start from here!" Our quest to understand the Trinity is sometimes like that. We can feel lost and all at sea as to where we are and where we are trying to get to, and then when we stop and ask for help or direction, we're told we've got it all wrong and we need to begin again from another completely different perspective – help!

In reality the only perspective we have is our human one, which by its very nature is limiting and limited, and when you are attempting to contemplate the limitless through restrictive and time bound concepts, you're going to hit the buffers. But the faculties of our human condition are the only ones we have, and so they are going to have to be the ones we use to guide us and direct us towards our goal. Yet to help us and to show us the way we have a companion, Jesus Christ. He is the roadmap along which our pathway is marked. He is the one in whom the fullness of God abides, and he is the one who will be our route master as he told us he would be: I am the Way.

If we dismiss all thought of mathematics and the idea of three into one won't go, then that's a good start; we can't reduce the Trinity to mere numerical values. Much more rewarding is the concept of persons and in particular the nature of relationship, which is why our own relationship with Jesus is so important. The timeless, dynamic and eternal exchange that is the Trinity, condescends and is enfleshed at the incarnation, and takes on the human condition. God is begotten yet remains God, and relationship transcends the exchange and remains relationship. Jesus brings to the world a revealing, which invites us in to share of it through him. I am the Way he tells us, but not just the Way. He is also the Truth and the Life such that none can come to the Father but through him. Our relationship with Jesus takes us into the life of the Trinity by enabling us to share relationship, so that all which is familial to us is bound as like Father and Son, conveyed through the gifts that the Spirit brings. In speaking the truth, Jesus brings us into relationship not just with himself, but with the Father too, and this is where he wants to lead us. The truth of his relationship with the Father must be the revelation which draws us to conclude that his Sonship is divine, and if he speaks the truth about this relationship, then the life to which he calls us, is a sharing of his divine life with the Father.

Driving us forwards on this path is the Spirit which enlightens our minds, enabling us to tackle these thoughts. Ultimately we are released onto a new landscape wherein all things become one in Christ. Our relationships emanate from him, and are bathed in a love that has been shaped in eternity, revealed in mystery, lived in generosity, and made sacred through obedience. However much we struggle (and we do) to understand it, the reality is that the one who came to walk beside us will always be there to guide us to our destination, biding his time as necessary, but always holding out his hand to give us direction.