

**Team Work!**

*Proverbs 8<sup>1-4,22-31</sup>; Psalm 8; Romans 5<sup>1-5</sup>; John 16<sup>12-15</sup>*

*He will not speak on his own. [John 16<sup>13</sup>]*

The Trinity is all about team work!

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, work together to achieve the common purpose in God.

God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, works with those who are people of faith to achieve what God wills.

That isn't complicated at all! It has always been the case.

For those who see the Trinity in metaphysical terms it is impossible to square the circle of God being one and God being three.

The trouble is that this is never explained in Scripture as it was never meant to be understood - it was always meant to be experienced. In the readings for today:

- ✠ Proverbs alludes to the co-operation within God from the inception of creation.
- ✠ The Psalmist points out the the glory of God is reflected in the partnership between God, the angels and humanity as the crown of his creation, leading to the declaration, **O Lord our Governor, how glorious is your name in all the world.**
- ✠ Paul points out that our faith is a partnership between God, Father and Son through which we are **justified**, have **peace, grace** and **our hope of sharing in the glory of God.** He also confirms that the progression from **sufferings** to **endurance** to **character** to **hope**, a hope **that does not disappoint us** is a cooperation between **God the Father** and the **Holy Spirit.**
- ✠ Jesus is clear that **When the Spirit comes, he will guide you into all truth** but that the Spirit will **glorify** him and that this is an expression of the **Father** acting through Jesus.

Understanding that there is one God that we experience in three personalities is simply an expression of the team work that is in God.

My Readers will tell you that when we talk about preaching one of the things that I want from a sermon is the 'So What?' - it needs to be clear what change in belief, or action, is expected as a result of what is said.

Here it is then: If God thinks working together is important, then so should we! Twice in our readings it tells us that God is glorified in team work and so God is gloried when, for his sake and in his name, we work together.

Specifically:

- ✠ We are called to work with God and for this he resources us with the Holy Spirit. Faith is a partnership - God the Father sent God the Son to be, through the Incarnation, the means of Salvation and the Holy Spirit prompts us through repentance to accept the forgiveness possible through Jesus and the hope that God gives.

We are also called to work with God in his Church and for the sake of his kingdom - which is why the tools of the Holy Spirit are God's gift (as we celebrated last week at Pentecost).

It is a partnership - team work!

- ✠ We are called to work with one another and for that he has given us a sense of humour! This community of love and acceptance should be the most vibrant expression of team work. We are gloriously different and yet with all the shades of diversity our politics and beliefs and priorities we are a good fit - and with room to embrace even more.

Anyone who did any team building events will have tattooed in the inside of their eyelids, *There is no I in team!* God shifts the focus from 'me' to 'us'!

God doesn't need to renew his commitment to us - that is a constant: but it may be that we need to renew our commitment to him and our commitment to work with each other.