

## Team Work!

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

*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.... He will glorify me. All that the Father has is mine. [John 1<sup>13,14,15</sup>]*

Last weekend showed us the importance of Team Work! The services didn't happen without a lot of investment in time, neither did the refreshments – or the clearing up! On this Trinity Sunday what we see in God is simply 'Team Work.' The truth is that unless everyone played their part, whether it was unseen or with the highest profile, it wouldn't have happened.

The Trinity is just an example of 'team work' in God – of the three persons and personalities of the three-in-one God doing their part:

- ⌘ God the Father is the 'traditional' image of God – he is the brains behind the operation, the one who holds everything together. From his imagination everything we know has come into being and is held together. It is his love for everything that he has created that brings redemption. It is his justice that we depend on to make everything right in the end. This is the God whom we worship and before whom the angels sing, Holy, Holy, Holy – this is the God we stand in awe of and fear for he is a 'consuming fire.'
- ⌘ God the Son has been with God the Father in all eternity: he is the worker, the one who makes things happen. He is God's agent in creation. He is the very incarnation of God, born into the restrictions of our human life whilst holding onto all the expansiveness of deity. He is the one who took our place on the cross, absorbing our sin – past, present and future – and brings us the forgiveness his Father promised. He is the one the Father raised from the dead and who conquered death and is now enthroned in heaven awaiting his return visit when there will be no question about who he is – for every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Yet, God the Son whispers in our ears and tells us that we are loved and accepted. As Paul says to the Romans, **he does not disappoint us!**

- ⌘ God the Holy Spirit is the part of the tea we know and experience. This is the same Spirit who teaches us the **truth** we need to know and **glorifies** the Father and the Son. This is the Spirit who is with us to comfort us (not to make us comfortable). This is the Spirit who gives us the tools to complete God's work, not toys to make us happy. This is the Spirit who reminds us to call God, Abba, Father, and gives us the spirit of freedom as children of God.

This team is co-equal, co-eternal and the supreme example of cooperation.

God calls us to extend the team work that is in God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It happens in the Church when all of us fulfil our calling – from the most extrovert to the most introvert, from the most competent and confident to the most to the most stumbling and retiring. Together we offer all that God does and makes possible to those who are not yet part of the 'team.'

It is the duty of the most experienced and the most involved to draw those who aren't yet into those apprenticeships that ensure that the team works now and into the future. If you are new or don't feel fully included yet, you too have a responsibility to step forward, step up and fulfil your potential under God in this place.

You know me well enough to know that I am a great advocate of the saying, *lead, follow or get out of the way*. Perhaps that is too brutal or simplistic. But I remind you of the call that came from Dr Paul Negrut, the Romanian Pastor (whom I knew at college) and came to prominence when Ceausescu was deposed, ***If not us, who; if not now, when!***

God's team, Father, Son and Holy Spirit works for us: no doubt about it. How invested are we into the team that is called to work for him?