**360• Discipleship and the Trinity 30/5/21**

Pete spoke to us from the Great Commission, focusing on the passage “Baptising…in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”.

What can we learn about how we should relate to God, and to one another, from how the Three Persons of God relate to one another?

Well, if we claim to be living for God, to be loving Him and seeking to live in the way He wants, we need to know what He’s like.

Pete described the Trinity - the eternal fellowship of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit - using the analogy of a dance. Each person dances with the other two, making space for them but focused on and relating to them, all enjoying one another eternally. Dancing is not a shoving contest; if one person did not make way for another, there would be no dance, only conflict. Equally dance is not static; if no one was moving, there would not be engagement and enjoyment.

And the greatest promise of all, Pete showed us in 1 Peter 2:3 - that God wants us to participate in the dance. The Creator does not seek to show off his superiority but desires us to join in with His nature.

To join in the dance requires that we learn the steps; that is, to see how the dance goes and how we should move within it. Pete gave us two principles to do so -

1. Focus on the other

2. Submission to the other.

Focus on the other - the Three Persons of God have not spent eternity focusing on and being delighted only by themselves. Jesus spoke and demonstrated constantly that his focus of delight was in God the Father. The Father makes clear at Jesus’ baptism and ascension that He is pleased with the Son - Pete reminded us that at Jesus’ baptism, God calls out that He is pleased with him, even though Jesus hasn’t accomplished anything yet. God’s love and delight in the other even reaches out beyond the glory of the Trinity and shines upon us, even though we are so different from Him.

But our focus and search for delight is so often only in ourselves. Sin in us, and sin in society, tell us only to look at ourselves; that if we look at others it is only for comparison, for envy or pride depending on if we feel ‘worse’ or ‘better’ than the other person. We need to regain that perspective, to focus on our triune God as our centre, our purpose and our destination. No one with a view of Mount Everest should turn to look down at some unnamed foothill far below.

Submission to the other - it’s hard enough to turn our selfish focus away from ourselves to another, but even harder is the call to submit to them, to obey them faithfully and constantly. To submit is not simply to follow their instructions but resent it in your heart: to submit means to put their will above yours and serve and follow them inside as well as out.

Pete challenged us to reflect on how we think of ourselves relating to Jesus - we may be happy to call him Saviour, but can we say honestly that we call him, and treat him, as Lord? Do we allow him to rule fully over our lives, without resentment or dishonesty. To do so, we need to know clearly what he is calling us to, and then to do it. We need to pray, spend time in devotion and reading the Bible, to seek prayer and fellowship with one another, to be sure we know what God is calling each of us to do, and then to support one another in living out that call.