



WYCLIFFE HALL

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# The Trinity

Greyfriars | 19 February 2017

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- a) How did the doctrine of the Trinity come to be believed?
- b) What difference does it make?

a) **How did the doctrine of the Trinity come to be believed?**

## 1 The Divinity of Christ

No direct claims. So why did they come to believe it?

- Authority like that of the OT: Not 'This is what the Lord says', but 'I say to you.'
- Authority to forgive sins - the role of God alone.
- Authority to judge - the role of God alone.
- The Resurrection.

Very difficult thing for a first century Jew to come to believe.

- Shema.
- 'God is not human that He should lie, not a human being that he should change his mind.' (Numbers 23:19.)
- Do not worship another human being. (Daniel.)

## 2 The Distinctness of the Father and the Son

They saw Jesus praying to the Father. Not just talking to Himself.

### 3 The Divinity of the Spirit

- 'The Spirit gives life' (2 Corinthians 3:6)
- 'Who knows the thoughts of another person except that person's own spirit within? In the same way, no-one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.' (2 Corinthians 2:10-11.)
- Speaking against the Holy Spirit is 'blasphemy' (Matthew 12:31-32.)

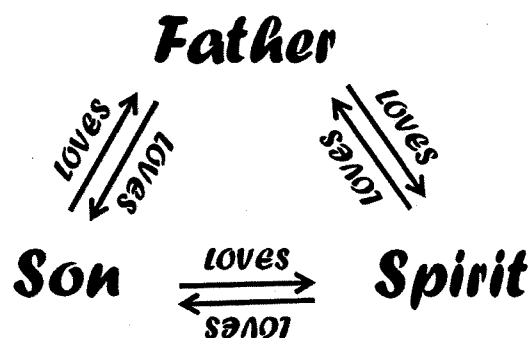
### 4 The Distinctness of the Father, Son and Spirit

E.g. John 14:16, 16:7.

So if Jesus is divine, and the Spirit is divine, do we have three gods?

No evidence that the early Christians ever even contemplated such a conclusion.

Instead . . .



They came to realise that God is a relationship.

#### b) What difference does it make?

It means that Love is the ultimate reality.

People need to know that.

It is our vocation to tell them and to show them.