

Men's Bible Journey

I. Nowhere explicitly taught in scripture: Trinity is the fallible teaching of the church concerning the God revealed in scripture. The imaginative construction is taken from Jesus' language and the interpretive teaching of the apostle's letters.

II. Mystery is the word that pertains to the God of scripture. God is the ground of all else - while he has no ground. He creates all - he is uncreated. God is free - absolute - without limits.

1. We can only describe and know him as he reveals himself - action by him.
2. The source of our distance (estrangement) from God is our self-absorption
Rom1:18-23
3. Christians believe God is seen clearly in Jesus ALONE! John 1:18; 14:6-11
4. Now, read I Corinthians 2:1-13; II Cor 4:6

Philippians 2:5-11

I appeal to you in Christ: if there is anything that will stimulate you, any persuasion of love, any warmth or affection, or compassion, by all of your participation in the Spirit - make my joy full by having one understanding, united in love, in heart and opinion. Never act out of envy or self-promotion! In humility give preference to others before yourself. Heed others' interests before your own.

Have that mind in you that is in Christ Jesus: though existing originally in the nature of God, he did not consider clinging to oneness with God a goal, but he poured himself out by taking the nature of a slave and sharing in every aspect as a man. He humbled himself to being born as men, and of no reputation; then he further humbled himself to the extent of death - even death on a cross. At this God exalted him on high and endowed him with that name above all names; so that at the name of "Jesus" every knee will bow, in the heaven, on earth, and beneath - and every tongue proclaim: "Jesus Christ is Lord!", to the glory of God the Father. (see Isaiah 45:23)

III. God in Christ harmonizes the world (humans and then all creation) by being one with man in Christ. God demonstrates his righteousness by being the righteous man.

1. In Christ the will of God is accomplished
2. In Jesus the will of God is lived out - untainted - sinlessly.
3. God, as Father, is fully pleased in God, as Son, - through the spirit
4. Jesus is the absolute "Yes" to God by a human - all we do is Amen (II Cor 1:20)

IV. Atonement is not a doctrine - it is a person. Reconciliation is in him - he is the kingdom.

V. The cross reveals the truth about man!

1. The depth of evil
2. The evil of ALL man creates (religion, state, glory, science)

VI. The cross reveals the truth about God!

1. God suffers in mankind's need.
2. God is love.

VII. The only true sacrament is the act of God in Christ - the true worship is our life in him. The mind's renewal into the Divine will is our logical spiritual worship. In this we can discern the mind and will of God.

VIII. The mind of Jesus is the believer's goal - humble equals human holiness - aggression is sin. See Micah 6:6-8; James 4:5-6; Matthew 23:1-13; I Peter 5:1-7 (II Corinthians 5:14-21).