

## MESSAGE NOTES

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### Part 1 Holy Mystery

No study/investigation of God can be comprehensive for 3 reasons;

1. The limitations of the human mind – a finite mind cannot grasp an infinite being
2. A moral problem – the presence of sin, even for the Christian, has limited our capacity for understanding spiritual truth
3. The resource problem – God has simply not told us everything about himself. What He has told us we can know, but he has not revealed everything

**Deuteronomy 29:29 (NIV)** *The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever*

#### An overview of the mystery

There is one God & God is one;

- **Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)** "The Lord our God, the Lord is one."
- **Isaiah 45:5 (NIV)** "I am the Lord, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God."
- **1 Corinthians 8:4 (NIV)** "There is no God but one."

'Trinity' means 'three in oneness'

- God is three persons - Each person of the Trinity is separate/distinct (John 1:1,14; John 14:26; 1 Peter 1:2)
- Each person in the Trinity is fully God (2 Thessalonians 1:2; John 8:58; John 20:28; Acts 5:3,4)
- There is one God & God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 2:5)

#### Why does understanding/accepting the Trinity matter?

1. **It shows the uniqueness of Christianity & the Christian world-view**

All other "religions" (world-views) are performance based systems. Grace is absent. Behavior is graded/scored. Relationship is not enjoyed and secure - but worked for.

2. **It displays the nature of God**

- Transcendent but not distant
- Holy but human (Jesus felt everything we feel)
- Powerful but personal
- Sovereign but relational (all 3 persons of the Godhead in perfect relationship with each other)

3. **It helps our understanding of the Gospel**

The Father sent the Son - the Son sent the Spirit - who resides within us

- The Father (God - of us)
- The Son - Jesus (God - with us)
- The Spirit - (God - in us)

Trinitarian truth shows that the gospel is a relationship to be shared - not a religion to be followed.

Trinitarian truth (God) is the answer to our yearnings...

#### 3 questions;

Why do humans have such a strong desire for **unity**? In other words - why does conflict bother us so much?

Why do we have a need for **diversity**? In other words - why do we feel incomplete on our own?

Why do we have a strong desire for **equality**? In other words - why is it that we sense inequity/inequality is wrong?