

When Jesus was asked what the most important command was he speaks of God being one (Mark 12:28-30)

In the West we usually think in terms of one God – you believe in *a* God or you don't believe in *a* God. In Jesus' day most people apart from the Jews believed in a plurality of gods. The Bible affirms the uniqueness of God (Isaiah 45:5-6).

Even the demons get it right (James 2:19)

We mustn't compartmentalise God and give him a bit of ourselves. God is one he deserves our all. Idols are nothing (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)

If there is only one God then he must be God of both Jews and Gentiles (Romans 3:29-30).

Therefore God being Trinity cannot contradict his being one.

Equally then rejecting any part of God is to completely reject him (1 John 2:23).

You can't balance the persons of the Trinity; they all act together in harmony (Mark 1:9-11)

Following Jesus means being involved in the Trinity – we're to be baptised into the Trinity ((Matthew 28:19).

In the OT God speaks of himself in the plural (Genesis 1:26, Genesis 11:7, Isaiah 6:8). When God creates it's through his Spirit (Genesis 1:2). The Spirit clearly has a personality (2 Samuel 23:2; 1 Kings 18:12; 2 Kings 2:16; 1 Chronicles 12:18; 1 Chronicles 28:12; Nehemiah 9:20, 30; Psalms 51:11; Psalms 106:33; Isaiah 63:10) In Genesis 18:1-2 Abraham sees God manifest himself as three persons. When Jacob wrestled with an angel of God he could say that he had wrestled with God himself (Genesis 32:30). This all makes sense if there is a plurality to God – if he's not one person but three.

Isaiah 9 speaks of a child of God. In Psalm 45:4-7 we see God being anointed by God – this can only make sense if God is plural.

In the NT John 1:1 makes it clear that Jesus is God and that God is plural. Jesus forgave sins (Mark 2:5) which was God's right alone.

Yet there is a clear distinction between Father and Son (John 5:22)

The Trinity is not how God is to us but how God is in himself. Father Son and Spirit are not roles but eternal identities. God is community. How could God be love if he had nothing to love? C S Lewis said the phrase God is love can have no meaning unless God is at least two persons. Indeed God's other qualities like righteousness and justice arguably require a relationship.

All this has relevance to marriage and the one flesh principle.

God's invitation to us in eternal life is to join him in the fellowship of the Trinity.