# God the Creator

A Trinitarian Concept of the God who is there



Ps Andrew Peters

# Who is God?

If we could adequately explain who God really is then God is probably not worth knowing. However, just because we cannot contain God entirely in our thinking doesn't mean God doesn't exist or that we cannot know Him. There are a number of concepts of God prevalent in our culture. Some are:

#### Atheism

Atheists do not believe in God at all. They see the universe as having always existed and that there was no other being, called God that had anything to do with its creation or continued existence. They claim, through their interpretation of the evidence for the Evolutionary Theory, that there was no personal Creator God working to bring this world into being. The conclusions of what they believe are:

 We are material people living in a material world – e.g., Madonna's "Material girl"

"'Cause everybody's living in a material world and I am a material girl".

- The material is all that exists no spiritual realm.
- Death is an end so let's eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.
- Human person has no value we are an accident in time, here purely by chance alone.
- This life is all that there is so get what you can while you can.
- Others are to be used for your own pleasure and advancement.
- There is no valid inner person soul or spirit. You are purely a combination of physical matter and chemical reactions.

**Jacques Monod:** French molecular biologist, won Nobel Peace Prize 1965 for discovering the replication mechanism of genetic material. He proposes the absence of a Creator God and the complete aloneness of human beings in the universe:

The ancient covenant [between man and the universe] is in pieces; man knows at last that he is alone in the universe's unfeeling immensity, out of which he emerged only by chance.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> F.A. Schaeffer, *Back to Freedom and Dignity*, (Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1973), 13-14.

Our number came up in a Monte Carlo game.<sup>2</sup>

**Francis Crick:** American biologist who unravelled the DNA code. He proposes that human beings are open to manipulation because there is no Creator God:

But when you ask what you mean by all people being created equal it's not the same as saying that they should all have equal opportunity. It's not only biologically not true; it's also biologically undesirable.... what we are really doing is learning to tinker with the system.... for good genetic reasons,... some group of people should decide some people should have more children and some should have fewer.<sup>3</sup>

# The Evolution Theory

In science a "Theory" is a proposition that has not yet been proven by the evidence available. When sufficient evidence is collated to prove the theory to be true then it becomes a "law" (e.g. the Law of thermodynamics) or "principle." When Darwin proposed the Evolutionary Theory in the 1850's it was as a theory to explain certain physical evidence that he had collated. In over 160 years of scientific research, with huge attempts to prove the theory to be true, no evidence has yet been found that conclusively proves the theory to be right. It still remains a theory, not a law or principle. There is no evidence that proves the transition between one type of species and another, which lies at the crux of the evolutionary theory.

The Atheistic Evolutionary Theory does not explain the way things really are. How does it explain the intricacy of the human body or the plant world or the animal world? The claim that this world and all it contains is simply an accident in time with no other force at work except chance does not explain anything. Even if the Evolutionary Theory was to be proved true it still does not deny the existence of God. It simply means that God created the world in process.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Back to Freedom and Dignity, 12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Back to Freedom and Dignity, 19-21.

#### Pantheism

Pantheism is the foundation of most Eastern religions such as Hinduism and Buddhism. The Hari Krishnas find their beginning in this type of religion. The Pantheistic view of God sees the origins of the world in terms of a God who formed all things out of itself. Thus everything in the universe and beyond is a part of this God. God is the universe and the universe is God. Thus all things, both good and evil are part of God. To speak of good and evil, right and wrong, justice and honesty, and the like, is all quite fruitless and meaningless because everything is God. Pantheism:

- Focuses on the force or universal soul.
- We are all part of the universal God.
- God is everything everything is God.
- There is no distinction between good and evil it is all part of the universal soul.
- Aim to be one with the force or the universal soul, e.g. Buddha's nirvana.
- Yoga and Transcendental Meditation is opening up the inner spiritual forces, within oneself, to union with the Universal Soul.
- Re-incarnation endless attempt to make yourself good. It has no sense of compassion because your state of life is your own fault.
- Human Beings have no real value or true rights in this religion.

# God as Trinity

How do we know which God is which? We gain a certain understanding of who God is from the world and universe we live in. From it we learn that the one and only "true" God must contain three aspects within Himself that is reflected in the Creation He made. These are:

- Unity
- diversity
- personality

We also gain an understanding of God through the Bible, The Bible is a record of who God has shown Himself to be, His nature and personality, what He likes and dislikes and what He expects of us, as well as showing us who we were meant to be.

### Unity

There is throughout the world an incredible unity which indicates a common source. There is a oneness or sameness within the nature of this world. For instance, we all have two eyes, two ears, a nose, a mouth, legs and arms.

## **Diversity**

At the same time there is also an extensive diversity or individualism within the world we live. This can be seen in the case of falling snow, where no two snowflakes are exactly alike in their make-up.

## **Personality**

Men, women and children are personal beings and have personal relationships. We thus can speak in terms of love, affection, honour, respect, success, failure and the like.

#### The One True God

It is the God who has revealed Himself as Creator, to men and women down through the ages, that reflects both the unity and diversity that we find in the world.

It is the Christian belief in a Trinitarian God that reflects the unity and diversity that we find in the world, as well as the personality we find in human beings.

The Christian belief in God as Trinity states that there is "one God" and thus establishes the unity within that God. But it also states that within that one God there are "Three Persons", the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, which establishes the "diversity" within that One God.

It is the Christian God who has continually revealed Himself as being a "Personal" God, who relates to men and women on a personal level and desires them to relate to Him. He is also described as having the

characteristics we attribute to personality and personal relationships. He thus loves, grieves, cherishes and gets angry. Only the nature of a Personal God can explain this particular uniqueness we find in the nature of men and women.

#### God is One:

Christians are "monotheists." That is, we believe in only "One God." Though some religions believe in many gods, with perhaps one being the chief god, we believe that there only One True Living God.

#### God as Three Persons

Within the nature of the "One God" there are "Three Persons", the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each of these Persons is Divine and can rightly be referred to as God.

Though we usually call Jesus the Son of God, we must always remember that Jesus Himself is also God. His Sonship refers to His relationship to God the Father, not to us.

Each of the Persons of the Trinity are distinct persons in themselves and yet at the same time are inseparably linked to each other. When one of them acts, all three of them are acting together. It is their relationship and communion that binds them together as One.

#### God the Father:

First, God is the "Father." God the Father gives us an understanding of the mighty nature of the God in whom we believe. It was God who created the world we live in and the multitude number of universes that surround it.

The use of the word "Father" for God comes from God Himself. It is God's way of showing us first, the relationship He has with His Son Jesus, and second, the type of relationship He wants to have with us.

Unlike our earthly fathers, who are frail, broken and limited human beings; God the Father loves us immensely and does not change with the ups and downs of life.

#### God the Father as Creator:

God existed before everything else and is the Creator of everything in the universe, both in the seen world (the material world) and the unseen world (the spiritual world).

God created everything that exists out of nothing and everything that God created He created intrinsically (basically) good.

God is independent of this creation and stands over and above His Creation. This is called God's "transcendence."

At the same time This Creator God has an ongoing relationship with the world that He made and the human beings He created in His own image and likeness. God is intimately involved in His Creation. This is called God's "immanence".

Though God is not the creation we can see through the world and universe the nature, goodness, and beauty of God Himself. This understanding of God allows men and women to find true and valid worth for themselves. From this we note that:

- Human beings are both material and spiritual beings.
- Evil is not something that is intrinsic to the creation, but occurs as a result of actions taken by created beings, both angels and humans.
- God is good and contains no evil in Himself.
- There is a distinction between good and evil; right and wrong,
- There is existence beyond death. Death is not an end but a new beginning of an eternal life.
- Human beings are of great importance and value because they are created in the image and likeness of God.
- The individual person has true value and is as important as the whole human race.

## Jesus the Son of God:

Jesus is the "Son of God" who took human form when he was conceived and born of the Virgin Mary, His Mother.

Jesus came into the world, from heaven that we might see and understand

the true nature of God and His love for us.

Jesus is both "God" and "Man," and through Him we see the invisible nature of God.

Whereas, the Father is seen as the Creator of the world in which we live and all that surrounds it, Jesus is seen as the "Redeemer" of mankind, in that He came into the world to die on a cross to save us from the eternal effects of our sin and rebellion .The word "Redeem" means to buy back for a price.

He did it in order that we might live in freedom and have eternal life.

## God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity who comes to make God real to us.



It is the Holy Spirit who works in our lives to transform us to be like Jesus.

He works to help us to live our lives for God and to follow in God's ways.

It is the Holy Spirit who brings the love of God into our hearts that we might truly love others.

The Holy Spirit is a distinct Person of the Godhead and not simply God's power or force.

However, when He comes into our lives He brings to us the power we need to serve God in this world and to testify to the True nature of God.