



Reflections on **The Trinity**



L.T. Jeyachandran



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Introduction



Classical apologetics has generally assumed a common starting point outside of God for developing arguments for God and Christ. This assumption is a gigantic one in today's world where postmodernism and New Age have virtually wiped out the possibility that there can be agreed view of perceivable reality. The classic Indian story that punctuates many conversations about the exclusivity of Christ is about six blind men who go to "see" an elephant. They touch different parts of the elephant and reach six different conclusions about the animal, depending upon the parts they have felt: the elephant is like the trunk of a tree, a broom, a sieve. . . and so on. The point of this illustration is that there is only one God, who is perceived differently by different faiths and traditions.

However, what is often overlooked in this story is the fact that even if the six blind men had had a committee meeting after touching various parts of the elephant, they would still not have been able to fit the pieces together

correctly. Indeed, the only one who knows that there is a whole elephant out there is one with sight, and no one - including, ironically, the one who tells the story - is supposed to have seen it!

This parable, then, actually points to the prior necessity of revelation of something that we are not able to perceive correctly or adequately. That is definitely true of God, if not of anyone or anything else.

In this booklet, I propose that if God is the basis of all reality, what He is like in His Being and through His activity should provide an adequate explanation for all that we see and experience.¹ It should be helpful to see that the Christian Scripture is not only didactic and prescriptive; rather, the major part of the Bible is a narrative that outlines God's encounter with His people in creation and redemption history. I sometimes wonder whether we have been used to putting the cart of systematic theology in front of the horse of the Biblical narrative! My approach in this monograph is to show how statements of systematic theology on the Trinity are arrived at from the Biblical narrative. Paul's statement in *Romans 1:20* (*for since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse*) could, therefore, be read and applied in one of two ways.

Firstly, we can work backward from creation to conclude, by induction, what God the Creator is like. This is the

route that has been taken by classical apologetics and is not without its difficulties. One of the main problems is that of the starting point of the apologetic (as stated above). Further as the context of this verse suggests, it has been rightly argued that fallen reason unaided by the Holy Spirit's revelation can never reach a correct conclusion about God.

Secondly, we could start from the point of who God is in accordance with Biblical revelation and then work forward, to elicit an adequate explanation of all reality. In fact, we could provide a study of other religions from their understanding of God and verify which of the many alternative theologies has the best explanatory power.

In chapters 2 and 3, I take the second approach. Although this can be labelled *presuppositional apologetics*, I intend to take this argument further than is normally done in presuppositional apologetics. The word "God" falls rather flat in its normal connotation and provides only a one - dimensional and abstract justification for being, design and morality. Although the conventional way of describing God in abstract and negative terms - absolute, infinite, immortal, invisible, impassible, and so on - has tremendous merits, it does not actually say what God *is* like. I suggest a more detailed exploration of God as a Trinity and have chosen to describe this God as an All - Personal, All - Relational Being. From this starting point, I seek to show that we can arrive at a more robust, full - orb ed explanation of reality without falling into the errors of various dualisms.

Chapter 4 deals with our response to this awesome God in terms of the transformation of our character exhibited by our inter-personal behaviour. My main argument in this context is that our emphasis on devotion to God tends to be an individualistic one and, is no different from the pursuits of many Eastern religions. Religious showmanship today is often taken to be a sign of true spirituality. Against this background, I submit that in the exercise of spiritual disciplines of every sort, we need to give to and receive from one another and thus, truly reflect the Trinitarian God Whom we worship. Further, the Bible presents the understanding of true virtue as *relational* - summed up by the simple word *love* (1 Cor. 13; 2 Peter 1:5-7; 1 John 4:7-12,16), which cannot be actualised except in relationships.

The concluding chapter 5 deals with the very practical acted parable of John 13 which exemplifies all that we have studied in earlier chapters.

It is a sad fact that the doctrine of the Trinity has been believed in but rarely preached on in our churches. During my years in Singapore, sandwiched between the two Islamic countries of Malaysia and Indonesia, I have half - humorously, half - seriously commented to Christian leaders in those countries, "We all believe in the Trinity, but we pray to the Trinity that nobody would question us about the Trinity!" The doctrine is felt to be irrelevant if not an outright and unnecessary complication imposed on the simple belief in the One God. Karl Rahner rightly said, "Should the doctrine of the Trinity have to be dropped as false, the major part of religious literature

could well remain virtually unchallenged!”² At the other end of the equation, we need to gratefully acknowledge before God the fact that in the recent past, a spate of good Trinitarian books has been published.³ As Bruce Ware suggests, “The doctrine of the Trinity is both *central and necessary for the Christian faith*. Remove the Trinity, and the whole Christian faith disintegrates.”⁴

Revelation of God as Trinity



As a common prologue, it would be pertinent to consider the fact that the doctrine of the Trinity was not arrived at by theological or philosophical speculation *ab initio* (from the beginning). Rather, the Triune God met His people at discrete points in time revealing the plurality of the Persons in the Godhead. It is also significant that the first Christians were Jews and therefore strict monotheists. As Robert Letham notes, “[The words of *Deut. 6:4-5*] and the whole law of which it is a part, trenchantly repudiate the polytheism of the pagan world.”⁵ It is therefore futile to allege that Trinitarianism had Greek and Roman polytheistic origins. The one sin the Israelites were rid of during the Exile five centuries earlier in Babylon was pagan, polytheistic idolatry.

We can justifiably speculate that the early church struggled to reconcile their belief in one God with the following distinct encounters with Persons, each of Whom they could not but conclude to be God.

God in the Old Testament

At one time, about two million men, women, and children heard the audible voice of God. They required Moses, their leader, to go up the mountain and hear God because they were scared that they would die if God should continue speaking to them. [There are many cases of many individuals like Abraham, Moses and Jacob meeting with God individually but this is the only account of a mass-encounter with God in the Old Testament.]

This is one of the many stories (*Ex. 20:18-21*) that Jewish children would have heard from their parents and grandparents as they sat around their meal tables. This invisible being, Whose back alone Moses is privileged to see (*Ex. 33:17-23*) does show Himself visibly in a number of ways, their parents assured them, but we are hard put to explain who He really is or what He looks like! God manifests Himself in *Genesis 18:22, 23; 32:22-30; Deuteronomy 34:10; and Joshua 5:13-15*. There are also mysterious uses of the plural when God refers to Himself (see *Gen 1:26; Isa 6:8*). We encounter a plurality of Divine Persons in some references, one of whom is considered by the Jews to be the promised Messiah (*Ps. 2:7-9; 45:6-7; 110:1* [quoted by Jesus in *Matt. 22:41-46*]; *Prov. 8:24-31; Isa. 48:16*).

God on the Dusty Streets of Palestine and Jerusalem

The disciples of Jesus, the men and women who followed Him, had no doubt that He was a man. Jesus was hungry, thirsty, and tired like the rest and surely shared with them some of the temptations He had faced and won. But they soon realised that there was something unusual

about this Man. He excluded Himself from praying the prayer (*Matt. 6:9; Luke 11:2*) that He taught them to pray, obviously because He had not committed any sins that needed to be forgiven. On the other hand, He claimed to have the authority to forgive the sins of others (*Mark 2:10*). He did not seem to have to pray to the Father but exercised His authority over nature directly (*Matt. 8:24-27* reminiscent of *Ps. 107:23-29*). He addressed Yahweh as Father (*John 5:17-18*) and claimed that a number of predictions in the Jewish Bible had been fulfilled in Him (*Luke 24:27*). The disciples hear Jesus pray to the Father (*Matt. 11:25-26; John 17*) and also hear the Father speak to and about him (*Matt. 3:17; John 12:27-29*). Jesus spoke and taught as if He possessed original, and not delegated, authority in matters of theology and moral law (*Matt. 7:28-29*). Jesus raised dead people back to this life, but His own resurrection was of a different order and to a different level of physical life.

The contrast with the resurrection of Lazarus is striking and should not be missed. Jesus asks the stone at the mouth of the grave of Lazarus to be moved and calls him back to life; Lazarus comes out bound hand and foot by the grave-clothes which have to be removed to let him go free (*John 11:39-44*). The stone at the mouth of the grave of Jesus is rolled away by an angel (*Matt. 28:2-6*) but we do not see Jesus walking out; instead, the angel tells the women that Jesus is already risen. We may therefore conclude that the grave is opened not to let Jesus out but to let others in; two disciples - Peter and John - do go into the grave and are greeted by a breath-taking scene; the

grave-clothes are lying undisturbed exactly where the body was but the body is not there; the cloth around His head is still seen rolled up on the stone where His head was kept but the head is not there! John is led to believe that something very different from the resurrection of Lazarus has taken place and he believes (*John 20:1-8*). Jesus rises to a different order and dimension of physical life and so, when He ascends to heaven, 40 days after His resurrection, He is taken out of our dimensions by a cloud (*Acts 1:9*).

It gradually begins to dawn on the disciples that the Man with whom they had been associated for three and a half years is also, in some mysterious sense, God!

God in An Upper Room in Jerusalem

Ten days after Jesus ascends to heaven, the disciples have an amazing experience as they wait in the Upper Room in Jerusalem according to the advice of Jesus. They are filled with the Holy Spirit; Jesus had spoken to them about the Holy Spirit as a Person (*John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:13*) and Peter and Paul would later imply the same (see *2 Peter 1:21; Eph. 4:30*). It was important for Jesus Himself to go away to the Father so that He could send the Spirit (*John 7:39; 16:7*); the Spirit would represent the Father and the Son (Jesus) to them in an intimate and personal way (implied in *John 14:23* This means that the Holy Spirit enjoys the same status as the Father and the Son). The Holy Spirit would now be *in* them, whereas up to that point He had only been *with* them (*John 14:17*); He would lead them into all the truth Jesus wanted them to know (*John 14:25-*

26; 15:26; 16:13). The disciples had heard and read about the Holy Spirit, but His work had hitherto been outside the person of the believer - *extra-personal*. Now for the first time in human history, the Spirit is present in them *intra-personally* and, in a very special sense, represents Jesus to and in them. Jesus refers to the Spirit as One who will come to the world after He, Jesus, goes back to the Father. The disciples, therefore, experience the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their ministry. Ravi Zacharias refers to the Holy Spirit as "God at His most empirical!"⁶

The Articulation of the Doctrine

What is the early church to make out of these encounters with God? Two questions must have arisen in their minds:

- i. Are they three independent, autonomous gods, as the surrounding pagans believe?
- ii. Or are they three different modes in which a unipersonal God has manifested Himself?

If the first alternative were true, each of the three independent gods could not be infinite.⁷ The second alternative would be experientially absurd because the disciples hear Jesus praying to the Father (*John 17*) and the Father speaking to Jesus (e.g. *John 12:28-30*). [It should be noted that wrong answers to the above two questions led the early Church to two corresponding heresies - Tritheism and Modalism. Tritheism is the heresy that holds that the Father, the Son and the Spirit are three separate Gods/gods. Modalism is the belief that

one Person, very often Jesus Christ, plays all the three roles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit just as in our human experience, a man could play the three roles of husband, father and grandfather. The favourite illustration for the Trinity as being similar to water existing as steam-water-ice is actually illustrative of modalism and should NEVER be employed as a metaphor for the Trinity].

It can now be seen that the Church is compelled, in one sense, to affirm the existence of God as One Being, the oneness being composite in the relationship of the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said that He and the Father were one (*John 10:30*). He prayed to the Father that the “oneness” of the disciples should reflect the “oneness” that He Himself enjoyed with the Father (*John 17:11, 21-23*). The word one in these verses is in the neuter gender in the Greek (*hen*). It implies oneness in essence and not sameness of persons. If Jesus had meant the latter, then John would have used the Greek masculine gender for the word one (*heis*). What is implicit in the verses of Scripture in John 17 is that the Church has many members –women and men – but the oneness spoken of is of the body – the Church. The Agent of this oneness in God and in His community - the Church - is the Holy Spirit.

An overwhelming number of Scriptures attribute full Divinity to all three Persons.⁸ Thus the early church is driven to the only option: that these three distinct Persons in some way constitute the One Divine Being. Over the next centuries, the Church came to articulate the doctrine

of God as Trinity - a word not found in canonical Scriptures - by semantically combining both the unity of the essence of the Godhead and the three distinct Personalities of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.⁹

It is precisely at this point that the crucial role of Jesus can truly be appreciated. When Philip, one of the disciples, requests Jesus to show the Father to them (*John 14:8*), Jesus chides Philip for not recognising who He was in spite of being with Him for all those years – He goes on to tell Philip that those who have seen Him have seen God! This claim is amazing, to say the least. Jesus describes His relationship to God in a way that no human being in his right mind has ever come close to saying. He and the Father are in a relationship that is so intimate - One is in the Other and vice versa (*John 17:21*) - that to see Jesus is to see God as He said earlier, in John's Gospel, "I and the Father are one" (*10:30*).

The analogy that comes to my engineering mind is that of a cube, wanting to identify with a two dimensioned world, becoming a square. It should be noted that it is still 100 percent cube in three dimensions and 100 percent square in two dimensions, but this is possible only because the square is the image of a cube in two dimensions. A two-dimensioned creature cannot see beyond two dimensions; the maximum of a cube that a two-dimensioned creature can see is a square because the square is the image of a cube in two dimensions. Similarly, humans cannot see beyond human dimensions; the maximum of God that humans can see is Jesus, because God has made humans in His image. Being God and human at the same time

is not like a mixture of salt and sugar where one would be n % of the whole and the other $(100 - n)\%$; rather, it is a unique relationship between two entities that have a special relationship with each other - one is the image of the other. So in Jesus Christ, divinity and humanity combine without any confusion, and this seamless union of two natures is manifested in the narrative of the first four books of the New Testament.

A Trinitarian Paradigm for Apologetics



The aspects of God that have the most fundamental applications for apologetics are His *being (identity), character, and knowledge*.¹⁰ As already mentioned, the attributes of God have often been stated in negative terms - absolute, infinite, immortal, invisible, impassible, and so on (briefly referred to in chapter 1). This approach has the important advantage of not equating God to anything that belongs to finite creation, thus avoiding the possibility of verbal idolatry. However, it creates two huge problems. One, we know what God is not, but it does not address the questions - who *is* He, and what is He *like*? Two, if the infinite is defined as the absence of the finite, we also have a philosophical problem: should the infinite has to depend upon the finite for its understanding!!

In the amazing providence of God, He stands revealed not in platitudes and abstract timeless universals, but in a breath-taking narrative recorded for us in the Bible. We shall now proceed to reflect upon the Trinitarian revelation of God in the three aspects listed above.

Being and Identity of God

What is the application of the fact of the Trinity to our understanding of God as well as His creation in terms of *being* and *identity*? The identity of a person or thing to be himself/herself/itself also involves the freedom to exist. We make the important distinction that in God, freedom translates as sovereignty, but in God's creation, the freedom is contingent (dependent) upon Him and is in our distinct identity as people and things. The Bible makes the additional, all - important point that His human creation is engaged in moral choices and loving relationships.

Trinitarian theology provides the very starting point of what it means to be a personal being.¹¹ *Personality* has been defined by the Greeks as comprising three basic faculties: intellect (thought), emotion (feeling), and will (volition). These qualities have very often been referred to as if they are stand - alone qualities, but are they? Are they not meaningless in a world where there are no relationships? What use is my intellect if there is nothing to think about? How would I experience emotion if there were nothing to feel about? What is the meaning of will if there is no possibility of decision making? Thus, we are forced to conclude that these are *relational* qualities and have no meaning in isolation. In other words, in God, qualities of personality can be actualised only if there is an eternally existent relationship in Him prior to, outside of, and without reference to creation.

When Moses asked God for His name, the answer He got was least expected: *I AM* (Ex. 3:14). This amazing mystery of the name (identity) of God solves a problem that we may not always be aware of: *God is His own frame of reference*. We have already considered the fact that the infinite cannot be defined with reference to the finite. God, therefore, has to be self - referencing. This would be an absurd proposition but for the fact that, in the Being of God, there is a plurality of infinite Persons and Each can define Himself with reference to the Other. It should also be noted that the use of the masculine gender HE to the Persons of the Trinity does not denote sexuality but personality; Jesus, the incarnation of the second Person of the Trinity as Man, was sexually male. God can truly be said to be self - existent only because He is the All - Personal, All - Relational being. Jesus introduces the first and second Persons of the Godhead on familial terms of Father and Son (and not in proper nouns, for example, Brahma, Vishnu or Shiva). It is not an accident that the Father derives his fatherhood only because of the Son and vice versa.

We can look at the subject of identity from the angle of *freedom* as well. The Sovereignty of God - His *freedom* to act according to His will - should be seen as a relational quality. Simple human experiences can illustrate this aspect of freedom. A space traveller stranded at 36,000 km miles away in the zero-gravity zone is not free but is hurtling around the earth at a speed of 28,800 km per hour; he is paralysed because he is unrelated to anything. On the other hand, we who are subject to gravity and

friction are free to move because we are related to planet earth!

Similarly, a soccer team is not *free* to shift the goal posts - there will be no meaningful game if such a freedom is exercised! The rules of the game enable them to relate to each other and *free* them to play the game. Thus, if god is to be free, He has to be a relational being, and that is possible only in a Trinitarian understanding of god. The Father is free to be Father, and the Son to be the Son through the Holy Spirit, for where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom (2 Cor. 3:17). The Holy Spirit, who binds the Father and Son, also provides the space for each to be Himself.¹² James makes the same point in referring the Law not as enslaving but liberating (*James 1:25*).

The application to comparative religion of this one point is enormous. At one end of the spectrum of religions, pantheism and its modern - day New Age relatives insist that everything is divine, and God is all. Thus, God is portrayed as extending Himself in His creation, and He is of necessity bound to do so. This idea of God makes him a slave of His creation, and religions arising from this belief are, not surprisingly, fatalistic. In this worldview, creation has to lose its identity in the divine and has no freedom to exist as creature! The other alternative of a unipersonal God (as in Islam) could result in an equally fatalistic view of life where humans are no more than mere pawns in the hands of an arbitrary deity.

Defining God as infinite once landed me in a peculiar problem. After one of my lectures, a Hindu colleague of

mine from the Indian government asked an important mathematical question: "Infinity is not an actual number; it is larger than the largest actual number you can think of. How can you talk about a *real actual* God who is *infinite* at the same time?" The question may sound purely academic, but the way we approach it has immense applications for apologetics. For the infinite to be an *actual being*, He has to be pulsating with life. One of the titles of God in the Bible is that He is a *living God*, the great **I AM!** From a Trinitarian theological perspective, the Trinity - the eternal generation (begottenness) of the Son by the Father and the eternal procession of the Spirit from the Father and the Son - accounts for this dynamism. The simple word *God* does not quite carry the same actuality that the Trinitarian relationship accounts for.¹³

A further application in apologetics could be the way the created order exhibits the unity in diversity of the Creator. There is an undeniable identity to each entity in creation; note the fact that God names various entities in Genesis 1. In spite of their independent identities, each is dependent on another for its existence and utility. This phenomenon can also be observed in the fact that the components of the universe that are so different from one another are, at the same time, made up of the same protons, electrons, neutrons, and the same chemical elements!

Philosophers, ancient and modern, have struggled with the issue of finding integration between plurality and unity. Sankaracharya in ancient India and Heraclitus in ancient Greece were the philosophers of the latter; Madhvacharya and Parmenides are corresponding

examples of the former. Colin Gunton wisely argues that the “opposing alternatives for the thought and order presented by [these two Greek philosophers] have left to Western thought a legacy of a dialectic in which the rights of neither the one nor the many are adequately sustained.”¹⁴ In today’s cacophony of voices, the fragmentation of postmodernism (that denies the existence of a grand integrative metanarrative) and the undifferentiated synthesis of New Age provide the counterpoints. The revelation of the Being of God, who combines real unity at one level with real diversity at another, comes as a breath of fresh, cool air in this philosophical desert!

It is only in a Trinitarian understanding of God that His transcendence over creation can coexist with His immanence in creation. The real otherness that exists between the distinct Persons of the Godhead explains how God can really be other than and therefore transcendent over His creation. Simultaneously, the perichoretic oneness of the Triune God makes His immanence in creation a reality. (The Greek word *perichoresis* means “dancing around” and is used by early church theologians to describe the mutual indwelling of the Persons of the Trinity.) The weakness of other views of God are obvious: either God is hopelessly part of His creation (because creation is an extension of His being), or He is unapproachably remote. Ironically, in both these cases, the idea of God is functionally impersonal - one who cannot be related to. We can confidently assert that Trinitarian theology provides the springboard to a

comprehensive ontology (the study of being) by bringing together the possibility of transcendence and immanence.

The Holiness and Character of God

Let us consider the holiness and character of God. In the course of a Bible study for college students in New Delhi many years ago, a Hindu girl asked me what I consider to be a brilliant question: "How can you Christians say God is good? Good is the opposite of evil; evil is not eternal; therefore, good cannot be eternal as well." Without going into her definition of evil as the opposite of good, it should be conceded that the question is a legitimate one. The Christian insists that goodness in God exists without reference to evil and rejects dualism of positing good and evil as equal and opposite. But how can the Christian sustain this position philosophically and existentially?

If am woken up suddenly in the middle of the night and asked this question, "What is holiness?" my instinctive answer would be "Absence of sin!" Although that may be enough of an answer for our understanding of holiness because of our fallenness and familiarity with sin, it would be inadequate as a definition of the holiness of God. He is holy without any reference to sin. How do we define *that* kind of holiness? We cannot define *good* with reference to evil because good is the original of which evil is the counterfeit - a problem parallel to defining the infinite in terms of the finite. Evil is an aberration. We need to look for a positive definition of good without reference to evil.

Very significantly, the answer lies in the Trinitarian Being of God. Love is the epitome of all virtue and the highest expression of holiness. And God should not have to depend upon His creation to actualise His capacity to love, for that would make creation as important to the Creator because the Creator would be incomplete without His creation. But the Bible introduces love as an interpersonal quality requiring a subject-object relationship that is available in the Trinity because of the Father - Son relationship without reference to His creation. The Father loves the Son before the creation of the world (*John 17:24*) [We should realise that *John 3:16* is the overflow to us of *John 17:24*]. The Eternal Personal Medium through Whom this love is communicated is the Holy Spirit, and He is the One Who pours the love of God in our hearts as well (*Rom. 5:5*). The final answer that I could give this college girl was to appeal to the Trinity, where good always exists without any reference to, outside of, and before evil.

What is the application to apologetics of this amazing truth? At the philosophical level, this is the fundamental basis of all studies of values, what is called *axiology*. This branch of philosophy deals with the study, among others, of *aesthetics* and *ethics*. The holiness of the Trinitarian God is the basis on which all ethics are grounded. Trinitarian theology becomes the proper starting point of all theorising about ethics. At another level, the study of beauty involves unity in diversity such as a painting or a symphony. If both the diversity of the elements and the unity of the final product do not have real significance, these could reduce to meaningless pursuits. That significance is

provided only because in our Creator God, diversity (the distinction between Persons of the Godhead) and unity (the Oneness of the Godhead) are both meaningful and significant. The pursuit of pleasure in variety that is the hallmark of today's society is the most observable symptom that we are a bored generation! Christians are not exempt, either, because we have learned to look at the creative arts at the purely pragmatic and utilitarian levels. I do not mean that one must hold an eternal perspective in order to meaningfully engage in the arts. All I intend to communicate at this point is that beauty and harmony are best explained only when ultimate reality, God, is the ground of both unity and diversity.

A Trinitarian understanding of holiness avoids two errors.¹⁵ At one end of this spectrum of errors, the classical moral argument in favour of God talks about Him in rather flat one - dimensional terms as a much - needed frame of reference for any system of moral values. However, the plea that God is the infinite, moral standard (as He is often referred to in these arguments) does not tell us who this God is. At the other end of the spectrum, we have no alternative except to posit a dualism where good and evil are seen as equal and opposite. But it is quite obvious, even from a philosophical point of view, that good cannot simply be stated as the absence of evil. In fact, the opposite is the case. But then, we need to establish how good can be defined without any reference to evil. Indeed, this is the substance of the question posed by the college student quoted at the beginning of this section.

The Ten Commandments that God gave to His people (*Ex. 20:1-17*) sum up God's requirement in terms of *relationships* - with Him and with one another. The Old Testament also sums up the commandments as love relationships with God (*Deut. 6:4-5*) and among His people (*Lev. 19:18*). In other words, holiness by God's own definition (*Lev. 19:2*) is summed up in the relational commandments that comprise the rest of that chapter. Holiness is therefore not the stand - alone ascetic quality that is the hallmark of some Eastern religions but a community of people in right relationship to one another. Thus, a Trinitarian interpretation of holiness gives us a positive and robust understanding without the anaemic contentless-ness monism of the first error and the destructive dualism of the second.

In conclusion, then, it should come as no surprise that the psalmist tells us that God is to be worshipped in “the beauty of holiness” (*Ps. 29:2 KJV*). As we have seen, both these qualities require harmony and relatedness.

Knowledge of God

We will now consider God in terms of His *knowledge* - that is, His omniscience.

We normally take God as an *Object* who is really there,¹⁶ Who can be talked about and Who leaves tell-tale evidences of His existence that can be investigated. We can thus be sure that He is unchanging as the object of our knowledge. The adjective *objective* is one that springs to mind whenever we engage in an apologetic discussion of God. But the moment we begin to consider the fact that

God could be all - knowing, we are introducing a problem perhaps without realising it.

If I say that I know this laptop computer on which I am typing this chapter, I am the subject and the computer is the object of my knowledge. My computer does not change – it is an inanimate object only capable of responding to my keystrokes - but I, the subject, do change (particularly when I am adjusting to a new computer!). When we say that God is all - knowing, we are actually positing him as the supreme *Subject*. The question is, how can God be all - knowing and still be unchanging?

If God's capacity to know depended upon creation to be actualised, we would have a problem similar to what we considered in the previous section on love. But the Bible leaves us in no doubt on this score. In *Matthew 11:27*, Jesus says that no one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son. Both the Subject and the Object of this knowledge are infinite, eternal, and personal. Further, the use of the Greek present tense in this verse suggests continuous action. Thus, this verse can also be translated in this way: "No one keeps knowing the Son except the Father, and no one keeps knowing the Father except the Son." We can safely conclude that there is a dynamic reciprocity in this amazing relationship within the Trinity. Here again, the Divine Personal Medium through whom this knowledge is communicated is the Holy Spirit (*1 Cor. 2:10-16*).

We can discern applications of this astounding truth at several levels. At the philosophical level, this mutual

knowledge in the eternity of God is the starting point of all epistemology. This branch of philosophy deals with the subject of knowing and finds an adequate starting point only in Trinitarian theology, where the subject and object of knowledge exist eternally! In passing, I may mention that the adjective *ABSOLUTE* is eminently unsuitable when it refers to the Triune God. The etymological root of *ABSOLUTE* is that it is not related to anything and that is why its opposite is *RELATIVE*. But the amazing God on Whom we have been reflecting is *ALL-RELATIONAL*, an adjective I suggest that we adopt with reference to the Trinity instead of the flat adjective *ABSOLUTE*. This word is useful in discussing abstract philosophy but should never, in my opinion, be used with reference to the Triune God.

In the area of divine knowledge, this complementary knowing parallels the simultaneous existence of transcendence and immanence in the study of the Being of God. Passages in the Old Testament that we consider to be anthropomorphic - for instance, when God is described in human (anthropomorphic) terms in *Genesis 18:20-21* and *Exodus 3: 7-8* - can probably be best explained as the mysterious combination of the reality of God's omniscience and His immanent interaction with His creatures in space-time. We shall thus avoid the twin errors of fatalism and open theism.

As an application to apologetics, the Trinitarian Being of God combines the objective reality of the external world with a healthy subjective way in which we can be involved in what we study and examine. The inescapable aspect of

subjectivity that is a part even of the scientific enterprise has been well argued by Michael Polanyi.¹⁷

We can also legitimately surmise that in the coming together of the apparent determinism of classical macrophysics and the uncertainty at the quantum level, even inanimate nature seems to reflect the complementarity in the Being of God. The enjoyable paradox that exists at the interface between a Sovereign God and the real freedom of humans made in His image is the highest level where we see this mystery displayed for human experience.

A Trinitarian Paradigm for Spiritual Transformation



We shall now turn to a consideration of our response as human beings that this Trinitarian God expects from those whom He freely chose to make in His image, who are capable of free, loving relationships. What we often call “spiritual disciplines” are nothing more than what God requires of us in response to Who He is and what He does - that is, again, His *Being*, *character*, and *knowledge*. It may be noted that my treatment of our response to God is intended to correspond to the discussion in the previous chapter.

The Pursuit of God in Worship

In one word, our reflection on the enthralling Being of the Triune God should result in true *worship*. This is simply the response of who we are to who God is. Unfortunately, in our present Christian climate, what we *do* in our worship services seems to take precedence over everything else! Yet our thinking, feeling, and willing capabilities actually flow out of the fact of what we *are* - our being.

My particular emphasis in the context of worship will be limited to the consideration that our being is shaped and maintained by relationships.

We are born to our parents, and we grow in our understanding of ourselves as we learn to relate to parents, siblings, and friends. Simply put, I can't be *me* without someone else; you can't be *you* without reference to someone else. What makes a person a person is her (or his) capability of interpersonal relationship. In fact, we derive most of our fundamental sense of identity by relating to God and other human beings. Moreover, the identity that we seek from impersonal entities such as achievements, fame, pleasure, and possessions - the hallmarks of today's consumerist, shopping - mall existence - can be extremely inadequate and frustrating. To add to the confusion, we are deep into the use of gadgets and cyber-technology that is accelerating this tendency to depersonalisation. Information technology seems to be providing the basis for our philosophy of life; everything, including people, can be digitalised and miniaturised and reduced to megabytes on a microchip. The spate of science fiction movies suggests and aggravates these very tendencies.

It is not surprising that in this rather lonely environment, the Christian pursuit of worship has been made a purely individualistic endeavour. Christian disciplines do not appear to be any different from the aspiration of Eastern religions except that Christian words have been inserted. Are we guilty of baptizing alien methods of spirituality into the Christian church by reducing the totality of

Christian worship to nothing more than Christian forms of the lonely soul's *Nirvana*?

Most of today's Christian worship songs are in the first person singular - I, me and my - with scant thought of the fact that our Christian walk has so much to do with others. We seem to have brought the individualism of the shopping mall into the sanctuary! We no longer include in our hymnody songs like the following by Bernhardt S. Ingemann:

*1. Through the night of doubt and sorrow
Onward goes the pilgrim band,
Singing songs of expectation,
Marching to the promised land.*

*2. Clear before us through the darkness
Gleams and burns the guiding light:
Brother clasps the hand of brother,
Stepping fearless through the night.*

*3. One the light of God's own presence,
O'er His ransomed people shed,
Chasing far the gloom and terror,
Brightening all the path we tread:*

*4. One the object of our journey,
One the faith which never tires,
One the earnest looking forward,
One the hope our God inspires.*

*5. One the strain that lips of thousands
Lift as from the heart of one;
One the conflict, one the peril
One the march in God begun:*

*6. One the gladness of rejoicing
On the far eternal shore,
Where the one almighty Father
Reigns in love for evermore.*

*7. Onward, therefore, pilgrim brothers,
Onward, with the cross our aid!
Bear its shame, and fight its battle,
Till we rest beneath its shade.*

*8. Soon shall come the great awaking,
Soon the rending of the tomb;
Then the scattering of all shadows,
And the end of toil and gloom.¹⁸*

The lack of Trinitarian thinking and preaching has exacerbated the prevailing individualism that our culture

has brought right into our Christian life and practice. If we do not think of God as a relational Being in Himself, we cannot appreciate the point that we are made to reflect His image in our relationships with one another. More often, we only consider God as relational insofar as what we can get out of Him in a utilitarian sense. We need to depend on one another to help us comprehend the majesty and love of God and respond in true worship as a community (*Eph. 3:14-21*).

Many of the Psalms are in the plural and not necessarily sung to God but to one another (see, for instance *Ps. 95-100; 122-126; 132-144*). The idea of worship today is that every individual Christian is supposed to ride on an emotional high all the time. Each is supposed to lift herself/himself by some mysterious emotional bootstraps to maintain a steady state of high excitement. What is not emphasised is that it is simply not possible - happily so, in my opinion, because that kind of a sustained emotional state is recipe for a mental breakdown! On the other hand, the Scriptures teach us that when we are discouraged, we encourage one another to lift up our feeble hands in adoration to God. In so doing, we begin to reflect our dependence on one another and thereby reflect the Being of God in our corporate worship.

There is another aspect to our consideration of God as part of our worshipful response. No true worship of God is possible without the quality of transcendence and immanence existing together in Him. He is worthy of worship only because He is transcendent; we can truly relate to Him in worship only because He is close

to us (immanent)! Jesus admirably combined these complementary qualities of familiarity and reverence in the opening line of the prayer that He taught His disciples to pray: "Our Father [immanence] in heaven [transcendence] . . ."

The Pursuit of Holiness

The character of God is to be reflected by holiness in our lives - in one phrase, *the pursuit of holiness*. In our endeavour in this direction, however, we need to be careful to note that what we have come to call *personal holiness* - what is inward - is only a potential that has to be constantly actualised in interpersonal relationships. The time I spend with God must enable me to relate to a world of people and things in the right way. In fact, I can only be personally holy when I am by myself; it is when I come out of my room and meet the world of people and things that I run into serious problems! I am afraid that the emphasis on holiness that we often talk about is my preoccupation with my hands being clean and my conscience clear for my own sake, and that happens to be a pretty selfish motive. A selfish motive to be selfless, indeed! It would be almost as if Moses, on coming down from Mount Sinai, began to enjoy His shining face in a mirror!

Holiness, in the final analysis, is otherward and unselfish. I have been fascinated by the Trinitarian example from *John 5:19-27; 16:13-14*. The Father entrusts all things to the Son: His authority, His power over life, and judgement. But the Son will not do anything by Himself; He will only

do what He sees the Father doing. The Spirit will not speak of Himself nor seek His own glory. He will bring glory to Jesus by taking what belongs to Jesus and showing them to us. Three self - giving, self - effacing persons constitute the amazing God whom we worship! It is this aspect of God's character that we seek to reflect in our life and walk as the church of Jesus Christ.

We should carefully consider the answer that Jesus gives to the question that a smart lawyer poses to him (*Matt. 22:34-30; Mark 12:28-33*). Jesus summarizes the Ten Commandments in two relational aspects: love for God and love for others. Morality is always defined in the Bible in the context of relationships (see the number of verses in *Lev. 19*, for example). The connection between the commandments is also intriguing, to say the least. If we had been there to ask Jesus why He gave us two commandments when we were looking for only one, the greatest (*Matt. 22:34,40*), His reply may have taken this direction: "Without obeying the first, you do not have the ability to obey the second; but obedience to the first is secret between you and God; whereas obedience to the second, which is open for public verification, is the evidence that you have obeyed the first. So both commandments are equally important" (see *1 John 4:20*).). The pursuit of social justice and help for the underprivileged falls under the pursuit of holiness rather than the selfish preoccupation (mentioned above) of 'keeping our hands clean and our conscience clear.'

I often wonder whether our individualised view of holiness reduces the Christian faith to nothing other than

Eastern asceticism. We make statements like “We should be holy *and* work on our relationships,” implying that the first is somehow more important than the second and the second is nothing more than an optional extra to the Christian life! I will have more to say on this in the concluding chapter of this booklet.

The Pursuit of Truth and Transparency

What is our response to the knowledge (omniscience) of the Triune God? In one phrase again, it should be the *pursuit of truth and transparency* in all of our relationships. We seem to have driven an unsightly wedge between these two aspects; *truth* is often categorized as an academic pursuit - the favourite field of the apologist - and transparency as a moral one. But is this really correct? I shall attempt to indicate otherwise.

At the behavioural level as Christians, we have already seen the centrality of relationships. But this aspect has an added element in knowledge. In the Hebrew language, knowing a person is to relate to that person in an intimate manner; the verb *to know* is often used in the context of a husband - wife relationship (*Gen.4.:1* in the Hebrew). But this kind of knowledge is not possible to the knower unless the known is willing to reveal himself/herself. And that kind of self - revelation is not possible unless a degree of trust is present. The fact that Adam and Eve were naked, and they were not embarrassed about it (*Gen. 2:25*) is a commentary on their state of innocence. Conversely, the first symptoms of their autonomy were shame before each other and guilt before God

(*Gen. 3:7, 10*). (Their making coverings of fig leaves for themselves could very well have marked the beginning of the cosmetics industry!) It is obvious that while relationship of a person to things is so easy, relationships between persons require trust and openness. Supremely, God has made Himself known in His amazing self - revelation in nature, Scripture, and Jesus Christ. He invites us now to take the risk of vulnerable relationships through which we introduce others to God and to one another. Our lives of faith are lives of knowledge that begin with trust in a relational, Trinitarian God and should lead us to similar trusting relationships with others. I have already mentioned how the advances in Information Technology and social media have adversely affected real-life transparent relationships with one another.

In commanding and empowering Adam and Eve to have dominion over the earth (*Gen. 1:28*), God is indicating to us through His Word that an enjoyable pursuit of knowledge and truth in all of life is part of His mandate for us. Knowledge for its own sake is commendable and should not be reduced to purely utilitarian considerations. We should be careful that our knowledge of the material world does not lead to a mindless plundering of the planet's resources for human consumption and unbridled economic growth. I have already referred to Michael Polanyi to make the point that our knowledge of the physical world contains an inescapable subjective dimension. In our moral response to this knowledge, we need to exhibit care for the environment - the amazing

fauna and flora of our “privileged planet”¹⁹ - on behalf of its Creator. We seem to have let this slip away from an evangelical agenda and be taken over by the New Age movement.

During the Q&A session after one of my open forums in India, one of my questioners argued that animals and humans have the same kind of sentience and so it would be wrong to consider human beings to be superior to animals. I alluded to Project Tiger - a government of India programme to keep the tigers from extinction - and made the following comment: “When I look at a tiger, I know that he can harm me but I should not shoot him dead unless he attacks me; on the other hand, when the tiger looks at me, his sentiments are quite different - he considers me as potential lunch! How can you explain this difference in attitudes except to see an obvious hierarchy where we are situated in a position to take care of the rest of created order?”

The Final Apologetic



I draw my thoughts on the Trinity to a conclusion by highlighting the fact that Jesus preferred to put forward a relationship criterion as what would distinguish His disciples rather than religious criteria (see *John 13:1-17, 34-35*). I think this is surely the need of the hour because we have probably shed more blood in the name of religion in the last one hundred years than in all previous centuries of human history combined.

We need to recognise the fact that there is one aspect of apologetics that involves presentation of truth, considering philosophy, history, science, arts, and so on. But there is another aspect of apologetics - the expression of love within the Christian community - that is the final proof that we are the disciples of the Lord Jesus (*John 13:34-35; 15:9*).

It is the love within the Trinity (*John 17:24*) that overflows into the world (*John 3:16*). In the same way, the love of the community of Christian believers should overflow to a

lost and hurting world. Love for the saved precedes love for the lost. It is easier to love the lost because they are conveniently far away – the saved, on the other hand, are inconveniently close by!

The community of loving Christians is seen by the watching world, not as a collection of perfect individuals. While it would be great to have such a community, we have to honestly admit that there are no perfect persons although we may behave sometimes as if we are perfect! The acted parable of *John 13* portrays imperfect people in relationships that reflect mutual sharing of the Trinity. Jesus washes His disciples' feet and says, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (v. 15). The disciples of Jesus are to wash one another's feet (admitting that we all have dirty feet), and the world is attracted by the fact we are willing to relate to one another in this amazingly practical way. As I wash your feet and you wash mine, the world comes to see us as two imperfect people in a perfect relationship – and that is achievable even as we await the coming of Christ!

But we have two problems. First, I do not want to wash anyone else's feet. And second, I do not want anyone else to wash my feet! The problem is mutual and reciprocal. A God who exhibits mutuality and reciprocity - namely, the Triune God- is the One who can deal with this problem.

Our Christian communities are very often like the Indian bureaucracy (with which I am most familiar), where some people are indispensable, but most people are unnecessary. In God's kingdom, however, everyone is important, but no one is indispensable; no one is so

senior that he/she has nothing to receive from others, no one so young that he/she has nothing to give to others! The mutuality of the foot- washing illustrates this reality perfectly.

In washing His disciples' feet, Jesus was making it clear that He was not just exhibiting His humility and servanthood. He tells Peter that unless He washed Peter's feet, He could not truly relate to Peter. At the same time, Jesus did not bathe Peter because Peter was already clean; He only needed to have His feet washed (vv. 6-10). This shows that we, the disciples of Jesus, need to minister moral and spiritual cleansing to one another as well. This interpretation is confirmed by the fact that Jesus did not ask His disciples to wash His feet, although His feet would have been dirty as well.

But with what attitude shall we offer this cleansing to one another? The clean one has to take the position of the servant (weakness) and accord to the dirty one the place of the master (strength). In other words, our ministry to one another has to be nonthreatening. The wrongness of our attitudes can destroy the rightness of our words and deeds. As we apply this lesson to the some thirty - six "one another" passages of the New Testament - *accept* one another, *forgive* one another, be *kind* to one another, and so on - we begin to exhibit something of the self - giving Trinity. In each of these relationships, at any time, one would be the stronger and the other would be the weaker; the attitude with which we minister to one another is therefore all important.

One other related lesson that the world needs to see in our terror-stricken world is that violence is a sign of weakness and vulnerability is a sign of true strength. After all, our Victor gave Himself over to be Victim, didn't He?

But in order to be able to emulate the self-giving relationships of the Trinity, we need to cultivate the following four qualities by the grace of God and the help and support of one another (*John 13:1-3*).

Firstly, we should be aware of God's timing (*kairos*) in our lives (*v. 1a*). We tend to be too coldblooded on the one hand or too impulsive on the other. Jesus moved in line with God's timing upon His life. The Christian life is very demanding, and without this awareness we are not likely to succeed and may end up as burnouts.

Secondly, we need to have a prior commitment to one another before we can embark upon this costly adventure (*v. 1b*). This is similar to the commitment Jesus had made to the Twelve at the beginning of His ministry when He chose them out of the many who were following him (*Luke 6:12-16*).

Thirdly, we need to be willing to wash the feet of a possible Judas who may be present in our company (*v. 2*). If Jesus had not washed Judas' feet and if He had discriminated against Judas during the three and a half years of His ministry, it is quite possible that upon the crucifixion of Jesus when all their hope was shattered, five disciples could have followed Judas and five could have followed Peter, and the first church could have split down the middle! In the event, of course, it is Judas who

goes out into the night (*John 13:30*). When love becomes unbearable, it poses a choice to the offender - to return to the fold or to leave forever.

Fourthly, Jesus enjoyed the security of His identity before He embarked upon the foot - washing enterprise (*v. 3*). That is, He did not seek to derive an identity from service, as we so often are wont to do. He could rise from the supper, take off His robe of divine privileges and authority, and clothe Himself in the apron of a servant only because He was sure of His identity as God's Son.

I am often reminded of two famous women who died within eight days of each other in August/September 1997. As I looked at their photographs printed on facing pages of an issue of *India Today* (which was a fortnightly at the time), I realised this: both women did a lot for the poor. One woman who did not find love in her parents' home or her husband's home frantically tried to compensate her inner emptiness by serving children maimed by landmines in sub-Saharan Africa; but when she died in that horrible car crash in Paris, she was wearing a ring worth \$ 205,000 given to her by her boy-friend. The other served the poor in an amazingly unself-conscious way; at her death, she had nothing to her credit but two blue - bordered white cotton saris and a plastic bucket! I am obviously referring to Princess Diana – I do not want to cast aspersion on her motive for service – and Mother Teresa. But the contrast cannot be missed.

How then shall we live and speak in a society that is increasingly secularised and is keen on deconstructing

all that the Christian faith has to say? We need to rightly represent our God in our talk and in our walk as a community of His worshippers.

Loving God with our minds should involve thinking more on His Trinitarian being - our "reason reflecting on His revelation"²⁰ - and applying those insights in our understanding and critique of our culture. As I have attempted to show in this booklet, a Trinitarian understanding of reality has amazing explanatory power over the many alternative views of God that surround us.

Our life has to shift away from its individualistic focus toward more of our relationship with one another in the body of Christ. Christian spirituality is the very opposite of religious showmanship or one-upmanship. Our relationships with one another are the *only* ways that our relationship to God is demonstrated before a watching world. Over against the postmodern tendency to level cultures or exaggerate their differences,²¹ the Christian community affirms our different identities and cultures while celebrating our oneness in our understanding and devotion to our Triune God. Relationships within the Christian community should therefore be seen as central to spirituality rather than as a peripheral and desirable option.

Will we be perfect in this life in achieving the above? No! However, we shall persevere here in this world, waiting with a longing hope for the coming of Christ. Then, in the New Creation in union with Christ, our Bridegroom, we, the church, will begin a never-ending exploration of the mystery of the Triune God.

I cannot think of a more appropriate way of ending this booklet except by quoting from that lovely song²² composed by the late Dr T.N. Sterrett who has meant so much for us in the UESI family.

1. *Jesus commanded us something to do:
Love one another as I have loved you:
My love will guide and enable you to
Love one another.*
2. *He shed His lifeblood for us to atone;
By this the meaning of love we have known,
We then our own lives in love must lay down
For one another.*
3. *Sins in great numbers are covered by love:
We are forgiven by grace from above.
So we forgive from the heart and we prove
Love for each other.*
4. *Jesus the Lord washed the feet of his own,
Saying, "You do as to you I have done,
Truly by this you My love will have shown,
To one another."*
5. *All you are brothers, so love each the same,
Thinking of others as greater in name,
Seeking for self, neither honour nor fame
From one another.*
6. *We show His love when we help those in need:
Naked we clothe, or the hungry we feed.
Not just by talking but rather by deed,
Loving each other.*

Endnotes

1. Colin E. Gunton, *Act and Being* (London: SCM Press, 2002). The total thrust of his book is that whatever we know of God's being is through His activity in creation and history. Because of His perfection in every aspect of life, there is no dichotomy between what He is and what He does. Description of God's attributes in abstract and negative terms does injustice to God's concrete, direct action in history.
2. Karl Rahner, quoted in Robert Letham, *The Holy Trinity* (Phillipsburg, NJ: R&R Publishing Co., 2004), 4.
3. See, for example, Roger E. Olson and Christopher A. Hall, *The Trinity* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002), 95-115.
4. Bruce A. Ware, *Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Relationship, Roles & Relevance* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2005), 16; emphasis in original.
5. Letham, *The Holy Trinity*, 25.
6. Title of one of Ravi Zacharias' audio CDs.
7. It is not possible, philosophically, to conceive of more than one independent, infinite entity. In Polytheisms, this problem is actually seen as each of the many gods has to be finite and limited in power and jurisdiction.
8. Letham, *The Holy Trinity*, 17-85.
9. Olson and Hall, *The Trinity*, 13-79; Letham, *The Holy Trinity*, 87-268.

10. The seed thoughts on these aspects are briefly but ably treated by Francis Schaeffer in *He is There and He is not Silent* (first published in 1972) and is now part of *The Complete Works of Francis Schaeffer: A Christian Worldview, Volume 1, A Christian View of Philosophy and Culture* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1982), 277-344.
11. See Stanley J. Grenz, *The Social God and the Relational Self* (Louisville, KY: John Knox Press, 2001), 4. I would however, hold that relationality and substantiality have both to be emphasized in God as well as human beings and not the former at the expense of the latter. Only in that way can we see the mutual importance of *both* the individual *and* the community.
12. For an eloquent treatment of this subject and its application to the significance of human beings, see Colin E. Gunton, *The One, the Three and the Many* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1993), chapter 7.
13. Colin E. Gunton, *Becoming and Being* (London: SCM Press, 2001), 35-55. This volume is Gunton's rebuttal of the fatal flaws that result from the process theology of Charles Hartshorne.
14. Gunton, *The One, the Three and the Many*.
15. Further, it is so common for people to espouse a moral value without being able to provide a basis for it!
16. *The God who is There* is the title of Francis Schaeffer's first of three books; the others are *He is There and He is not Silent*, and *Escape from Reason*. They are often referred to as a trilogy of his apologetics.

17. Michael Polanyi, *Personal Knowledge* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1974).
18. Bernhardt S. Ingemann (1826), "Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow," trans. by Sabine Baring-Gould in *The People's Hymnal*, 1867.
19. Guillermo Gonzalez and Jay Richards, *The Privileged Planet: How our Place in the Cosmos is Designed for Discovery* (Washington, DC: Regnery, 2004). A DVD of the same title is also available. I find the title fascinating and disturbing at the same time because it says something about my responsibility for this amazing planet! Gonzalez and Richards are part of the Intelligent Design movement and make a strong plea that belief in an intelligent Designer actually promotes the growth of knowledge by providing a valid incentive for research. Atheists such as the late astronomer Carl Sagan of Cornell and biologist Richard Dawkins of Oxford have averred that belief in an intelligent, knowledgeable God will stunt the progress of true science.
20. Alister McGrath, *A Passion for Truth: The Intellectual Coherence of Evangelicalism* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1996), 91.
21. Gene Edward Veith Jr. *Postmodern Times* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 1994), 144.
22. Dr T. N. Sterrett's song from *Come & Praise*, (InterVarsity Publishers India, 2014), Pg. 269