

Dear all,

The topic for the Study Service on Sunday at 7pm is,
A TRINITARIAN UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPIRIT. On the occasions when, as in science, realities confront as incontrovertible yet contradictory, we cannot dismiss them, but tell them as they are & endeavour to understand them. The church's doctrine of ***one God, three persons*** was the result of such an occasion. The best way into it is to soak up all Jesus says in the Gospel of John about his relation to the Father and the Spirit. What appears as very striking is that there is the closest possible relation between them.

The Father gives all he has to the Son & the Son does nothing but the will of the Father: the Father is "in" the Son & the Son "in" the Father. The Son does all he does through the Spirit & the Spirit throws all his light on the Son. What we begin to sense is that Father, Son & Spirit have their distinct identity, but are inseparable from each other and work together in all "they" do as the one God.

The Father works through the Son, and the Son through the Spirit. Just as the Father cannot be seen but in the Son, so the Spirit cannot be seen, for the Spirit is like a mirror reflecting not itself but the Son. The work of the Spirit is to witness to Christ as the truth and open our hearts and minds to him. The New Testament therefore speaks of the Spirit as "the Spirit of Christ" & Jesus thrice (Jn 14.17, 15.26, 16.13) calls the Spirit "the Spirit of truth".

The Spirit of Christ has nothing to offer but Christ, & Christ offers himself to us only through the Spirit, in the unity of the Triune God of grace.

7-8.30 pm by Zoom meet (details on request)
Best wishes - Bob