**WOODLANDS CHURCH DISCUSSION NOTES**

**October 21st 2018, Creed: Trinity and Unity – Dave Mitchell** John 17

In our series on the great Christian Creeds we are examining some of the phrases that have summed up orthodox Christian belief for Centuries. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the early Fathers of the Church, meditating on Scripture and in debate with one another distilled some foundational truths that are not just theoretical but deeply enable Christian life and practice. In thinking about the Trinity, God three in one, our minds can struggle to grasp how God can be ‘more personal’ than us three-dimensional, material creatures. We can however experience and be caught up in His three personed life, the life of the Trinity.

1. What does God’s creation of man and woman in his image Genesis 1:26-27 suggest about what God is essentially like?
2. What does the experience of and capacity for loneliness say about God’s original design for humans? (Gen 2:18) What are the tensions you experience in seeking unity and oneness with others?
3. Jesus prayer in John 17 is a prayer for unity of believers (verse 23). Why is unity and diversity so important? Why is disunity so common in human relationships? Where did the trait toward disunity begin in Bible history?
4. John’s gospel contains much trinitarian language (e.g. John 14:15-22). In what way is Jesus like and unlike the Father?
5. How does the reality of the trinity and the life of the trinity help us guard unity between Christians?

The word diabolical, devilish is derived from the Greek *diaballo* which literally means to ‘throw over’, divide, set at variance. How far have you considered guarding unity as a spiritual battle? Are there any relationships that you need to especially guard right now?