**WOODLANDS CHURCH**

**October 7th 2018. The Creed**

**Discussion notes: The Trinity Romans 8v1-17**

We are starting a new series looking at the basics of Christian belief. Woodlands Church would say that we are a church that holds to orthodox Christian doctrine. But what is orthodox doctrine? After the first few centuries of Christianity, a simple formulation of theology was agreed by a church council. This creed is still used in churches today. Here it is

**WE BELIEVE** in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Although the word "Trinity" doesn't appear in the Bible, God in three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is very much in evidence.

Here are some places where all three persons of the Godhead appear.

Luke 3 21When all the people were being baptized, **Jesus** was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened 22and the **Holy Spirit** descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And **a voice** came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

John 14 16And I (**Jesus**) will ask the **Father**, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17the **Spirit** of truth.

Philippians 1 19 for I know that through your prayers and **God’s** provision of the **Spirit** of **Jesus** Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

Galatians 4 6Because you are his sons, **God** sent the **Spirit** of his **Son** into our hearts, the **Spirit** who calls out, *“Abba*, **Father**.”

Here are some thoughts from Paul on the interaction between God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

**Read Romans 8v1-17**

1. How do you understand the Trinity?
2. What do you understand by the statement that God the Father is "maker of heaven and earth"?
3. How do you relate to God as Father?
4. Do you think your view of God, your heavenly Father, is affected by your
5. relationship with your earthly father
6. What does it mean that Jesus is the "only Son of God"?
7. What does it mean for you to "follow" Jesus, as God's Son in human form?
8. How would you describe the Holy Spirit - a person or a force?
9. How do you make the Holy Spirit welcome in your life?