Service at Bluff 11 June 2017

Stephen Fry video clip – trend for easy-to-swallow food/drink.

This trend we see in society. We want our politics/politicians to be black and white. We want easy solutions to terrorism threats. In Church we want nothing hard to understand!

The problem is the Bible. In places Jesus or others claim that he is God – John 1.1 being the best example. Very early on Christians viewed him as God. Then they also looked at Matthew 28 and saw baptism in the name (not names) of God as Father, Son & Spirit as indicating the Spirit should be added. This led to seeing God as three Gods, however strongly linked. The Church evolved complex formulae relying on technical language to assert that Father was God, Son was God, Spirit was God, yet there was only one God.

At Caesarea Philippi Jesus asked who his disciples thought he was – 10 Minutes 2011 illustration!

We might feel just like Jesus!

I will not attempt to share the views of whole books trying to square this circle! But I recall that at some point Gregory of Nyssa in the 4th Century roughly said that Three being One is just something you have to believe without fully understanding.

Trinity reminds us it is simply not possible to have a bite-sized full understanding of God.

This should not be a surprise. If God is God, then he’ll be more mind-boggling than we can grasp.

Two results are possible. One is to give up the attempt to understand as futile and pointless.

The other is to stretch our minds as far as possible to understand as best one can.

This theological exercise might not be what you want to do, but most of us would like to understand something in life better. It might be: Why do young Muslims become suicide bombers? How can we solve the housing crisis in NZ? What is the best way to save the planet from global warming?

Many want easy answers, but these do not exist, and we should not be surprised. God has given us minds and reason to think difficult things through and we should do so.

However in Matthew 28 we are called as Christians to persuade people to become disciples, and learn to obey Christ. This we do by the quality of our life together.   
May God’s Spirit be so within our fellowship as we strive to fulfil these tasks.