

Dear fellow parishioners,

It has been brought to my attention that during the talk last Sunday, my choice of words was ill-judged on a crucial and fundamental issue. I am most grateful to those who have pointed this out. We all need healthy accountability to keep us on the Way, and this is especially vital when Truth is at stake!

May I simply re-visit the statement in question, to quote "indeed the New testament never ever teaches that there is more than one God. It doesn't actually teach that Jesus is God, but Son."

Isolated from its context, and for someone without knowledge of my personally held view that Jesus is indeed One with the Father, I must confess that this statement could be misleading, and I am more than happy to withdraw it. Please accept my unreserved apology for any alarm I have caused by not adding satisfactory clarity. Allow me to address this omission.

Central to the revealed truth of the Gospel of God (Romans 1:1) is the fundamental and paramount fact that Jesus of Nazareth **"is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."** Colossians 1: 15-19.

I never intended to question the deity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, but simply to underline what Jesus Himself modelled; the emphasis that there is only One God. *He* always gave the pre-eminence to His Father. **1 Corinthians 8: 6-8** is about fleeing from idolatry, "**For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we live.**"

Bearing in mind His words to the Gentile woman of Canaan, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel", perhaps He was always careful not to cause the Jews to stumble for whom it was anathema to consider worshipping Another...they were expecting the Messiah, and were unaware that the Oneness of The God they worshipped was actual a Three-in-One-ness. *Echad in relationship, as in a marriage!*

All Praise to His Holy Name

Anthony