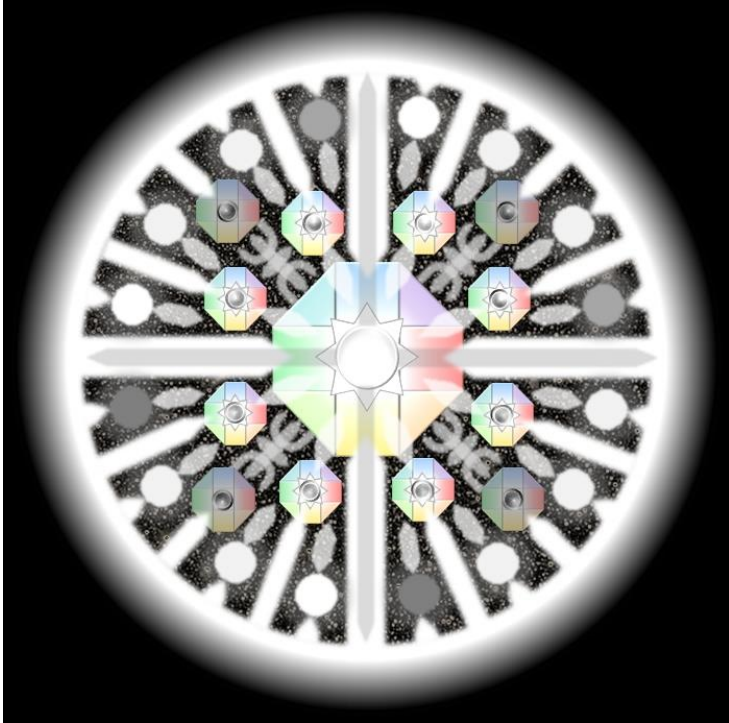
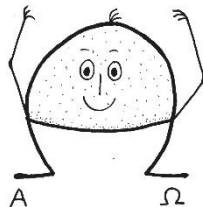


ALL ABOUT EVERYTHING AND SOMETHING ABOUT NOTHING



Alan Marcus James Robbins



This booklet uses my Octaikon framework (for understanding every-thing) to look at God, Jesus and Love. Please refer to the Octaikon diagram on the back cover to understand the numbering of the sections.

Marcus Robbins, Oxford, October 2018

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EVERY-THING?

Here's one way of understanding everything in the world around us. It's based on my idea that there are ten aspects of reality, or what my pen-friend AL likes to call fracALities. Why *fracALities*?

Because they are like *faculties* (powers or abilities) and *fractal* in nature occurring at every level of existence. There are ten of them grouped into pairs, which AL calls the five key PrincipALs (principal principles) of existence, and they need to be kept in balance. Here is a brief description of all ten fracALities, so pay at-TEN-tion, please...

The first is (1) **OriginALity**.

Everything has a beginning. A time when it started or originated. A time when there was total freedom to be creative and original. That was the big bang with our universe. All processes and systems have origins and need degrees of freedom to work. We humans also need freedom, and to play, have fun, and to be creative. Each of us humans started with a procreative little bang!

This freedom and creativity is all very well, but needs to be balanced by constraints if it is not to result in lack of control and chaos.

So it's complemented by (9) **InfluentiALity**.

Everything needs to be subject to principles and laws. At the instant of creation, the four laws of nature came into being, constraining, controlling and influencing that original freedom. All systems obey rules and regulations, and we humans invent our own laws by which we can judge, choose and make decisions.

So that's freedom and originality, balanced by rules and choices, which we can call the first principAL of FREE-LIMIT: *Every-thing has freedom that must be subject to control to give it order.*

Now we come to the next pair of fracALities.

One of them is (2) **MateriALity**.

Everything is made up of atoms and compounds which give form, substance and stability to the material world. In turn they allow us to consume and sense things by which we grow and develop, like other forms of life. The things we manufacture depend on these materials, too.

Complementing this materiALity is the need for (8) **MotionALity**.

From the beginning of creation, everything has been in motion at some scale or other. Particles vibrate, atoms spin, planets orbit, we work and act

and move. Without movement everything would cease to exist. It's a paradox, but without motion and change, there would be no stability and permanence.

Material and motion therefore make up the second PrincipAL of STUFF-MOVE: *Every-thing has a physicality that must embody motion to give it substance.*

The next pair of fracALities concern the parts and the whole.

The first is (3) **DifferentiALity**:

Everything is made up of particles and parts. More and more are being discovered. These are what allowed the material world to form. A solid lump of gold is made up of trillions of atoms. We humans made up of a myriad of parts, as are all the things that we invent and make.

All this diversity is complemented by the aspect of (7) **IntegrALity**.

These parts make up wholes that are greater than the sum of their parts and which have a meaning and purpose. Bones, blood and tissues make up us as individual persons - Tom, Dick or Harry. The same goes for the things we make. The Large Hadron Collider is the most complex machine we

have made, and it is used to look for the smallest particles!

And so these two fracALities make up the third principAL of PART-WHOLE: *Every-thing has component parts that must form a greater whole to give it purpose.*

Then we have the fracALity of (4)

IntellectuALity.

Everything appears to have a pattern, idea or thought behind it or as part of it. Even if this is not obvious at the beginning of things, it certainly is the case with us humans and the things we make. We have minds that think.

The next complementary fracALity I call (6)

PhenomenALity.

These patterns, ideas and thoughts need to be expressed and communicated. There's no point in them if they can't be. Evolution will only work if changes in the genetic code are not passed on. As writers, artists, inventors etc. we depend on this fracALity to fulfill our roles or vocations.

These two make up the fourth principal of THINK-SHOW: *Every-thing has an intelligence that must express itself to give it meaning.*

And so we come to the last pair of fracALities which concerns internal and external relations.

The first is (5) **InternALity**.

Everything is dependent on internal relationships - atoms on electrons, computers on components, and a musical piece on its notes. Our personality depends on how our body, mind, spirit and soul are balanced and are related within us.

And lastly, everything exists in a relationship to everything else outside.

This is called (10) **RelationALity**.

When it comes to ourselves, the most important are the relationships we make with other people. And hopefully these are ones based on love. But, of course, they must be balanced by our own internal relationships. We must love others as much as we love ourselves, so the golden rule goes.

Thus the final principAL is INSIDE-OUT: *Everything has an inner form that must link to external ones to give it relationships.*

The FracALities and PrincipAL pairs are summarised in a diagram called an Octaikon on the back page

NO-THING?

So those, then, are ten aspects of every "thing" within time and space. But what about this "God/the divine/the ground of all being" that is outside or transcends time and space? "God" is no "thing", surely? We have no way of describing this "transcendent" divinity. God just is.

But many religious people believe that the divine dimension is "immanent" within time and space, and so the ten aspects of every "thing" in the physical realm can help us understand the spiritual "no-thing". Here is such evidence, from a Christian understanding of how this has can be understood. The paragraph numbers will remind you of the fracALities already described.

(1) Firstly, God is the creator, the origin of all things, and the source of all freedom in time and space. God incarnate, as Jesus, was born, lived, died, and resurrected within our world, as are all the other players in the narrative of the Christian story. I'll talk in the next section about Jesus.

(9) This divine creativity is balanced by laws and commandments. God, besides causing all natural laws to come into existence, has provided us with ten commandments on how we should live, and a conscience. And Jesus will be our ultimate judge on these matters and the choices we make.

(2) How about materiality and movement? The divine creativity which produces matter and senses provides us with spiritual food via the Eucharist. The bread and wine becomes the real presence in our world of God as Jesus. God is material.

(8) This divine food is, so to speak, a balanced diet providing the energy to move and act. God was manifest by many forms of power and action throughout the history of the Jews, in Jesus life, and now gifts such as those of healing and resultant miracles, not explained by science. "God moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform."

(3) Then we come to parts vs the whole. God's creativity led to the myriad of parts and particles that make up our universe. Although God transcendent is a unity, God immanent in our world is manifest as a trinity of persons, and also in the myriad of believers in whom God's Spirit dwells. In this sense, God has parts.

(7) That Trinity of persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), has one purpose and direction - to integrate us as individual persons and unify us a body of Christians within God's love, guided and counselled by the Holy Spirit. God is indeed one.

(4) We now come to the idea of a divine mind or universal consciousness, of which our own minds are an image. God implants divine thoughts and ideas, and influences our own. Our mind is part of an extended communal mind, which in turn is part of the cosmic mind. God is mind.

(6) These divine thoughts and ideas manifest themselves as many types of phenomena, many with human help, such as the flood, the burning bush, a still small voice, prophecies, and especially the written word (the Bible). God communicates in all sorts of ways.

(5) Now for internal and external relationships. One of the key understandings of God is that he is present within us - not "out there" like a bearded old man sitting on a cloud! Here it is that the practice of meditation and mindfulness can bring us into close communion with God who is within.

(10) And finally, God is a relationship of love, and all the relationships we make in the physical world that are founded on true love bring us ever closer to God, because "God is love". When all is said and done, it's love that transcends time and space, and brings us to the source of how we live and move and have our being.

JESUS: EVERYTHING AND NOTHING

Now let's look in more detail at two aspects of the last sections – Jesus and Love. As I've said, the ten faculties of the Octaikon can be used to describe every-thing and everyone, including Jesus (being human). But he was also no “thing”, being divine as well. Jesus is God. So what does that mean? The Octaikon can help us understand this shocking paradox that Christians believe.

(1) OriginALity

Humanity

Jesus as man was born in Palestine. Son of a carpenter, he created many things. As a friend he must have been fun to be with. As a teacher he was amazingly creative and original. His physical life came to a horrible end at the early age of 33 years in zero AD (by definition!). But he was not compelled to die as he did. He had complete freedom, as he had throughout his life. He could have escaped his tortured inhuman end. This is all well documented.

Divinity

Jesus the Messiah, as a person of God, had no beginning or end, no origin. He just IS, outside time. It is he who created the whole universe and us, initiating, evolving and sustaining everything.

His divinity showed through his humanity, in the miracles he did, and in the fact that he resurrected, had a spiritual body, and the legacy of the Eucharist that he left us.

(9) InfluentiALity

Humanity

Jesus was nothing if not influential throughout his life. He was radical in his teaching and totally changed the course of history. He summarised the Jewish laws in the golden rule. "Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and body, and your neighbour as yourself". He set the ultimate example of how to live such a life of love. He had complete command of his body, and over the spiritual world around him. But because we are created to love, he has relinquished command over us. We can choose to obey or not.

Divinity

Jesus, in his divinity, caused order from the chaos that was the big bang. All the natural laws that govern the way the universe and we humans developed came into being at that instant. The manner in which we should behave when we humans came along was written into our hearts by our creator. The ten commandments were divinely

given to Moses (Joke: he had the first tablet with data downloaded from the cloud – and unfortunately the original one crashed!). The whole universe is ordered by divine ordinance. Jesus gives us freedom to choose what our spiritual destiny will be, and he is the perfect judge in such matters.

(2) MateriALity

Humanity

Jesus in physical life was a real flesh and blood human just like ourselves, made up of the same organs and trillions of cells and uncountable numbers of atoms. He was able to sense - see, hear, feel, taste and smell. Probably he had other senses as well. He had all the physical needs that we have. Jesus was the incarnation or "enfleshment" of God, subject to the same development and aging processes that we humans are.

Divinity

After resurrection, Jesus had a spiritual body that intriguingly had the semblance of having physical needs. But in reality, and certainly in transcendent divine form, he had no such needs. Because we are so materially inclined, spiritual

beings or events have to manifest themselves to us in forms that we can understand. The Eucharist is a case in point. The bread and wine seem to be physical, but through spiritual eyes, so to speak, they really are the body and blood of Jesus.

(8) MotionALity

Humanity

Just like us, Jesus was made up of trillions of spinning, orbiting and buzzing sub-atomic particles. As a human his body was in constant movement and change. He played and worked throughout his life, traveling throughout the holy land. In his last days he was moved where he would have preferred not to go. And in his final hours he was raised up on a cross and crucified. You could say his whole life was one of emotion as well as motion.

Divinity

After resurrection, Jesus continued to move about, but not as we know it. He could suddenly appear and disappear, moving through walls. Once "ascended" the notion of motion, outside of time and space, becomes really irrelevant. Everything is "now". That of course is a mystery to

material beings such as ourselves and is difficult to understand.

(3) DifferentiALity

Humanity

As with everything, Jesus was made up innumerable parts at different levels. Dozens of organs, millions of different cells, and astronomical numbers of different atoms. In his life and work, Jesus had parts - his team of twelve disciples. As followers of Christ, Christians on earth and in heaven are described as his body, with him as head.

Divinity

God has no parts as such, but the Christian understanding of the divine is that of a relationship of love - imagined as a community of lover, beloved, and the love between them. God is a Trinity. Divine Love is a spiritual mystery and Jesus is the epitome of that love. And what of his followers? Each retains their personhood as the body of Christ. So our differences continue in the spiritual life. We become a part of God, but apart from God. Diversity in unity.

(7) IntegrALity

Humanity

You could describe Jesus as the most perfect of human beings. He used all his faculties to the full and in balance. His body, mind, and spirit were fully integrated. He was infinitely more than the sum of his parts, being both a perfect human and God incarnate. He knew how to practice a love that was fair, just, kind. He knew his purpose in life which was to save his creation from selfishness and find a way to be with God.

Divinity

As God, Jesus is in everything he has created and is the ultimate unity - a perfect wholeness with nothing missing. God's purpose in creating us is to let his love grow. Divine love has to be freely exercised and expects nothing in return.

Unfortunately, some angels and all of us have loved ourselves more than others, and God not at all. Thus we are not whole and we've lost our way.

(4) IntellectuALity

Humanity

Jesus had a superb intellect and knew things via his instinct, senses and intuition. He knew what

other people were thinking and probably had paranormal abilities. He certainly had deep empathy and compassion. It must have been wonderful to discuss things with him - one wonders to what extent he was limited in his acquisition of knowledge. God knows!

Divinity

God can be imagined as divine Mind where whatever was thought instantly became reality. In a limited way, the human Jesus could do this on earth, but as God, his intellect is infinite. In a way, we are part of his divine mind. We are told to be of one mind, and that is the mind of Christ.

(6) PhenomenALity

Humanity

Jesus was a wonderful teacher who expressed himself in many ways, making his hearers really think. His whole mission on earth was his message. And his followers' mission is to spread the good news he preached. One imagines that Jesus expressed his message not only in words but with his whole body. And it was accompanied by signs and wonders. As a human he was indeed phenomenal!

Divinity

When Jesus was resurrected on earth, he expressed himself in more wonderful ways, as in his transfiguration. Once he was again free of space and time (in "heaven") Jesus as divinity, Word or Logos is continually expressing himself as the whole of creation and by the way his followers show him shining through their personalities.

(5) InternALity

Humanity

Jesus demonstrated a perfect inner ordering in body, mind and spirit while on earth. He knew when to withdraw from the hustle and bustle of the world, and look inwards, praying and meditating. And it seems he had to do this often, balancing the many outward activities of his ministry.

In the terminology of the Bible, Jesus, as "Son" was in constant contact with his "Father" , through the "Holy Spirit" forming that perfect unity of three "persons" .

Divinity

In the spiritual dimension, Jesus is still that one person of three in the same unity, expressing the image of God in human terms. What exactly that means is impossible to describe - but Christians acknowledge that Jesus lives within them as spirit, and that all together they form the "Body of Christ".

(10) RelationALity

Humanity

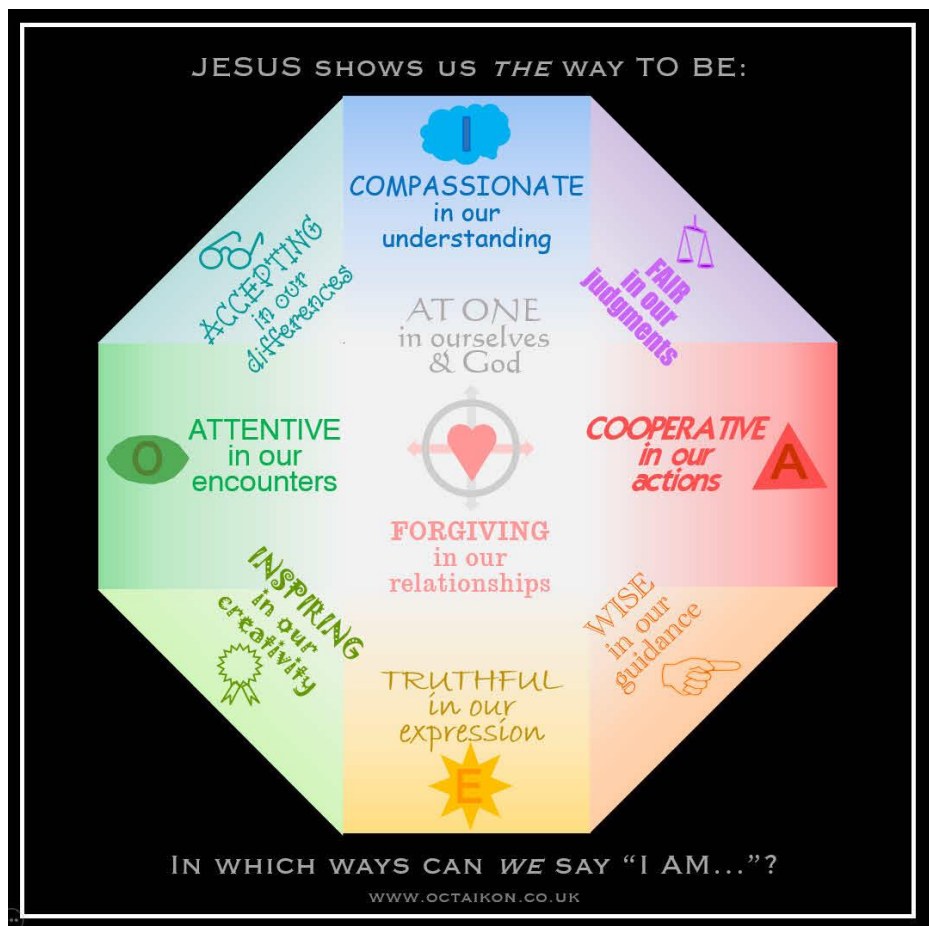
Everything about Jesus while he was on earth was (and is) relational. His whole mission was to form relationships with fellow humans. These took the form of brother, friend, teacher, mentor, carer, leader, saviour, doctor and creator. You name it, he was one of them, always forming relations forged out of love - divine love that doesn't require anything in return. And that's what we need to do in our lives here on earth - that is Jesus' command - that we love God in everyway, and others as ourselves.

Divinity

Now that Jesus is with God, he facilitates the relationships we make, as he is part of that eternal relationship of love that is God that brought us

into being. God is love. And when we die, accepting this truth, then we become partners in that love unconstrained by time and space.

Here is an Octaikon that summarises the ideal characteristics of Jesus as a role model:



LOVE

And now let us look in more detail as Love. Here is how.

(1) Love has beginnings - times when we get to meet someone and maybe fall in love. A time when everything is new, fun, free and creative - that's love's originALity! Some people think that love has been developing since the universe started. We could say that the big bang was an explosion of love by which particles, electrons, protons, atoms, molecules, cells and finally us could continually fall in love with each other, constantly creating something new.

(9) Love, like everything else in the universe, must be subject to controls and laws. Although love is free, it is not free to limit love anywhere else. Love must seek to create more love at all levels of encounters with other entities. Love that grows at the expense of love elsewhere is not true love. Thus its influentiALity must be balanced by the needs of other beings.

(2) Love has to have materiALity - something material to be attracted to, to sense and to be sensed. As a concept, love may be abstract, but in practice love has to be physical and capable of seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, or smelling,

both passively and actively that which is loved or loving. I'm sure our sixth sense comes in here too!

(8) Love is always on the move, active and changing. Love that becomes static and not evolving to suit new circumstances will begin to lose its attraction. It can and should become a habit but must never be taken for granted. It must be continually renewed. Love's ultimate aim is to bring the different parties closer and closer together - that is what its factor of MotionALity is all about.

(3) Love depends on having plurality, diversity, something else other than self - that's its differentiALity. Only two or more separate bodies gathered together can attract and demonstrate love. There doesn't need to be a difference between the parties, but as in magnetism, opposite poles attract so maybe at some level there does have to be a difference other than the spacial or temporal difference.

(7) Love is directed towards achieving unity of purpose - that is its IntegrALity. The purpose of love is to pass itself on, enabling it to multiply and conquer all occasions where there is no love. Goals such as wealth, knowledge, power or skills never satisfy us for long. Only a love and loving that can create itself and become eternal will fulfill our deepest needs and vocation. Love brings us

further forming wholes greater than the sum of our parts.

(4) Love begins to really take root first in the mind. It starts as a thought or idea. Perhaps the original primeval idea of ideas was love and from this all subsequent ideas or patterns arose. True love must be grounded in the intellect - IntellectuALity. Falling in love may start off as an irrational feeling that cannot be pinned down, but eventually it must be rationalised.

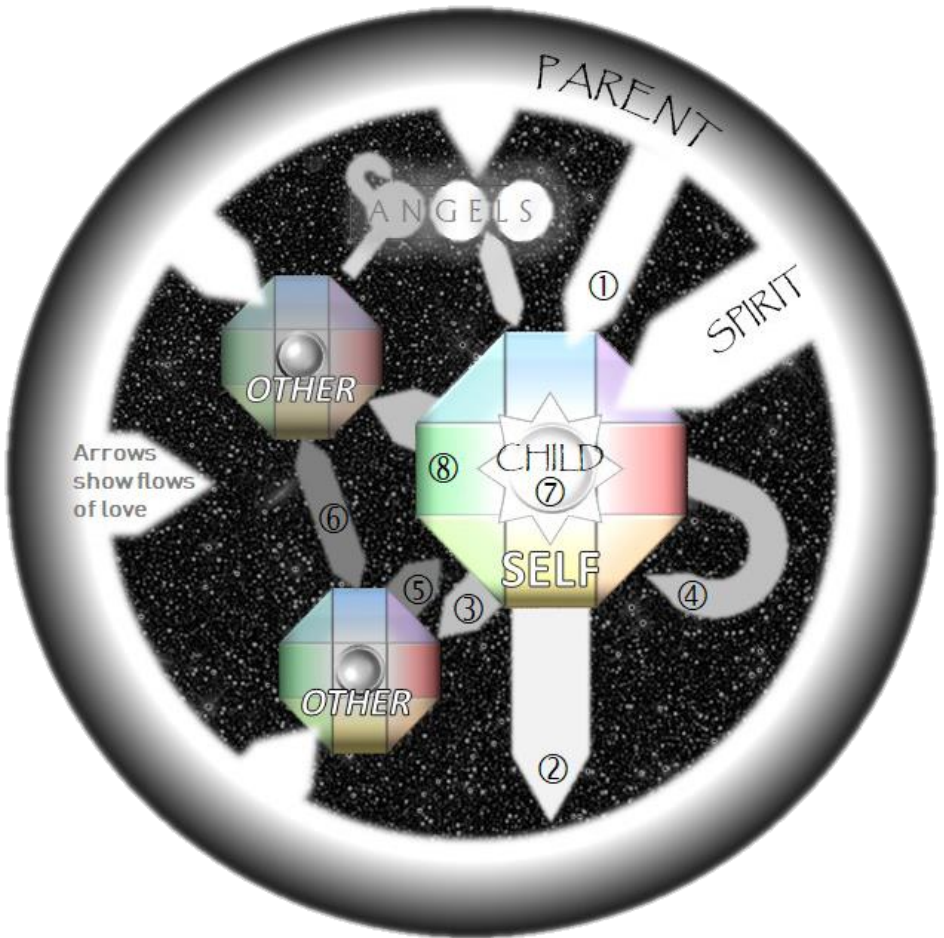
(6) Love expresses and communicates itself in a myriad of ways - its PhenomenALity is really phenomenal! Don't know what love is? Watch people who demonstrate it. Love is patient, kind, protective, trustful, hopeful, sharing, and persevering with others. It isn't envious, boastful, proud, angry, rude, possessive - it doesn't allow anything that stops others from showing and growing their own love.

(5) Love strengthens itself from the outside inwards - that's its InternALity. Love makes sure that whatever entity that is expressing itself is made stronger, more resilient and able to fulfil its purpose to evolve love in life around itself. It strives to return itself to the source of its divine origin so that channels are fully open and available to all. It is never selfish, but selfless.

(10) Love by its very nature is seeking to form creative relationships with all around it, to grow and evolve them. That is love's RelationALity. It has to balance its other fracALities, continually assessing how it is doing, and finding out how it could improve. In the end love is not an abstract idea, it is a person interacting with other persons in perfect creative harmony. Its perfection comes from the divine Trinity - the perfect relationship of love. Love may have beginnings in us, but divine love is eternal, outside time and space.

GOD AS LOVE.

We can think of God as a relationship of love which, in terms of space and time, has to be continually flowing. Here is a diagram that tries to represent God as a trinity, holding us all in existence through the flow of love, as explained in the following key.



The circle represents the Divine No-thing (aka “God”), who is the source of everything and parent of us all.

A Spirit of Love ① flows out from our Divine Parent creating-sustaining the cosmos, mind spirits (angels), and body-mind-spirits (that’s us, via evolution).

Such Love is creative and has to be freely chosen. Inevitably (alas!) some mind-spirits, and all of us, chose to love selfishly, stemming the flow of love, and causing all sorts of trouble for creation.

We now have a choice to correct matters, since the Divine has become embodied Love and Wisdom living on earth 2000 years ago as Jesus the Christ.

This Child of the Divine, if invited, will fill up our “soul-hole” ② (making us whole and “holy”!), and help us to follow the golden rule, that:

We should love the Divine ② with our whole self, and others ③ as much as we love ourselves ④.

This means looking after ourselves using all our faculties ⑤, helping others to do the same ⑥, whilst expecting no-thing in return from them ⑦. Such love is: patient, kind, content, modest,

*humble, polite, moderate, truthful, protective,
brave, hopeful, trusting, faithful, forgiving, etc!*

*If we choose this self-less way of Being-in-Love
we participate in the Divine's timeless goal to
bring everything together as one in love. It's your
choice. Will you choose to let it flow?*

SUMMARY

Divine Love gives rise to three aspects of created things - body, mind and spirit. These can be imagined as governed by five PrincipALS, derived from the ten paired FracALities. These are interconnected and need to be balanced between and within themselves. The immortal soul is formed from divine mind, spirit and transformed body.

A. BODY (TIME & SPACE)

A1. STUFF-MOVE (2+8)

Every-thing has a physicality that must embody motion to give it substance.

TIME is necessary for its existence.

The ultimate in physicality is Jesus and the ultimate in action is his life and works.

A2. PART-WHOLE (3+7)

Every-thing has component parts that must form a greater whole to give it purpose.

SPACE is necessary for its existence.

The ultimate complexity of parts is yet come about and the ultimate unity and purpose from which it arose has always been.

B. MIND (MIND & CREATIVITY)

B3. THINK-SHOW (4+6)

Every-thing has an intelligence that must express itself to give it meaning.

MIND is necessary for its existence.

The ultimate in mind is God and the ultimate manifestation of that mind is the message that God loves us.

B4. FREE-LIMIT (1+9)

Every-thing has freedom that must be subject to control to give it order.

CREATIVITY is necessary for its existence.

The ultimate in creativity and freedom is the act of creation (Big bang?), and the ultimate in control is that of allurements.

C. SPIRIT (LOVE)

C5. INSIDE-OUT (5+10)

Every-thing has an inner form that must link to external ones to give it relationships.

LOVE is necessary for its existence.

The ultimate in inner form is that of divine Spirit, and of outer relationships, that of divine Love.

