

Foreword 1

SOMEONE ONCE TOLD ME that congregations learn so much of their theology from the songs of worship they sing. In other words, the lyrics we write and choose for congregational worship actually have an effect on people's view of God. As a songwriter and lead worshipper, that scared the singing daylights out of me.

Since then, I've made a point of posing the same question to most Christian leaders and theologians I happen to meet: Where are the major theological gaps in our songs of worship? Or, to rephrase it, what should we be singing about that we aren't? I've had many different responses, and each one is a helpful eye-opener as to how we might paint a fuller picture of God and his story in our gathered worship. But the answer I've received time and time again is this—that we need more of a sense of “Trinity” in our worship.

Then on this quest I met Robin Parry, the author of this book. I was soon to discover, over a series of large cappuccinos, that this man had a great big theological bee flying around his worshipful bonnet. And it was the very same neglected theme that was worrying him—the lack of a Trinitarian grammar of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in so much of our gathered worship. I was also to discover that not only does Robin have a great gift for thinking about such grand themes, but he also has a very clear and original way of expressing them to others.

The thread of teaching running through this book is this: it is essential that our worship reflects Trinity, because the one true God we worship is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As well as applying this teaching to our gathered worship meetings, Robin so helpfully shines vital light on how every aspect of Christian living is connected with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I know of many, many lead worshippers and songwriters on the same quest as myself—to paint the fullest and most wholesome picture of God we can through the way we prepare congregational worship. This book is an extremely valuable resource for all of us—for any pastor, leader, or

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worshipping heart who likes to think about these things. In these pages, Robin punches us in the stomach (theologically speaking), gives us a few moments to get our breath back, and then teaches us some nifty moves so that we can defend ourselves better in the future—and even throw a few theological punches of our own. Get your gloves on—this is an extremely helpful book.

—Matt Redman
Songwriter and lead worshipper
September 2004

SAMPLE

Foreword 2

ONE THING IS FOR SURE—today *we are what we sing*. From the phrases of the preacher to the prayer of the student; from the testimonies of the young people to the concerns of the parent. From the catchphrase to the content, from the in-vogue discussions to the glaring omissions, what we choose to sing infuses our thinking, our living, and takes on a wholly greater significance than we might ever have imagined. One thing is for sure—today we are what we sing.

So if our desire is to fully worship “God” and to translate this highest calling into authentic living, it only makes sense that we must have an authentic picture of who our God is in the first place. This is what we should be expressing when we sing as a community of believers: the great truth, the humbling thoughts, the enriching wonder, the daily challenges that will sing through our heads throughout the week and pour out into our conversation and choices and minute-by-minute relationship with God.

In *Worshipping Trinity*, Robin Parry has given us a terrific resource with which we can see a clearer picture of the God we worship—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He humbly makes us aware of the blind spots of our contemporary worship movement and encourages us to move forward as authentic worshippers of the true God of the Bible so that, when we worshipfully sing, we are what we have been created to be.

—Keith Getty
Hymn writer, co-writer of “In Christ Alone.”