

EPIC *The Story*

II. Chapter One – Eternal Love

“Once Upon a time...”

- How the story begins – Once upon a time there was a king and queen; a beautiful maiden with wicked stepsisters; a galaxy far, far away
- “In the beginning...”
 - There are 2 “in the beginnings” in the Bible

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” – Genesis 1:1

- This is the beginning...of the human story (this is actually Act Three)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.” John 1:1

- This reaches back before creation...once upon eternity
- A fellowship existed before anything else, an heroic intimacy... the Trinity

The Fellowship

- God has always been a fellowship
“Let us make man in our image” – Genesis 1:26
- The whole Story began from something *relational*
- Human personality *could not* possibly have come from something impersonal or accidental
- The detail, beauty and complexity of the universe all point to an Intelligent Designer, an Artist, a Heart
- Personality begets personality, relational begets relational
- Humans are relational to the core
 - Our greatest joys and deepest wounds are connected to others
 - We want to belong, to be part of a friendship, family or fellowship - where do you think that came from?

We are part of the Story

- We have been invited into a Story that has already been going on for years
- Adventures, experiences and stories are not complete unless they are shared
- The Story was born out of a Love that endures

“We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, “I love God,” yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen. And he has given us this command: Whoever loves God must also love his brother.” I John 4:19-21

“Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world. “Righteous Father, though the world does not know you, I know you, and they know that you have sent me. I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.” John 17:24-26

- The world is rigged in such a way that life does not work when it’s all about you. There was a Life that existed before our own, an Epic already under way...Once upon a time...