

The Doctrine of God: The Trinity, pt. 3

Wednesday, April 9th, 2024

1 John 5:20

Trinitarian Heresy:

1. Sebellianism/Modalism
2. Arianism
3. Adoptionism
4. Subordinationism

From the Athanasian Creed:

“The Catholic faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity and Trinity in Unity; neither confusing the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. That we are compelled by the Christian truth that each person is God and Lord, and that the Deity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is One; equal in glory; co-equal in majesty.”

Statement About the Person of Christ:

- > Jesus is a person who is the *Being* and *Nature* of God
- > Jesus is God and possesses all the attributes of God, He took on a human nature alongside His divine nature (Phil. 2)

Quick Terminology:

- > Nature vs. Being
 - Being describes what a thing *is*
 - Nature describes what a thing is *like*

- > Jesus IS God (Being) and the (Nature) of God via His attributes

Quick Terminology:

> Nature vs. Person

- Person cannot be reduced to nature.
- Person is a distinct individual
- This is why we say Jesus is the second member of the Trinity
- I.e. Jesus is a person who is the nature of God

Quick Terminology:

> Nature vs. Person

- Further, Jesus is a person who assumed a second nature—humanity.

- Remember John 1:14, “...The Word became *flesh*”

- The *Word* and *Flesh* describe two natures within one person—Jesus

Christological Heresy

1. Judaism

- Denied Jesus' deity and virgin birth
- Jesus is not equal with the Father but was a unique person who God gave power to

Christological Heresy

1. Gnosticism —

- Christ is the *Demiurge* — a spirit being who created the material world and humanity with spiritual substances
- Christ came upon Jesus at His baptism to save the soul of humanity

Christological Heresy

3. Apollinarianism

- This heresy denied that Jesus had a human soul
- Jesus was merely one element of God (Logos) and one element of humanity (body)

Christological Heresy

4. Nestorianism

- Jesus is two *persons*, each with its own nature, rather than two natures in one person

Christological Heresy

5. Monophysitism

- Jesus had one nature, not two
- That is, Jesus' humanity mixed with His Deity
- Why is this an issue?

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