

The Trinity

A. Introduction

B. Scriptural Data

1. There is one God

a. Old Testament:

b. New Testament:

2. There are three distinct persons in the Godhead

a. The Father

(1) Is a distinct person

(2) Is God

b. The Son

(1) Is a distinct person

(2) Is God

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

(e)

c. The Holy Spirit

(1) Is a distinct person

(2) Is God

C. Systematic Summary

1. Historical Survey of the Doctrine

a. The Difficulty of Expression

b. Logos Christology

c. Modalism

d. Arianism

e. Council of Nicaea

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of all things, visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten from the Father, only-begotten, that is, *from the substance of the Father*, God from God, light from light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through Whom all things came into being, things in heaven and things on earth, Who because of us men and because of our salvation came down and became incarnate, becoming man, suffered and rose again on the third day, ascended to the heavens, and will come to judge the living and the dead;

And in the Holy Spirit.

But as for those who say, There was when He was not, and, Before being born He was not, and that He came into existence out of nothing, or who assert that the *Son of God is from a different hypostasis* or substance, or is created, or is subject to alteration or change—these the Catholic Church anathematizes.

2. Coherence of the Doctrine

a. The Problem

b. A Proposed Solution

D. Application

1. Christianity is Trinity-centered
2. God is an eternal fellowship
3. The persons have different roles in redemption
4. The Trinity sheds light on marriage relationships