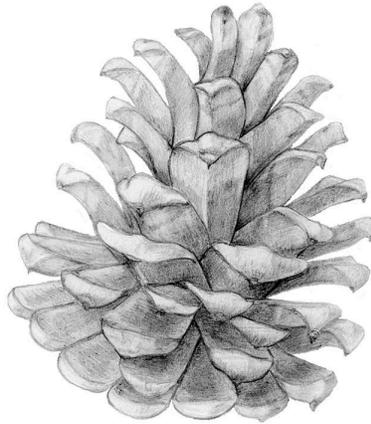




GOSPEL CENTERED: TRINITY



Needs to be defined...Complexity is good.

Augustine once commented about the Trinity that “In no other subject is error more dangerous, or inquiry more laborious, or the discovery of truth more profitable.”

ISAIAH 45:5

“I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;”

JOHN 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

ACTS 5:3-4

“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’”

MATTHEW 3:16-17

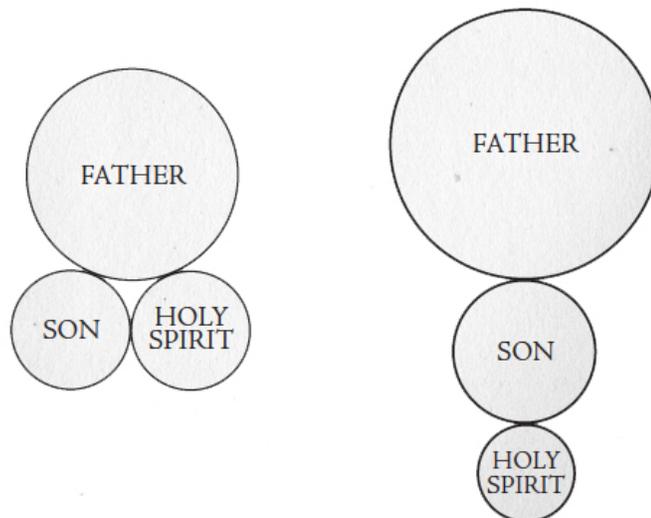
“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’”

CONFESSION OF THE TRINITY

We believe in **one** God who is **one in essence**, yet **three in person**. All three members of the Trinity are **eternally** God, all of whom are **equal**.

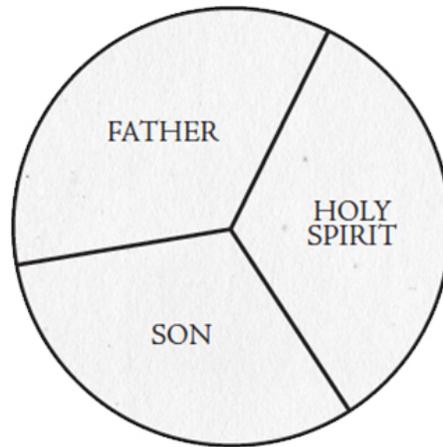
SUBORDINATIONISM

The belief that all three members of the Trinity are God, but that one or more are greater than the others.



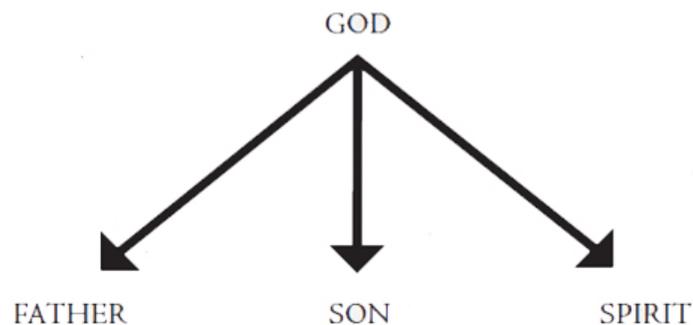
TRITHEISM

The belief that all three members of the Trinity are God, but that they are separate Gods, sharing in a similar nature.



MODALISM

The belief that all three members of the Trinity are representative of one God who shows himself in three ways.



DIOCLETIAN AND GALERIUS

Asked Apollo in 302 AD how to deal with the Christians. Starting on February 23rd, 303AD the empire openly sought to exterminate Christians. Nicholas of Myra was tortured during this time in prison for 8 years.

EDICT OF MILAN

Constantine and Maxentius met on October 28th, 312AD at Milvian Bridge, just north of Rome...the night before he had a dream. Edict of Milan issued in February of 313AD.

RISE OF ARIUS

Arius was 63 years old when Constantine issued the Edict of Milan. Arius was one of the most prestigious and popular pastors of the city. Jesus is the ultimate creature. There was a time when He was not.

COUNCIL OF NICEA

325 AD...Called by Constantine...paid way for all bishops...first time it was safe for all church leaders to gather. Is Jesus equal with the Father or is He a creature?

As confessors of the faith, some of the bishops bore the signs of the recent persecution on their persons: Paul of Neo-Caesarea had lost the use of his hands because of torture, the half blind and hamstrung Paphnutius of Egypt was kissed by Constantine himself in a touching diplomatic gesture.

The assertion that the Word or Son was no more than a creature, no matter how high a creature, provoked angry reactions from many of the bishops: "You lie!" "Blasphemy!" "Heresy!"

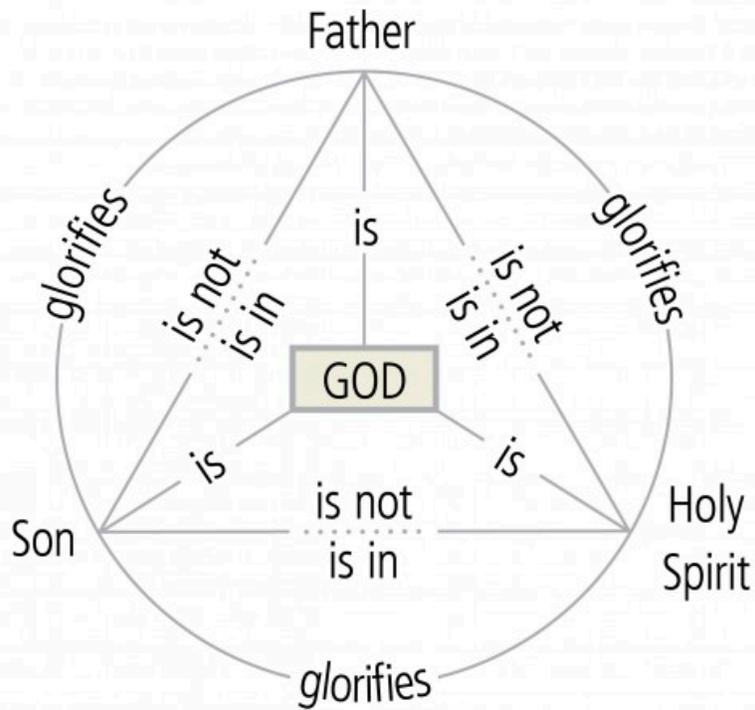
NICENE CREED (325AD)

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, the only-begotten of the Father, that is, from the substance of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, of one substance [homoousios] with the Father, through whom all things were made, both in heaven and on earth, who for us humans and for our salvation descended and became incarnate, becoming human, 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 those who say that there was when He was not, and that before being begotten He was not, or that He came from that which is not, or that the Son of God is of a different substance [hypostasis] or essence [ousia], or that He is created, or mutable, these the catholic church anathematizes.



GREAT ADDITIONAL ARTICLES:

<http://www.reclaimingthemind.org/blog/2009/08/the-trinity-is-like-3-in-1-shampoo-and-other-stupid-statements/>

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justintaylor/2012/07/11/using-a-diagram-to-illustrate-trinitarian-relationships/>

<http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/kevindeyoung/2011/09/28/the-doctrine-of-the-trinity-no-christianity-without-it/>