

"I will be attempting to say things that cannot altogether be said as they are thought by a man—or at least as they are thought by me. In any case, when we think about God the Trinity, we are aware that our thoughts are quite inadequate to their object, and incapable of grasping [God] as he is" Augustine (4th Century)



REVIEW

- I. The Knowledge of God
 - A. General Revelation
 - B. Special Revelation

- II. The Nature of God
 - A. Transcendence of God
 - B. The Immanence of God

SERMON THEME

God Himself is Trinity, and he has intentionally and purposefully revealed Himself as Trinity in the Scripture.

THE TRINITY

The Bible teaches there is one true God in three persons.

"God is one in his essential being, but in this one being there are three persons called, Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

-Louis Berkhof, Systematic Theology

ONE GOD

•Deut. 6:4, "The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!

•Isaiah 45:5–6 – "I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God.

•Matt. 23:9 — "Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven."

- I. The Biblical Data for the Trinity
 - A. Triune God and Plural Pronouns (Gen. 1:26; 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8)
 - B. Triune God and Persons
 - A. Old Testament
 - B. New Testament
 - C. Triune God and Attributes
 - D. Triune God and Testimony

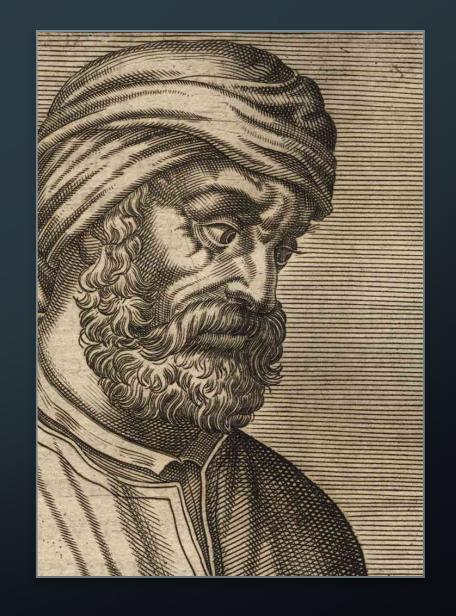
- I. The Biblical Date for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity

"This Scriptures conspicuously affirm the deity and unity of the Father, Son, and Spirit so thoroughly that we must conclude that the Nicene exegetes were right to develop the triune teaching in the way they did in their historical context."

Thomas Oden

- I. The Biblical Data for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity
 - A. Creeds and Terms
 - i. Tertullian (2nd century)
 - Trinity *trinitas* (*tres*, three, *unus*, one)

"All are of one, by unity...of substance; while the mystery of the economy is still guarded, which distributes the unity into a Trinity, placing in their order the three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Three, however, not in condition, but in degree; not in substance, but in form; not in power, put in appearance. Yet they are of one substance and of one condition and of one power, inasmuch as he is one God."

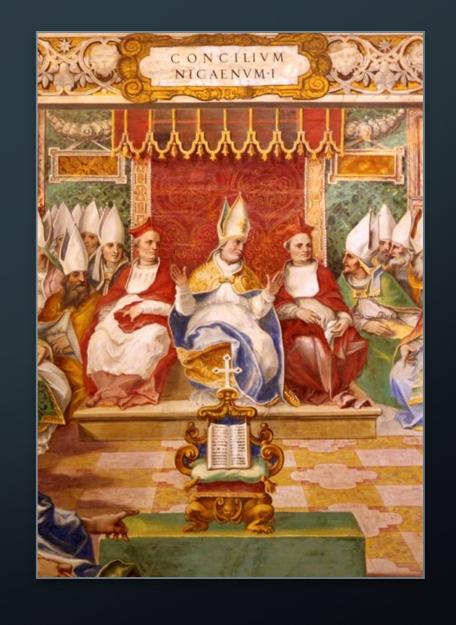


Tertullian (2nd Century)

- I. The Biblical Data for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity
 - A. Creeds and Terms
 - i. Tertullian (2nd century)
 - Trinity *trinitas* (*tres*, three, *unus*, one)
 - Substance that which someone or something consists of
 - Persons concrete individual

- I. The Biblical Date for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity
 - A. Creeds and Terms
 - i. Tertullian (2nd century)
 - ii. Council of Nicaea (325 AD)

"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 (homoousios; essence) with the Father, through Whom all things came into being, things in heaven and things on earth..."



Council of Nicaea (325 AD)

- I. The Biblical Data for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity
 - A. Creeds and Terms
 - i. Tertullian (2nd century)
 - ii. Council of Nicaea (325 AD)
 - iii. Athanasius (4th century)
 - IV. Cappadocian Fathers (4th century)

- God the Father is unbegotten
- The Son is begotten by the Father
 - John 3:16 *monogenes* (mono one; genes offspring)
- The Spirit is spirited by the Father and the Son.
 - John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you"
 - *Spirate* to send forth, to breath forth (procession)



"When we speak of an order in the Trinity, we do not imply a chronological order, as if one person existed when the others did not, or an ontological order, as if one person had more or greater attributes than another, or more glory and dignity than another, but a personal order that shapes how the persons relates to each other and how they work together in the world."

Joel Beeke



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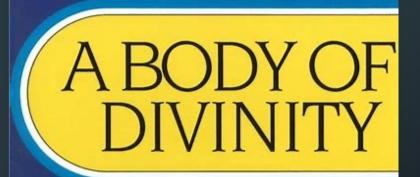
SYSTEMATIC

THEOLOGY

Revelation and God

JOEL R. BEEKE PAUL M. SMALLEY

"In the body of the sun, there are the substance of the sun, the beams and the heart; the beams are begotten of the sun, the heat proceeds both from the sun and the beams; but these three, though different, are not divide; they all three make but one sun; so in the blessed Trinity, the Son is begotten of the Father, the Holy Spirit proceeds from both; yet though they are three distinct persons, they are but one God."





Thomas Watson

Thomas Watson

- I. The Biblical Data for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity
 - A. Creeds and Terms
 - B. Pastors and Theologians

• Ignatius of Antioch (early 2nd century): "in faith and love; in the Son, and in the Father, and in the Spirit."

• Polycarp (156 AD): "I glorify thee, through eternal and heavenly High Priest, Jesus Christ, thy beloved Servant, through whom be glory to thee with him and the Holy Spirit both now and unto the ages."

• Tertullian (2nd century): "Thus, the connection of the Father in the Son, and the Son in the Paraclete [HS], produces three coherent Persons, who are yet distinct one from another."

- I. The Biblical Data for the Trinity
- II. The Historical Articulation of the Trinity
- III. The Present Appropriation of the Trinity
 - A. Informs and Drives Your Worship
 - B. Shapes and Frames Your Understanding of Redemption
 - C. Fuels and Motivates Your Pursuit of Holiness

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Why does an accurate, or better said, a biblical view of the Triune God matter? How does your view of God affect your personal life? How does your view of God determine your church life?

2. Discuss how the Trinity and the gospel are intimately connected. Is there such a thing as the gospel without the Trinity? Discuss.

3. How does your understanding of the Trinity fuel your evangelistic efforts?

