

“One, Unified Substance - Three Distinct Persons”

THE DOCTRINE SET FORTH

Article I.

THERE is but one living and true God, everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the maker and preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in unity of this Godhead there be three Persons, of one substance, power, and eternity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Article II.

THE Son, which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took man's nature in the womb of the blessed Virgin, of her substance: so that two whole and perfect natures, that is to say, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person, never to be divided, whereof is one Christ, very God and very man, who truly suffered, was crucified, dead, and buried, to reconcile His Father to us, and to be a sacrifice, not only for original guilt, but also for all actual sins of men.

THE DOCTRINE 'EXPLAINED'

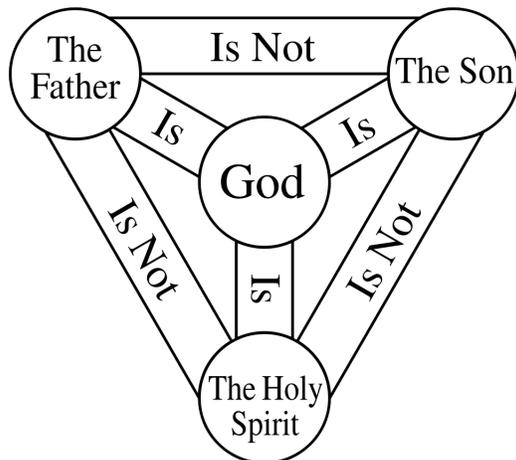
A. The Athanasian Creed - Trinity Sunday

- Nicene - The basics (from the IV. Century AD)
- Apostle Creed - Baptismal formula (as early as II Century AD)
- Athanasian - *Keeping the great mysteries of the faith pure (From the teaching of St. Athanasius (IV C. AD) and St. Augustine (IV-V C. AD) but written in late V. C. AD)*

B. Not “What is the Trinity?” - as if an ‘it’ or ‘concept’
But “Who is the Trinity?” - the source of love and life.

C. How does the Trinity work? - No analogy will suffice - but many analogies possible

1. Graphical analogy -



2. Grammatical/Logical Analogy -

- The Father is God, but does not exhaust the category of “deity.”
- The Son is God, but does not exhaust the category of “deity.”
- The Holy Spirit is God, but does not exhaust the category of “deity.”
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are God and fully fill up all that the Godhead is - and fully exhaust the category of “deity.”

3. The Relational Analogy -

- The Godhead, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit exist as a unity, but live in constant, joyful, and perfect relationship to one another.
- Who is the Father? The one who begets the Son before all time, all eternity, before anything.
- Who is the Son? He is the one eternally begotten by the Father.
- Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the one who proceeds from the Father, through the Son.

THE DOCTRINE AT WORK IN EVERYDAY LIFE

A. Since all three persons are God by nature, therefore prayer

B. Since all three persons are God by nature - We can rightly speak

C. In the Trinity there is equality of honor and dignity, but diversity of roles:

- The Father, wills all things and ordains their existence;
- The Son is the vehicle and channel through which all things come into existence and are sustained in existence;
- The Spirit is the energy and force by which the Son creates all things according to the will and purposes of the Father.
- Hence, when we say "Jesus is Lord of All," we mean Lord of all created things, and that all creation (angels, men and all 'stuff') are subject to Jesus by the will of God. But Jesus is subject to the Father and the Father's will in perfect, loving harmony

Therefore

D Since the very essence of True Being is loving relationship and unity...