



The Life of Christ

The Logos as God

Understanding the Trinity

<http://www.reasonablefaith.org/a-formulation-and-defense-of-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity>



John 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"

16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

Understanding the Trinity

Survey of the scriptures

- The Oneness of God

- The Father is God

- The Logos is God

- The Spirit is God

- The Personhood of Each

The Oneness of God

Mark 12:29

Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Romans 3:29

Or is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also, 30 since there is one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith.

1 Cor. 8:4

Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.

The Oneness of God

1 Tim. 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

James 2:19

You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!

The Father is God

Isaiah 63:16

Doubtless You are our Father,
Though Abraham was ignorant of us,
And Israel does not acknowledge us.
You, O Lord, are our Father;
Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name.

Matt. 6:9

In this manner, therefore, pray:
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

The Father is God

Matt. 11:27

All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

Matt. 26:39

He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Mark 1:9

It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. 10 And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. 11 Then a voice came from heaven, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

John 17:5-26

The Logos is God

God the Father – *ho theos* - θεός

God the Son – *kyrios* - κύριος - Yahwey in the Septuagint

Romans 10:9

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

The Logos is God

1 Cor. 12:3

Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 16:22

If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed.
O Lord, come!

1 Cor. 8:6

yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.

The Logos is God

Col. 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

The Logos is God

Heb. 1

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

The Logos is God

ho theos

John 20:28

And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!”

John 1:1

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

Romans 9:5

of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

The Logos is God

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

Heb. 1

8 But to the Son He says:

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You

With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.”[g]

10 And:

“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,

And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

The Holy Spirit is God

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

The Holy Spirit is God

Matt. 12:28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

1 Cor. 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

The Holy Spirit is God

Matt 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Luke 11:13

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

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 things that I said to you.

The Holy Spirit is God

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

Rom. 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us[b] with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit is God

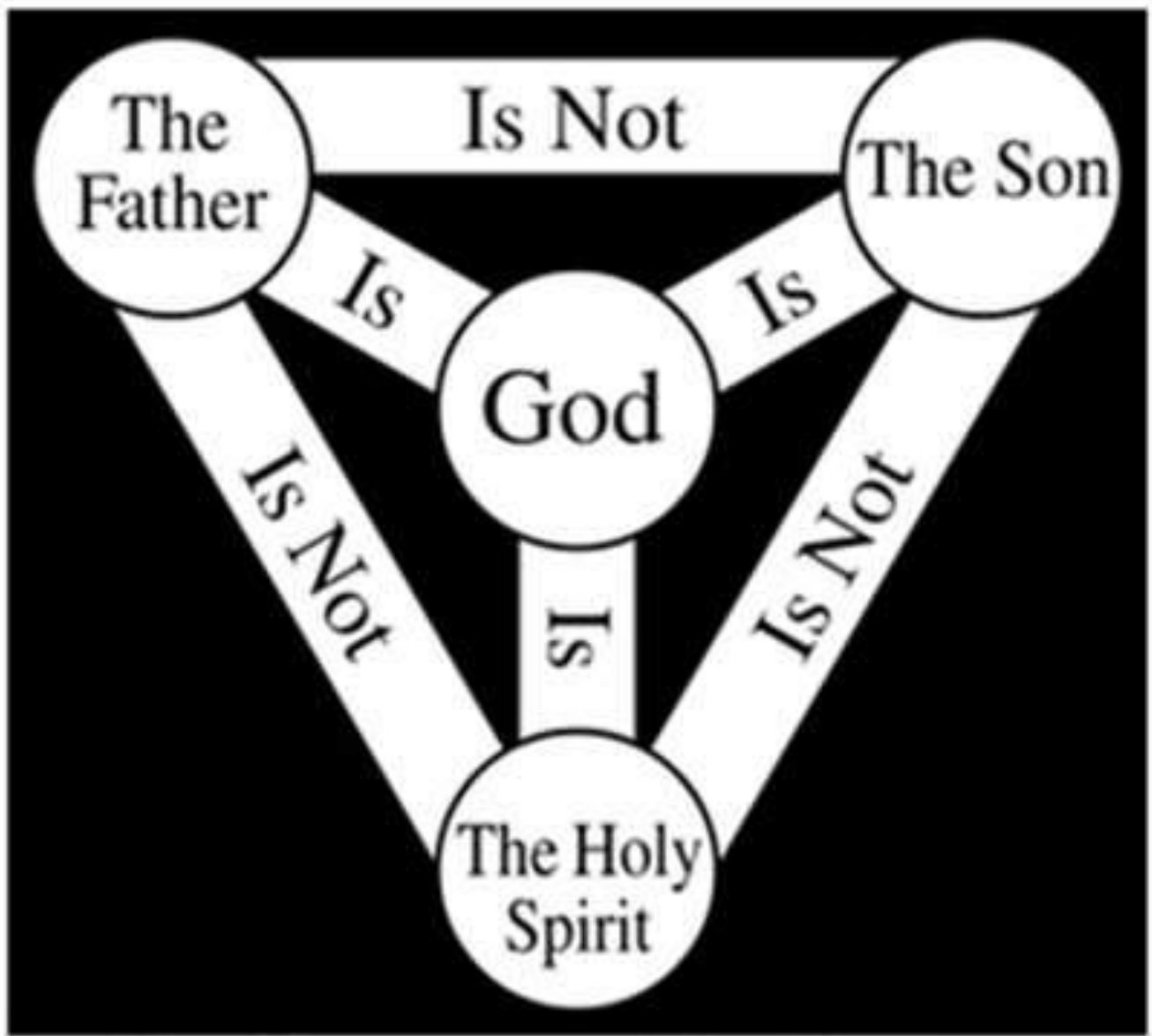
1 Cor. 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

1 Peter 1:1

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To the pilgrims of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace be multiplied.



The Doctrine of the Trinity

Understanding the Trinity

Remember how difficult this could be:

To the Jews

To the Gentiles

Early attempts to understand:

Word (Logos) = Logos (reason of God)

Philo of Alexandria (20 BC – 50 AD)

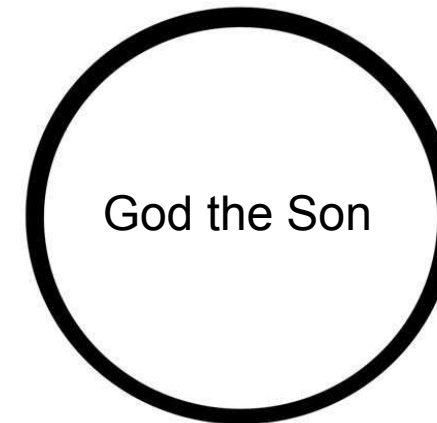
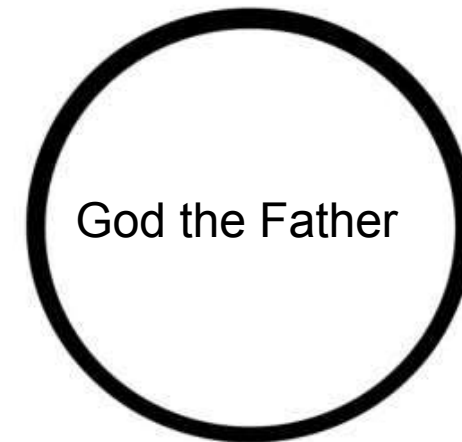
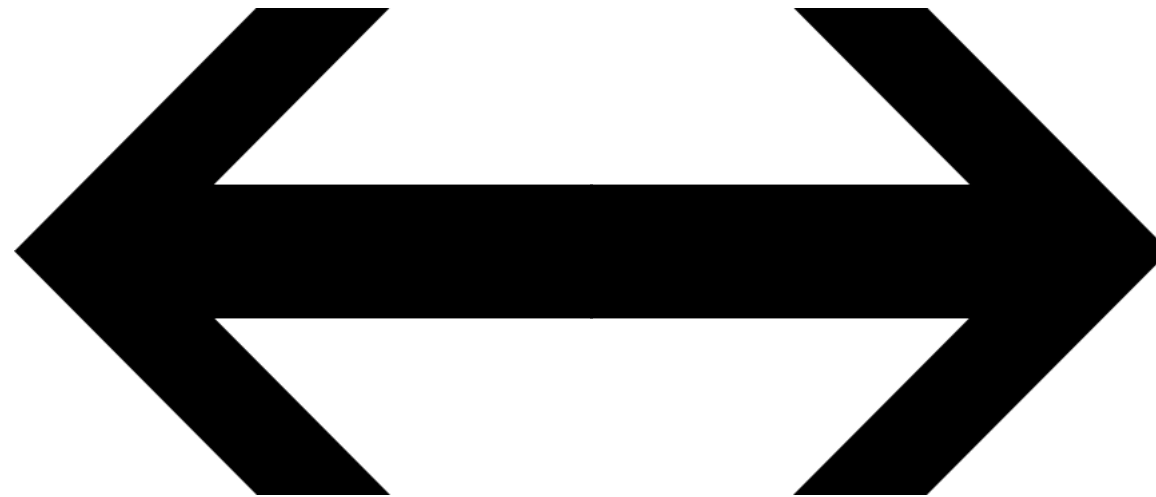
Athenagoras

Understanding the Trinity

- Modalism vs Tritheism



Modalism



Tritheism

Understanding the Trinity

Athenagoras

The Son of God is the Word of the Father in Ideal Form and energizing power; for in his likeness and through him all things came into existence, which presupposes that the Father and the Son are one. Now since the Son is in the Father and the Father in the Son by a powerful unity of Spirit, the Son of God is the mind and reason of the Father... He is the first begotten of the Father. The term is used not because he came into existence (for God, who is eternal mind, had in himself his word or reason from the beginning, since he was eternally rational) but because he came forth to serve as Ideal Form and Energizing Power for everything material... The... Holy Spirit. . . we regard as an effluence of God which flows forth from him and returns like a ray of the sun (A Plea for the Christians 10).

Understanding the Trinity

What is the problem with this Christology?

Modalism

Noetus, Praxeus, and Sabellius

Modalism, Monarchianism, or Sabellianism

There is only one God that takes on various forms and roles

Scriptural evidence against Modalism

Tertullian main opponent

Sun and Sunbeam

Arianism

Son was created – 319 A.D.

Nicaean Creed

We believe in one God, the Father All Governing, creator of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father as only begotten, that is, from the essence of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not created, of the same essence as the Father, through whom all things came into being, both in heaven and in earth; Who for us men and for our salvation came down and was incarnate, becoming human. He suffered and the third day he rose, and ascended into the heavens. And he will come to judge both the living and the dead.

And [we believe] in the Holy Spirit.

But, those who say, Once he was not, or he was not before his generation, or he came to be out of nothing, or who assert that he, the Son of God, is a different hypostasis or ousia, or that he is a creature, or changeable, or mutable, the Catholic and Apostolic Church anathematizes them.

Understanding the Trinity

Social Trinitarianism

Redefining personhood

Social Trinitarianism

Trinity Monotheism

Group Mind Monotheism

Functional Monotheism

Antisocial Trinitarianism

Further study - <https://www.reasonablefaith.org/writings/scholarly-writings/christian-doctrines/a-formulation-and-defense-of-the-doctrine-of-the-trinity/>

Understanding the Trinity

Unitarian Groups

Islam

Judaism

The Unitarian Church

Jehovah's Witnesses

Mormonism

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

Mary found to be with Child by the Holy Spirit

Joseph a just man

Joseph's dream

Will be called Jesus

Matthew – the fulfillment of prophecy

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

ἕως héōs, heh'-oce; of uncertain affinity; a conjunction, preposition and adverb of continuance, until (of time and place):—even (until, unto), (as) far (as), how long, (un-)til(-l), (hither-, un-, up) to, while(-s).

Born in Bethlehem

Wise men from the east - μάγος

How many?

Micah 5:2

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

Herod instructs the Wise Men

The Star

The Wise Men present gifts

Warned in a dream

An angel warns Joseph

Flight to Egypt (why is this not unusual?)

Massacre of the Innocents – Jeremiah 31:15

Return to Nazareth – Called a Nazarene



Luke 1 and 2

The angels announcement to Zacharias

prayers are answered

will have a son and name him John

will drink neither wine or strong drink

filled with the Holy Spirit

turn many to God

Zacharias mute

Luke 1 and 2

Announcement to Mary in Nazareth

 betrothed to Joseph

 house of David

 nothing is impossible with God

Mary visits Elizabeth

 “the babe leaped in my womb for joy”

Song of Mary

Birth of John the Baptist

Circumcision of John

Zacharias' Prophecy

Luke 1 and 2

Birth of Jesus

Decree to be registered – Quirinius was governing Syria

From Nazareth to Bethlehem

No room in the Inn

Shepherds in the fields

Circumcision

Presentation at the Temple

Simeon

Anna

The Word Becomes Flesh

Understanding the
Incarnation





The Problem of the Incarnation

- Deity
 - Eternal
 - Omniscient
 - Omnipresent
 - Omnipotent
- Humanity
 - Mortal
 - Finite in Knowledge
 - Finite in Space
 - Finite in Power

Why is this important?

The Scriptures make it important

Hebrews 4

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Incarnation

Not transforming into a man – incarnation not transformation

Monophysite (one nature) – Apollinarius (d. 390) – Bishop of Laodicea

Logos(soul) put on flesh

Problem – quod non est assumptum non est Sanatum

“What has not been assumed has not been healed”, and if Christ had not been “endowed with a rational mind, how could he have been a man?” - Gregory Nazianzen

Condemned as Heresy at Synod of Rome 377

The Incarnation

Dyophysite

Human Soul with a Divine Soul

Problems

Possession?

Two souls should be two people, two sons, not one

Nestorius – patriarch of Constantinople 428

The Incarnation

Kenotic Christology

19th Century

Κενόω

Phil 2:7 - ...but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Kenotic Christology – how can you give up divinity and still be divine?

The Incarnation

Proposed Christology

- 1) One person with two natures – the characteristic is in respect to one nature and not the other.
- 2) The Logos was the rational Soul of Jesus (Reformed Apollinarianism)

The Logos did contain (before the incarnation) the non-physical properties of man

The Incarnation

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all[b] the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The Incarnation

3) The Sublimation of the Divine

Just as we have a subconscious with thoughts, feelings, abilities and knowledge under the surface of our conscious minds so also Christ had much of His divine nature sublimated while in human form.

Luke 1 and 2

Harmony with Matthew's account

Return to Nazareth

Jesus at Jerusalem at 12

John the Baptist

Word of God comes to John

Prophecy fulfilled: Isaiah 40:3–5

Dressed in Camels skin

Ate Locust and Wild Honey

All of Judea comes out

Rebukes the Pharisees

and Sadducees

Denies that he is the Christ

John's account in flashback





Baptism of Jesus

John objects

To Fulfill all righteousness

Event demonstrates the three personalities of the Godhead

The Temptation of Christ

Tempted for 40 days

Only have three recorded

Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Temptation of Christ

Matthew – Stones, Temple, Offer

Luke – Tempted 40 days – Stones, Offer, Temple

13 Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.

A Note on the Genealogies

Levitical Marriage

Joseph's vs. Mary's Family Tree

