

The Origin of Christian Doctrines

"The Trinity "

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Overview

Peter's confession, "You are the Christ the son of the living God."

Thomas's Confession, "My Lord and My God"

A. Christ in the New Testament

Philippians 2 "Though he was in the *form of God* he did not count *equality with God* a thing to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of men..."

Hebrews 1 "God has spoken through a Son" who "reflects the glory of God" because he bears "the very stamp (*hypostasis*) of his nature"

Col 1:15 "For in him [i.e. Jesus] all the *fullness of God* was pleased to dwell, and through him [i.e. Jesus] to reconcile to himself [i.e. Father] all things."

Mark 2 "Why does this man speak Thus? It is Blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but *God alone?*"

Jn 14:15-17 "If you love me, you will obey my teachings and I will pray to *the Father* and he shall give you *another comforter* to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth..."

Shema (Deut. 6:4-9) "Hear O Israel, the Lord is God, the Lord is One."

B. Early Options

1. Adoptionism: Paul of Samosata

Ps. 2.7 "You are my son; today I have begotten you"

2. Modalists: Sabellius

"theos" = divine = Logos/Son

3. Arius: Subordinationism

Thalia Father is ingenerate; Son/Logos is generate ergo "There was once when the Son was not"

Biblical Argument:

a) Col. 1:15-16 "first-born of creation" and "image of God"

b) Luke 2:40 Jesus "grew in wisdom"

c) Mk 13:23 Jesus ignorance of future/eschaton

d) Jn 14:28 "the Father is greater than I"

f) Prov. 8:22 Wisdom/Logos says "The Lord created me at the beginning of his ways for his works."

C. Council of Nicaea

The Creed of the Council of Nicaea 325

"We believe

in one God Father Almighty Maker of all things, seen and unseen:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God,

-begotten as only begotten of the Father,

that is *from the substance or being* (ousia) of the Father,

God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God,

begotten not made,

consubstantial/of the same being (homoousion) with the Father

-through whom all things came into existence,

both things in heaven and things on earth;

-who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate

and became man, suffered and rose again on the third day,

ascended into the heavens, is coming to judge the quick and the dead: And in

the Holy Spirit....